



A SCENE FROM THE FARBRENGEN OF 20 AV, 5734.

# לעבן מיט'ן רבי'ן

**Menachem-Av**  
5734

## SUMMERTIME with the REBBE

*Chassidim who were privileged to be with the Rebbe in Crown Heights during the summer months witnessed many unique giluyim. Whether it was the Rebbe's emphasis on the rebuilding of the Beis Hamikdash during the Three Weeks or the culmination of the Nine Days with Tisha B'av; from Chof Av, the yahrtzeit of the Rebbe's father, to the visit of the campers from Gan Yisroel, summer in the Rebbe's daled-amos was a very exclusive experience. Below are excerpts from the diary of by Reb Yitzchok Meir Sassover, of some of these memorable moments in the year 5734.*

### Shabbos Rosh Chodesh, Parshas Matos-Massei, 1 Av

Before davening, I headed to the Rebbe's home to accompany him to 770. I waited outside for around twenty minutes until the Rebbe exited the house. While walking down the stairs, as well as during the remainder of the walk, the Rebbe often looked around in different directions. There were a few policemen stationed on Brooklyn Avenue and as the Rebbe passed them, he touched his hat in greeting.

The *kriah* this Shabbos was read using Moshiach's *sefer Torah*, followed by the

*haftorah* "Shimu," which was read aloud by the Rebbe. At the conclusion of the *haftorah*, the Rebbe read the extra *pesukim* as per the *minhag* in Lubavitch, adding the first and last *pasuk* of the *Erev Rosh Chodesh haftorah* as well (this was discussed at the farbrengen last Thursday night). During *musaf*, the Rebbe energetically encouraged the singing of "Hu Elokeinu."

Immediately following *davening*, before the *gabbai* could announce the times for the upcoming *tefilos*, the Rebbe took his *siddur* [and left the shul]; this signaled that a farbrengen would take place before

*mincha*. As the Rebbe left, he encouraged the singing of his father's *niggun*.

This time of year it is relatively easy to find a good place at the farbrengen, since many Chassidim have gone to the country for the summer. It affords the rest of us a special opportunity to get closer to the Rebbe.

At the farbrengen the Rebbe explained that the Three Weeks, while appearing to connote negativity, are in reality good, albeit in a hidden way. The Rebbe told us that through serving Hashem with *simcha*, we will hasten the revelation of the true nature of these days—that it is



ON HIS WAY TO THE CAR, THE REBBE OBSERVES THE MIVTZA TANKS OUTSIDE 770.

positive. The Rebbe quoted his father as saying that on the *Shabbosim* of *Bein Hametzarim* it is important to have even more *simcha* than usual, to ensure that no traces of *aveilus* are visible on Shabbos.

In connection to what was spoken about last Thursday, the Rebbe offered additional explanation on the custom of appending extra *pesukim* to the *haftarah*.

Over the course of the farbrengen, the Rebbe spoke very passionately about the controversy surrounding the topic of *Mihu Yehudi*. The Rebbe lamented the fact that people were idle despite there being an opportunity to correct the law.

The Rebbe went on to speak about *bitachon*; how it is important that *Yidden* do not fret over “what will be,” since Hashem is constantly protecting the *Yidden* and *Yiddishkeit* from any harm. The Rebbe cautioned that we emphasize

this not to assuage our own fears, but rather as an effort to establish it as fact. Additionally, when the “seventy wolves” see that the “lone lamb” is not intimidated by them or their tactics, their resolve is weakened.

In general, since last Thursday the Rebbe has displayed much joy, and by extension, this affects us Chassidim. The farbrengen was very joyous and the Rebbe enthusiastically encouraged the singing throughout.

The Rebbe handed some cake to representatives of Tzach, and instructed them to arrange a farbrengen later, on Shabbos afternoon.

In line with the joyous spirit we have all been feeling, the Rebbe further encouraged our singing while he was saying *korbanos* for *mincha*. After *mincha*, the Rebbe once again began the *niggun* of

his father. The singing continued when the Rebbe left 770 and again when he returned from his house. Later on in the day, as per the Rebbe’s instruction, there was a gathering at which Tzach distributed the *mezonos* from the Rebbe’s farbrengen.

### Thursday, 6 Av

If *chas veshalom* Moshiach’s arrival is delayed, *Tisha B’Av* will soon be upon us. This morning during *krias haTorah*, one could see the Rebbe looking into *Megillas Eicha* with Rashi. The Rebbe continued this after *kriah* for the remainder of *shacharis* and did not say *Tehillim* (with us).

### Friday, 7 Av

Today, during *chazaras hashatz* for *mincha*, the Rebbe was looking into the *maamar* “*Eicha Yashva Vadad*” from 5731.



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### Shabbos Parshas Devarim, Erev Tisha B'av

On Thursday the Rebbe had instructed the *gaboim* to once again *lein* from Moshiach's *Sefer Torah* this Shabbos. Just as last week, the Rebbe again left before the *gabbai* announced a time for *mincha*. As noted, this indicated that there would be an afternoon *farbrengen*.

At this week's *farbrengen* the Rebbe continued to discuss the theme of *bitachon* and then asked us to sing “*Becha Botchu*.” In line with the mood over the

past few weeks, the *farbrengen* was very joyous and *lebedik*.

After Shabbos the Rebbe came into shul for *maariv* already wearing non-leather shoes and sat down on a box. Following *shmona esrei* the Rebbe instructed to remove the *paroches* from the *aron kodesh* (as is customary). The Rebbe—and as a result, all the Chassidim—was very serious throughout the reading of *Eicha*. Tonight the Rebbe walked home instead of going by car (presumably because he did not want to sit on the car seat on Tisha B'av).



### Sunday, Tisha b'Av

During *shacharis* this morning, the Rebbe was again seen glancing in the *maamar* “*Eicha Yashva Vadad*” from 5731.

After *shacharis*, the Rebbe asked Rabbi Hodakov for some money to give to *tzedakah* and then reminded a few young boys to give *tzedakah*.

The Rebbe entered for *mincha* already wearing his tefillin. The *kriah* was read from Moshiach's *Sefer Torah* both by *shacharis* and *mincha*.

### Wednesday, 12 Av

On Monday after *mincha*, the Rebbe had *bentched* those who were leaving to Eretz Yisroel, and today after *mincha* there were some more people leaving.

Mrs. Pinson (from Tunisia) was standing with her son next to *Gan Eden Hatachton*. The Rebbe wished them a pleasant journey back and asked whether they would be spending any time in Marseille on their return trip. The Rebbe then asked her if she received any *shliach mitzvah gelt* and she answered affirmatively. The Rebbe instructed her to send her son to a yeshiva and then wished them *besuros tovos*.

### Thursday, 13 Av

Today, Rabbi Leibel Groner went to ask the Rebbe if there would be a *farbrengen* on Shabbos, since many people would be traveling to the *Yarchei Kallah* in Gan



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THE REBBE DAVENS AT THE AMUD.

Yisroel. The Rebbe told him to announce that there would not be a *farbrengen* this week.

### Monday, 17 Av

As the Rebbe was leaving 770 this evening, some of us witnessed a most fascinating scene. Outside, a woman with amputated legs was waiting with her son in order to catch a glimpse of the Rebbe. The Rebbe smiled at them and allowed the boy to kiss his hand. The boy then ran to fetch a *shofar* which he proceeded to blow. In a most touching manner, the Rebbe stood and listened, looked upon the young boy and smiled.

### Wednesday Evening, Leil Chof Av

In honor of the *yahrtzeit* of the Rebbe's father, tonight the Rebbe will lead *maariv* at the *amud*. People are already claiming places some time before *maariv* in order

to be close to the Rebbe when he takes the *amud* for *davening*.

### Thursday, Chof Av

This morning the Rebbe came into shul at 9:30 a.m. already wrapped in tallis and tefillin and proceeded to daven at the *amud*. As the Rebbe was leaving the shul he noticed a pair of tefillin resting on a *sefer* and promptly removed it. When the Rebbe entered for *maariv*, he passed Rabbi Yolles, who had come from Philadelphia for the *farbrengen*, and smiled upon seeing him.

When the Rebbe arrived to the *farbrengen*, the shul was already packed with people.

In the first *sicha*, the Rebbe dealt with the question of why we celebrate on a *yahrtzeit*, seemingly a sad day. The Rebbe pointed out that although it is a personal commemoration for himself, it is nonetheless of importance to the

Chassidim as well.

While conducting a *siyum* on *mesechte Makos*, the Rebbe explained the significance of this *mesechte*.

Speaking passionately about the *mitzvot*, the Rebbe explained that not only do they prevent negative things, but that they can correct negativity post facto as well. The Rebbe went on to discuss the *mitvza* of *bayis malei sefarim* and how it relates particularly to women, concluding the *sicha* by relating the benefits of the *mitzvot* and their power to mend any undesirable things.

Rabbi Shlomo Cunin presented the Rebbe with a key to Camp Gan Yisroel in Los Angeles and the Rebbe focused a lot of attention on the gift. The Rebbe then requested a bottle of *mashkeh* and poured a *l'chaim* for Rabbi Cunin.

While an appeal was being held during the *farbrengen*, somebody presented the



Rebbe with a *sefer*. When putting the *sefer* and the key into a paper bag, the Rebbe was careful that the key not be placed on top of the *sefer*.

The Rebbe then addressed a topic that he said warranted clarification: Since the launch of *mitvza mezuzah* earlier in the year, people have objected to the need to check mezuzos more often than is brought down in *sifrei halacha*. The Rebbe pointed out various reasons as to why today we should take extra precautions and encouraged further strengthening of this *mitvza*.

Following this, the Rebbe spoke again about *bitachon*—an ongoing theme lately—and of our certainty in Hashem's protection. The Rebbe requested that one of the Russian Jews sing a *niggun*, and then once again began to sing his father's *niggun* and encouraged the singing of the *bochurim* as he left for home.

### Shabbos Parshas Eikev, 22 Av

This Shabbos we again had the special *z'chus* of hearing *krias haTorah* from Moshiach's *Sefer Torah*, and then merited a *farbrengen* with the Rebbe.

At this *farbrengen*, among other things, the Rebbe continued on the topics of Mesechte Makos and *mitvza mezuzah*. At one point in the *farbrengen*, the Rebbe distributed *mashke* to share with the Chassidim in various locations around the world. After making a *bracha acharona*, the Rebbe suddenly rose from his seat and began clapping to the *niggunim* being sung.

After *mincha*, the Rebbe once again began singing *Becha Botchu*.

### Sunday, 23 Av

Today, the Rebbe held a *yechidus* with a *bochur* who was being drafted into the army. When he entered the Rebbe's room, the *bochur* handed a *tzetel* which only contained his name with a request for a *bracha*. The Rebbe asked if he had given a paper to the *mazkirus* containing his questions. When he replied that he indeed had, the Rebbe said that he

had not received the paper and would therefore listen to his questions orally. The Rebbe told him that he should continue learning in yeshiva until he must leave to the army, and that his schedule of studies should be very rigorous; befitting that of an army. The *bochur* then pointed to a note on the Rebbe's table and said that he thinks that it is his note. The Rebbe replied that it wasn't.

There was also another person at *yechidus* today with whom the Rebbe discussed the security situation in Eretz Yisroel.

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### Monday, 24 Av

Excitement filled the air today as the children arrived from camp. In order to accommodate the large crowds, *mincha* was held in the shul downstairs. As the children sang *Ashrei* the Rebbe read slowly along with them, though he did not sing. The children continued their singing with *Aleinu* and *Al Tirah*. The Rebbe indicated that the *chazzan* should say *kaddish* before more singing, which he encouraged.

As the Rebbe left the shul he put some *tzedakah* into the big camp *pushkah*.

After *mincha* Rabbi Gershon Mendel Garelik from Italy and Rabbi Nissan Pinson from Tunisia went into *Gan Eden Hatachton*. The Rebbe gave each of them *mashkeh* and dollars to distribute in their respective countries.

When the Rebbe came into shul for *maariv*, Rabbi Shneur Zalman Wilschansky—about to leave on *shlichus*

to Miami—was standing in the entrance. The Rebbe wished him a pleasant journey.

### Thursday, 27 Av

Today the Rebbe visited the Ohel. Upon taking his seat in the car, the Rebbe donned his glasses and began reading petitions for *brachos*. On his return from the Ohel the Rebbe noticed the *mitzvah* tanks returning from the airport. The tanks' loudspeakers rang with joyous music to which the Rebbe showed his approval and encouragement.

At one point during the ride, the tanks got separated from the Rebbe's car. I heard that the Rebbe then asked Rabbi Krinsky where they had gone.

The Rebbe left for home very shortly after *maariv*. As the Rebbe left he peered into the *zal* to see what was happening. The *bochurim*, who weren't anticipating the Rebbe leaving earlier than usual, were sent into a panic.

### Shabbos Mevorchim Parshas Re'eh, 29 Av

This Shabbos again, being Shabbos *mevorchim* there was a *farbrengen*. The Rebbe began with discussing the uniqueness of the month of Elul. Following that, the Rebbe expounded on the *siyum* he had made on Chof Av on *mesechte Makos*.

The Rebbe bemoaned the fact that he hadn't been asked about anything he said then, and it seems that nobody is losing any sleep over it.

The Rebbe then spoke again about the *Mihu Yehudi* controversy. The Rebbe decried the arguments being made against the exclusivity of *giyur kahalacha*.

The Rebbe did not really encourage the singing today. After *mincha* however, the Rebbe once again began *Becha Botchu*, thereby further emphasizing the message he has stressed over the past few weeks: that no matter the apparent troubles we may face, when we do our part, Hashem will surely take care of the rest. D