



PHOTO: JEM/THE LIVING ARCHIVE / 129650

# לעבן מיט'ן רבי'ן

## ליהודים היתה אורה THE FRIDAY AFTERNOON MAAMOR

*Special thanks to* Rabbi Mendy Harlig, Rabbi Hirshel Rashkin.

In 5741 Purim fell out on a Friday and was expected to be less eventful than a regular year. The plan was for the Rebbe's farbrengen to be postponed to Shabbos. But as it turned out, Chassidim were in for a pleasant surprise!

On Tuesday, 11 Adar II, the Rebbe issued a *michtav kloli*, calling upon everyone to utilize this year's *kvius* to keep Yerushalayim in mind by continuing the Purim celebrations on the Sunday after Purim—the day Purim will be celebrated in Yerushalayim—by increasing in joy on that day with extra Torah study, *mishloach manos*, and children's gatherings.

After the *sicha* on Taanis Esther (“*divrei kivushin*”) the Rebbe distributed dollars through the “*tankistin*,” quite an unusual gesture. While giving out the dollars, the Rebbe asked, “Where is the ‘chief *tankist*’ of Europe, Rabbi Glick?” Rabbi Glick approached and the Rebbe handed him two stacks of \$1 bills (\$100 in each), instructing him that one was to be distributed in Europe.

### Mincha

In the early afternoon of Purim day the Rebbe gave money to Rabbi Binyomin Klein to send to his home on President Street for the Rebbetzin to distribute as *matonos le'evyonim*. Rabbi Klein chanced upon a young bochur, Hirshel Raskin, and asked him to deliver it.

### The Surprise

Mincha itself was uneventful. The crowd was fairly small, perhaps thirty or forty people (as most of *anash* and *bochurim* were out doing *mitvza* Purim), and the Rebbe concluded the *tefilla*, leaving the *zal* for his room. The Rebbe's chair was already being carried downstairs for Shabbos, when suddenly the Rebbe emerged from his room again, holding his siddur, and followed by Rabbi Groner who was carrying a bottle of wine!

The small crowd had already begun to disperse, but seeing the Rebbe walking back into the *zal*, whoever was in sight hurried back inside to see what was

Purim  
5741

happening. This was merely a few short minutes after the Rebbe had left, and now he was coming back! For what? The suspense was baffling!

Entering the *zal*, the Rebbe asked the *mazkirim* to close all the windows. (Before leaving his room, it is rumored that the Rebbe told Rabbi Groner that this *maamor* should be kept quiet without much tumult, so as not to disturb the people who were busy preparing for Shabbos.)

Arriving at his place in the *zal* at the southeastern corner, where he would daven *Mincha* on Shabbosim with no farbrengen, the Rebbe waited until his



PHOTO: JEW/THE LIVING ARCHIVE / 108467

singing *Uforatzta*, standing up and responding *le'chaim ve'livrocha* to all.

Then the Rebbe asked for another *l'chaim*, drank a second cup, and recited the *brocha acharona*. Before leaving the *zal*, the Rebbe reminded everyone to recite the *brocha acharona*, and encouraged all to “utilize the time that I’m still here and say *l'chaim* without limits!”

(“כאפט אריין כל זמן אז איך בין דא און”  
“זאגט לחיים אן הגבלות”)

Leaving the *zal*, the Rebbe waved his hands encouraging the singing.

[During the *maamor*, one of *anash* who had heard of the surprise ran to 770 and knocked on the window of the *zal*. After someone opened, he put his ear to the window to follow along. Seeing the open window, the Rebbe turned to Rabbi Klein and asked, “Didn’t we decide that the windows would be closed?”]

After a few minutes, the Rebbe left for home.

Meanwhile, scores of *bochurim* and *anash* returned to 770, and hearing what had happened a joyous celebration ensued! Overjoyed by the immense *giluyim* of the day and hearing about the Rebbe’s request to say *l'chaim*, Chassidim sang and danced, welcoming the Shabbos with tremendous joy.

When the Rebbe entered the shul for *kabbolas Shabbos* that evening the Chassidim were in particularly high spirits, singing the *hakofos nigun* joyously. Reaching his place, the Rebbe put down his siddur on the *shtender* and turned around to encourage the singing. The scene that unfolded that night reminded everyone of *Sukkos* celebrations with the Rebbe!

### For Yerushalayim

On Shabbos afternoon, the Rebbe held a long *farbrengen* in conjunction with Purim, again reciting a *maamor* on the *possuk* of *Layehudim*, this time with a



HANOCHA OF THE MAAMOR WRITTEN WHILE THE REBBE RECITED IT. THIS WAS LATER USED TO PUBLISH A PROPER HANOCHA OF THE MAAMOR.

much lengthier explanation.

Suddenly towards the end of the *farbrengen*, the Rebbe covered the *mezonos* in front of him and explained: “We will now hold a special *farbrengen* in honor of Yerushalayim, where the celebration of Purim is just beginning. Essentially, we should have made a proper second *farbrengen* after *Mincha*, but so as not to overly burden the crowd (*tircha d'tzibura*) we will suffice with covering the *mezonos* as if we are starting over now...”

The Rebbe then reiterated the theme he had written about in the *michtav kloli* a few days earlier, to continue the Purim celebrations on Sunday and to hold children’s gatherings as well.

This concluded a memorable Purim with the Rebbe, leaving Chassidim uplifted and full of enthusiasm until the next time the Rebbe would shower us with *giluyim* of this kind. In the meantime, we continue in the spirit of *Layehudim haysa oira*, spreading the light of Torah and Chassidus all over, until the world shines with the light of the *geulah*. ■

chair was returned (in the meantime, he wrapped a handkerchief around his hand as was the custom of the Rabbeim before the recital of a *maamor*). When the chair arrived, the Rebbe sat down and immediately began to recite a *maamor* on the *possuk* “*Layehudim haysa oira*”.

Being a total surprise, no microphone or tape-recorder was present to record the Rebbe’s words. Reb Yoel Kahn and the other *chozrim* were also not there to memorize the *maamor*. But a few of those present did the best they could to transcribe a *hanocha* of the *maamor* as the Rebbe spoke. Hence, between these *hanachos* and with the assistance of Rabbi Mentlik, the *maamor* was quickly published in time for Shabbos!

### Say L'chaim!

The *maamor* lasted around seven minutes. Afterwards, the Rebbe asked that a glass of wine be filled for him. When asked if he wanted his regular *becher*, the Rebbe declined and Rabbi Mentlik poured wine for the Rebbe into a plastic cup. After saying *l'chaim*, the Rebbe asked that all those present should do so as well, and then began