



פארברענגען
FARBRENGEN

THE BOY —and— THE CALF

לעבן
מיט'ן
רבי'ן

Yud Beis
Tammuz
5741

As in the past, with the new release of the farbrengen of Yud Beis Tammuz - 5741 by JEM, we present an overview of this farbrengen.

The farbrengen was televised and recorded at the time, but the tape had been lost. Just recently, Rabbi Elkanah Shmotkin and the staff at JEM managed to track down an original video recording of the farbrengen. It is now being released to the public, beautifully remastered and with subtitles in many languages.

The fact that this farbrengen was discovered now is obviously be'hashgacha pratis; it is nothing short of remarkable. In the sichos, the Rebbe clearly addresses many of the issues occurring in the world today. Riots, escalating crime, rogue nations attempting to produce nuclear weapons; it is as if the Rebbe is talking directly to our times.

What is presented here is only a very brief overview, as the Rebbe covers many more issues and details.

We urge everyone to make an effort to see at least part of the farbrengen or to attend a public viewing, and enjoy the Rebbe's original words in the most real way.





STILL PICTURES TAKEN FROM THE NEWLY RELEASED FARBRENGEN

Chinuch in Abnormal Times

The Rebbe began the farbrengen by highlighting the story behind the yom tov we currently mark: the Frierdiker Rebbe's arrest due to his efforts in spreading Yiddishkeit in Russia; especially teaching children.

The main issue that the Communist government had with the Frierdiker Rebbe's activities, explains the Rebbe, was not merely teaching Torah. They outlawed only study in a public form, and

more specifically, studying with children.

Then the Rebbe went on dedicating much of the sichos to discuss the importance of chinuch.

Bear in mind that the farbrengen took place against a backdrop of tumultuous global events. Not long before that, the US allied, pro-western government of Iran was overthrown. The Shah was sent into exile and was replaced by an authoritarian, brutal dictatorship. There were attempted revolutions in Asia,

leading to the massacre of thousands of people. The United States and Russia were at the height of the cold war, with the nuclear arms race showing no signs of slowing down. A few days earlier, race riots had broken out across England, with widespread looting and violence. And just a month earlier, Israel had bombed Iraq's nuclear reactor, astonishing the world, and completely destroying Iraq's feared nuclear capabilities.

Domestically too, things were in shambles. Crime was skyrocketing; every day bringing fresh announcements from the police department about growing the local police forces, increasing the minimum jail time, and other tactics to try and quell the growing crime rate.

In addition to all this, a new most troubling phenomenon was recently discovered: crime by children.

Just in the last few months, children were stealing from stores, stealing from their parents, and most shockingly of all, hitting their teachers. A school that "only" had a few instances of students striking their teachers, instead of several dozen, was considered a "good" school.

Upside-down Stamps

As an example of the broken justice system in the United States, the Rebbe told a story connected to the Beilis blood libel.

The defense for Mendel Beilis had assembled documents to prove their case. The evidence was quite convincing, and it was apparent that he was innocent. So what did the prosecutors do? Instead of trying to argue the case on its merits, they tried to get the evidence disqualified because of a technicality.

The envelopes that were used to submit the evidence to the court were stamped with a picture of the Czar. By mistake, the stamps were affixed upside down. This, argued the prosecutors, showed that the defense was rebelling against the Czar, and that all their evidence should be disregarded.

Today also, the Rebbe said, people are committing the worst crimes, and getting off scot-free. As long as you can afford a lawyer who can find a technicality to get you out, you can commit any crime you want!

The Solution

What are we to make of this? What are we to make of a world where one deranged fool can wreak global havoc and destruction at the press of a button, by dropping an atom bomb?

What could be the reason, the cause, that in neighborhoods that were once calm, safe places to live, it is now dangerous to venture outside? The same people that lived here for the last twenty years, are living here now. Nothing has changed in the population, and yet the police are forced to add officers and patrols to try to deter violent crime.

The root of the problem, the Rebbe explained, and the only way to properly correct it, is to change the education system in the United States. If children were educated properly, they would be made to understand that there is a G-d who is watching them, and that they are answerable to a Higher Power. Then they will not be influenced by all of the evil they see, and will instead become law-abiding, productive members of society.

Historical Precedence

As an example of proper education, the Rebbe told a story of the Frierdiker Rebbe.

As a child, the Frierdiker Rebbe had a “business deal” with his father, the Rebbe Rashab. He would learn *Mishnayos baal peh*, and his father would pay him a certain amount for every *mesechta* that he learned.

As the Frierdiker Rebbe was a brilliant and diligent child; by eleven-years-old he had already mastered two *sedarim* by heart, and had thereby amassed a substantial sum of money.

What did he do with the money? He had a *gemach*. He would walk around



A STILL PICTURE FROM THE NEWLY RELEASED FARBRENGEN

the marketplace, and if he saw a Jew that might need a loan to complete a business deal, he would lend him the money.

A Frightening Groan

One day, as he was walking in the market, he saw a policeman hitting an innocent Jew. Without hesitating, he rushed to the policeman and knocked him over, putting himself in grave danger but thereby allowing the Jew to escape.

Enraged, the policeman dragged the Frierdiker Rebbe to the police station and put him in a pitch black prison cell. From the corner of the cell, he suddenly heard a calf groaning. Not knowing what it was, he became very frightened.

As he sat in the dark, frightening cell, he started reviewing the *Mishnayos* he knew by heart, until he was released.

The Human Advantage

When he told the story to his father, the Rebbe Rashab, his father told him: You see here the difference between a person and an animal. You and the calf were both in jail, locked up in the same cell,

yet as the calf lay there groaning, you used your time to learn Hashem’s Torah.

This story, the Rebbe concluded, is a lesson in education, and a metaphor for life itself.

The *neshama* is imprisoned in the body, and together they are imprisoned in the world. In this giant prison, there are two corners.

In one corner sits a tied-up animal, groaning and crying. He wishes to be set free, so he can kick and play as he pleases.

In another corner of the very same jail there is a civilized man. He does the will of his Creator, bringing light into the world.

As noted, this is only a small taste of the multi-faceted farbrengen, which included the Rebbe’s views on the prison system, television, and—most importantly—education.

This newly released farbrengen is a true treasure and is sure to be utilized and enjoyed by all. 