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THE REBBE GIVES MEZONOS FOR THE GUESTS TO RABBI MOSHE YERUSLAVSKY, COORDINATOR OF HACHNOSAS ORCHIM.

לעבן  
מיט'ן  
רבי'ן

# PREPARING FOR HAKHEL

*Elul*  
5740

## Wednesday, Rosh Chodesh Elul

### What's with the Elders?

When the Rebbe arrives at 770 from home this afternoon, he sees a group of elderly men sitting on a bench, chatting. In his room, the Rebbe asks Rabbi Groner, "Just yesterday we spoke about about the Kolel Tiferes Zekeinim for the elderly.<sup>1</sup> Why isn't there anyone to learn with these fellows?"

Rabbi Groner suggests that perhaps someone studied with them already, and the Rebbe sends him outside to find out if this is indeed the case.

## Wednesday, 8 Elul

### "For the Guests"

The Rebbe sees Rabbi Y. Y. Hecht in his room and gives him a few instructions:

1. He is to compile and print an album of the recent Lag B'Omer parade, to be completed in time for the upcoming *Shnas Hakhel*. This will serve as a "ליתן שכר למביאיהם"—reward to those who brought the children, as the *possuk* says about *Hakhel*.
2. He is to bring the campers from his camps to the rally, along with the campers of Gan Yisroel, although his camps are no longer in session.

3. As the upcoming month of Tishrei will bring a swarm of guests to Crown Heights, it is important that there be a nice place for them to stop in. Therefore, he should see to it that the buildings of his *mosdos* on President Street (Machon Chana) and Eastern Parkway (Hadar HaTorah)—the ones the Rebbe visits each year on Pesach<sup>2</sup>—should be clean and well-kept, ready for the guests to visit.

## Thursday, 9 Elul

Before *mincha*, the Rebbe hands the siddur to a *chosson* in *Gan Eden Hatachton*. The *chosson* asks the Rebbe



ON HIS WAY IN TO 770, THE REBBE TURNS TO ISRAELI PHOTOGRAPHER LEVI FREIDIN.

if he must wear a *gartel* while using the siddur, and the Rebbe responds in the affirmative. The *chosson* continues, “Must I continue to wear the *gartel* everyday until the wedding?” And the Rebbe replies, “That depends on your personal preference.” The Rebbe further clarifies that he must wear the *gartel* only during davening.

## Tuesday, 13 Elul

When the Rebbe arrives at 770 this morning, he meets Israeli photographer Levi Freidin, who is already here for Tishrei. The Rebbe asks the photographer, “What kind of regards do you bring us from Eretz Yisroel?” Freidin responds that he brought along a video recording of a children’s rally in Eretz Yisroel, and he wishes to screen it this afternoon at the rally for children in 770. The Rebbe remarks that the children will be too tired after a long day’s travel, and suggests that he wait with the viewing until Chol Hamoed.

### The Rally

The Rebbe joins the children returning home from camp for *mincha* in the main shul. After reciting the Twelve *Pesukim* and sounding the *shofar*, one of the head counselors of Gan Yisroel speaks to the children, as well as Rabbi Alter Metzger, the rabbi of Camp Emunah.



THE REBBE DELIVERS A SICHA AT A RALLY FOR CHILDREN WHO HAVE RETURNED FROM CAMP.



AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE RALLY, THE REBBE GIVES COINS FOR THE CHILDREN TO THE DIRECTORS OF THE CAMPS AND THE HEAD COUNSELORS.

When he mentions the Rebbe’s immense *peulos* around the world and the *hafotzas hamaayonos* through all his *sichos* etc., the Rebbe waves his hand, seemingly in a gesture dismissing his words.

Then the Rebbe addresses the children with a lengthy *sicha*,<sup>3</sup> spanning a wide variety of topics. The Rebbe speaks of the day’s Chumash, Hashem’s special connection with the Jewish people as worded in the *possuk*, וה' האמירך היום להיות, לו לעם סגולה. . את ה' האמרת היום להיות לך לאלקים.

The Rebbe stresses the importance of the mitzvah of *Hakhel*, and points to this gathering as a manifestation of *Hakhel* as well.

### Heartfelt Request: Hakhel

After a long and painful piece about the security situation in Eretz Yisroel, the Rebbe asks that in order to counter the danger facing the Jewish people, children’s gatherings should be held in the spirit of *Hakhel*. The Rebbe uses exceptionally strong terms when giving this *horaah*: “בקשה כפולה ובכל”

THE REBBE USES EXCEPTIONALLY STRONG TERMS WHEN GIVING THIS HORA'AH: "הצעה ובקשה, בקשה וכפולה ובכל לשון של בקשה" – THAT HAKHEL GATHERINGS FOR CHILDREN SHOULD BE ARRANGED



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NIGUN AT THE EREV ROSH HASHANAH FARBRENGEN.

לשון של בקשה..."—that *Hakhel* gatherings for children should be arranged in the near future, at least three times; once before Rosh Hashanah, again during Aseres Yemei Teshuvah, and a third time on Chol Hamoed Sukkos. These gatherings are to be held both in Eretz Yisroel and in *chutz la'aretz*, and should include all three pillars of the world: Torah, *tefillah*, and *tzedaka*.

The Rebbe concludes with the importance of speaking only good about Yidden, who are likened to Hashem's only child, and admonishes those who

have the audacity to speak sharp words against the Jewish people, *chas ve'sholom*. Therefore, the Rebbe asks that the children should all announce together כתיבה וחתימה טובה לשנה טובה ומתוקה בטוב הנראה והנגלה, צו יעדער אידן און אלע אידן וואו נאר זיי געפינען זיך.

Additionally, the Rebbe asks that the children should repeat the *pesukim* of Shema Yisroel and Torah Tziva once more.

After these words are announced by the children (lead by the emcee, Rabbi Y.

Y. Hecht), the Rebbe distributes coins for the children to the head counselors and directors of the camps. Every child receives two dimes; one for *tzedaka*, and the other to do with as they wish. As the distribution begins, the Rebbe asks Rabbi Hecht to announce once more what each child is to do with their coins.

Before leaving the shul, the Rebbe instructs that *Uforatzta* be sung.

### Thursday, 16 Elul

When the Rebbe returns to 770 this evening from home, a *chupah* is in



THE REBBE RECEIVES PANIM.

progress outside the main entrance. The Rebbe postpones *maariv* an extra half hour to allow people to participate.

### Erev Shabbos Parshas Tavo, 17 Elul

The Rebbe sends out a *michtav kloli* in preparation for the new year of 5741 – *Shmas Hakhel*, calling on each and every Jew to take heed of the message of the upcoming *Hakhel* year and to strengthen one-another in *yiras shomayim*.<sup>4</sup>

### Shabbos Parshas Tavo, Chai Elul

The Rebbe farbrengs all afternoon, delivering many long, rich *sichos* and a *maamor*.

The farbrengen is filled with deep and lengthy explanations on the basic principles of *Chassidus* as taught by the Baal Shem Tov, and how *Chassidus Chabad* further illuminates each and every point, as taught by the Alter Rebbe—both of whose birthdays we mark today, Chai Elul. This is in addition to the usual Rashi *sicha*, an explanation

in Likutei Levi Yitzchok on Zohar, and a *sicha* on the weekly *perek* of Pirkei Avos.

Towards the end of the farbrengen, the Rebbe calls upon all to assist the coordinators of *hachnosas orchim* with taking care of the many guests who have come to New York for Tishrei.

“In truth,” the Rebbe explains, “the

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obligation to take care of the guests lies on the members of the local community. Hashem had mercy on the guests, since he knows what kind of *baalei-battim* are here, and he sent in a Jew from overseas to take care of all their needs. But all the locals must see to help him as well!”

After this, the Rebbe gives some of his *mezonos* to Rabbi Moshe Yeruslavsky, coordinator of *hachnosas orchim*, for the guests.

The Rebbe then summons one of the *chassanim* present at the farbrengen and offers him some of his *mezonos*, saying, “This is my share in the obligation of rejoicing with a *chosson*. [The cake could serve as an appropriate medium to do so, for] wheat is also used to produce *mashke*!” The Rebbe also gave some of the *mezonos* to other *chassanim* present, and then stood up for *mincha* while starting the *niggun Meheira Yishoma*...

### Shabbos Parshas Nitzavim-Vayelech, 25 Elul

#### The Rebbe Speaks to You!

The Rebbe farbrengs throughout the afternoon. Towards the end of the second *sicha*, the Rebbe speaks passionately about the importance of doing *mitzvot* and *hafotzas hamaayonos*. “We mean each and every individual specifically,” the Rebbe explains. “You! In Brooklyn, in Crown Heights, or anywhere else in the world; both in *chutz la’aretz* and in Eretz Yisroel! The Torah was given to each and every individual in singular form - אנכי ה' אלקיך. Similarly, each and every Chossid must see it as if the [Frierdiker] Rebbe is talking specifically to him, and no one else! It is he through whom the Rebbe’s wishes to bring about all of the abovementioned ideas...”

Towards the end of the third *sicha*, the Rebbe mentions the upcoming dinner for Colel Chabad and encourages everyone to participate. Then, placing a bottle of *mashke* on the table, the Rebbe smiles and says, “I do not appoint *gabboim*. Whoever wishes should come over and take this.”

### Monday, 27 Elul

The Rebbe begins receiving *pannim* today in preparation for Rosh Hashanah.

In the evening, the Rebbe addresses N’shei Ubnos Chabad in anticipation of the new year.

“STILL, THERE ARE THOSE FOOLS WHO GO AROUND SAYING THAT THERE IS STILL HOPE AND ISRAEL MUST KEEP HER SIDE OF THE DEAL. DREAMS! THE GEMARA SAYS THAT THE SCENE OF AN ELEPHANT GOING THROUGH THE HOLE OF A NEEDLE CANNOT EVEN APPEAR IN A DREAM!”

## Tuesday, Leil Erev Rosh Hashanah

In the evening, the Rebbe enters the shul for a farbrengen. Immediately upon reaching his place, the Rebbe instructs that the *niggun hachona* be sung and recites the *maamor* “*Zeh Hayom,*” followed by three *sichos*.

During the second *sicha*, the Rebbe speaks at great length of the terrible security mistake made at Camp David. The Rebbe painfully admonishes those who think that the agreement would bring peace. The other side did not keep any of their part, the Rebbe says. Still, there are those fools who go around saying that there is still hope and Israel must keep her side of the deal. Dreams! The Gemara says that the scene of an elephant going through the whole of a needle cannot even appear in a dream!

The Rebbe also calls out at those rabbonim who rule against a clear *psak* in the Shulchan Aruch, Hilchos Shabbos, *siman* 329, that when *goyim* attack an enclave of Jewish people, we are required to counter-attack, even on Shabbos!

At the conclusion of the farbrengen, the Rebbe instructs that several *niggunim* be sung (including *Utzu Eitza*, *Hoshiah Es Amecha*, *Ata Ve'chartanu*, and *Avinu Malkeinu*).

Before the *brocha acharona*, the Rebbe concludes with a wish that this year should end off in great joy, and we should begin the new year by crowning Hashem as King with utmost joy. For, after all is said and done (לאחר כל החשבונות)... [the Rebbe begins to sing] *Nyet, Nyet, Nikavo*... [we fear no one but Hashem].

## Wednesday, Erev Rosh Hashanah

After *slichos* in the morning, the Rebbe goes to the mikva, and joins the *minyán* for *shacharis* at 10:00am.

After *shacharis*, the Rebbe recites *hatoras nedorim* in front of a group of elderly Chassidim. The Rebbe does not recite the *pruzbul* at this time.<sup>5</sup>

After that, the Rebbe receives *pannim* from the guests who have arrived

yesterday and today, and then is handed the *pan kloli* on behalf of all Chassidim.

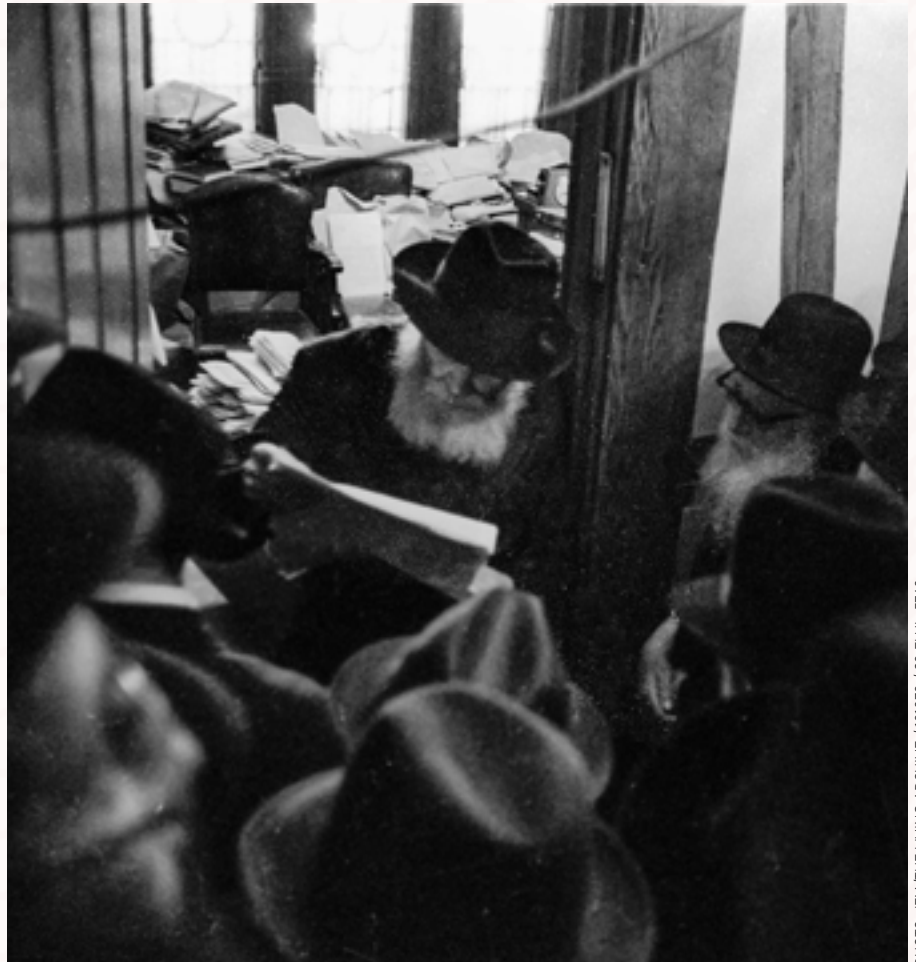
In response, the Rebbe gives a *brocha*, making prominent mention of *Hakhel* in the content.<sup>6</sup>

At 1:45pm, the Rebbe leaves for the Ohel, returning to 770 at 6:00.

The Rebbe joins the *minyán* for *mincha*, and then leaves for home. Thus concludes the *Shemittah* year of 5740, and the new year of 5741 – *Shnas Hakhel*, is ushered in.

**D** לשנה טובה תכתב ותחתם!

1. See *Sichos Kodesh* 5740 vol. 3 p. 972
2. See *Derher Magazine* - Nissan 5775
3. Printed in *Likutei Sichos* vol. 24 p. 301
4. Printed in *Likutei Sichos* vol. 19 p. 611
5. At the conclusion of the following *shmita* year (5747), the Rebbe instructed that the *pruzbal* be recited then as well.
6. Printed in *Likutei Sichos* vol. 19 p. 538



THE REBBE READS THE PAN KLALI ON EREV ROSH HASHANA.

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