



SHLUCHIM LEARN THE NEW KUNTRES THROUGHOUT 770.

# Dollars, Kuntreisim, Shlichus

CHESHVAN 5748 - SHNAS HAKHEL



Every moment in the Rebbe's presence is unique. Each *t'nuah* we witnessed by the Rebbe, every word we heard, is another lesson in *avodas Hashem*. There were, however, some extraordinary times that stand out in the hearts and minds of those that were *zoche* to be present. Cheshvan-Kislev of 5748, *Shnas Hakhel*, was one of those times, and we've tried to capture some of its significance in this article, based on a *yoman* that was written at the time. Writing, reading, and reliving these precious moments, only intensifies our yearning and desire to merit once again to such *giluyim*. May we be *zoche* to use the inspiration from these descriptions to bring ourselves towards the days of Moshiach, *teikef umiyad*.

## WEDNESDAY, 19 CHESHVAN

After *mincha* this afternoon, we were met with a pleasant surprise:

A few minutes after davening had ended in the small *zal*, Rabbi Groner announced that a distribution of "dollars" would take place, right there and then.

It's easy to understand the feeling we had upon hearing such news; everyone's spirits filled with excitement and joy. Immediately thereafter, the Rebbe came out of the doorway of *Gan Eden Hatachton*, where a table had been set up. As each person passed, the Rebbe wished him "A *hatzlachadiker Chof Cheshvan*."

While at first it was very disorganized due to the surprise and excitement, soon a long and orderly line formed.

From all corners of the neighborhood people who had just caught wind of the news were seen running towards 770. People left their stores in the middle of business in order to merit receiving a dollar. There were even people who came by car from outside of Crown Heights so as not to forgo an opportunity for such a *bracha*. It's amazing how the news spread so fast; within a half an hour, hundreds of people—if not more—had converged on 770 and were waiting in line.

#### THURSDAY, 20 CHESHVAN, BIRTHDAY OF THE REBBE RASHAB

After *krias haTorah* this morning the Rebbe continued the dollars distribution that he began yesterday. This time there were literally thousands of people waiting in line, everyone there to merit receiving a dollar and to be *bentched* by the Rebbe with a “*hatzlachadiker Chof Cheshvan.*”

If it would have ended with that, *dayeinu*. The biggest surprise, however, was to take place in the evening.

The Rebbe had returned from spending the afternoon at the Ohel and joined the *minyán* for *maariv*. Davening ended and the Rebbe left to his room, when the announcement was made that the Rebbe would now distribute the “*Kuntres Heichaltzu*” from the Rebbe Rashab! Words can't describe the atmosphere that enveloped Crown Heights at that moment. All the residents streamed towards 770 and stood in never-ending lines winding through the streets. The distribution lasted around an hour and would have (apparently) continued much longer had the stock of *kuntreisim* not run out.

Thankfully, *mazkirus* announced that the distribution would continue tomorrow.

In the printhouse above 770—where they are already used to emergency work—people pushed hard throughout the night and succeeded in printing another few thousand (!) *kuntreisim*.

In the meantime, many people congregated in 770 to learn the *maamar* together and to hear a *shiur* on it from Reb Yoel Kahn.

#### FRIDAY, 21 CHESHVAN

This morning, even before the Rebbe arrived to 770, throngs of people had already congregated around the entrance of the building waiting for the *chaluka*.

As soon as the Rebbe arrived, he began to once again distribute the *kuntres* to the thousands of people who had gathered, and gave each of them a *brocha*. From across New York and beyond, myriads of Chassidim had arrived, and this very unique *chalukah* continued until the afternoon.

The scene at 770 was legendary; in every corner another person could be seen preciously holding on to his *kuntres*, with many people choosing to go to the *beis midrash* to learn from it.

The distribution brought with it a renewed *koch* in the learning of Chassidus, and the mitzvah of *ahavas Yisrael* in particular, upon which the *maamar* focused. In the wake of the *chalukah*, numerous *shiurim* were established throughout the week to study the *maamar* in depth.



THE REBBE DISTRIBUTES KUNTRES HEICHALUTZU - JUST AFTER IT ARRIVES FROM THE PRESSES - TO THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WHO GATHERED FOR A SECOND CHALUKA.

#### SHABBOS PARSHAS CHAYEI SARAH, 22 CHESHVAN

Amongst other things he spoke about today, the Rebbe focused on the shlichus of Eliezer regarding the marriage of Yitzchak and Rivkah. The lesson the Rebbe brought from this episode to our lives is the duty to fulfill the shlichus of “*la'asos oid Yehudi.*” The Rebbe added that there should be a special

emphasis on this in a *Hakhel* year, when we are provided with extra help in this regard.

## TUESDAY, 25 CHESHVAN, DIDAN NOTZACH

Since last year's victory on Hei Teves, Chassidim have been cautiously optimistic about the results of the appeal which followed.

This afternoon, we were notified that Didan Notzach—the court case was won and the appeal had been dismissed.

With lightning speed, the news spread throughout Crown Heights.

From every side one could see men, women and children hurrying toward 770.

The *simcha* with which the news was received was immense and is difficult to describe with words. Although everyone was rooting for a victory and fully believed that it would come, nevertheless, the news came as a surprise.

Joy was bursting from our hearts and giant groups of people broke out dancing outside 770. The crowds grew from minute to minute as more people arrived.

*The scene at 770 was legendary; in every corner another person could be seen preciously holding on to his kuntres, with many people choosing to go to the beis midrash to learn from it.*

The women and children also came to partake in the celebrations and stood across the street watching the *lebedike* dancing.

In the middle of all the tumult, it became known that all three judges had signed on this ruling. In fact, in their independently written verdicts, each of them made a point of recognizing the tremendous devotion and self-sacrifice that the Friediker Rebbe had for *klal Yisroel*.

The notion that three non-Jewish judges could all come to the same appreciation, lifted our spirits even more. It drove home and revealed to all, the knowledge that “*Moshe emes v’Toraso emes.*”

Rumor has it that from the moment the news arrived, the Rebbe showed tremendous Joy.

In the interim, we were notified that the Rebbe would be coming downstairs for *mincha*, and the

*bimah* on which the Rebbe davens during Tishrei was quickly erected.

A few minutes before *mincha*, the *shul* was already packed with people singing “Didan Notzach” eagerly anticipating the Rebbe's arrival.

When the Rebbe entered, the singing intensified and everyone was trying to get a look at the Rebbe.

The Rebbe was very serious. On the way to his place, the Rebbe walked through the lines of children and spent considerable time giving each of them coins for *tzedaka*.

The Rebbe was very serious throughout *mincha*.

This evening there was a *Farbrengen* to commemorate the *shloshim* of Rabbi Mentlik, rosh yeshivah of 770. It was also, above all, held to celebrate that *shehecheyanu vekiyemanu vehigianu* to this day of Didan Notzach!

## THURSDAY, 27 CHESHVAN

This afternoon our joy reached new heights upon hearing that the court had responded positively to Aguch about returning the *sefarim* in the coming days.

At 3:50 this afternoon the Rebbe went to the Ohel (much later than usual).

Every day in 770 one can see more people that have come from all corners of the globe to spend these special times in the *daled amos* of the Rebbe.

## FRIDAY, 28 CHESHVAN

Beginning yesterday, masses of *shluchim* started arriving for the *Kinus Hashluchim*, which will take place this week. As *Shabbos* approaches, 770 is filled with *shluchim* learning, davening, and excitedly meeting up with old friends.

When the Rebbe entered for *Kabbalas Shabbos*, we sang the Rosh Chodesh Kislev Niggun. The Rebbe intensified our *simcha* and waved his hands to encourage the singing. Even once the Rebbe reached his place, he continued encouraging the singing.

## SHABBOS MEVARCHIM KISLEV, PARSHAS TOLDOS, 29 CHESHVAN

At today's *Farbrengen*, the Rebbe's first *sicha* was based on the *passuk* of *Vayishlach Yitzchok es Yaakov*. The Rebbe pointed out that *behashgacha pratis* our Parsha speaks about the *avodah* of *shlichus*.

The Rebbe explained how, unlike the *shlichus* of Eliezer Eved Avraham, we must fulfill our



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shlichus as messengers rather than as slaves; we need to bring our own talents and strengths into the shlichus instead of just simply following orders.

Here the Rebbe mentioned how we must take the lesson from this weeks *parsha* to go out to “Charan”—*charon af shel makom ba’olam*, to be *mekarev* another Yid.

In the second *sicha*, the Rebbe noted that before sending Yaakov, Yitzchak showered him with *brachos* in a manner of *lechatchila ariber*. We find a similar thing with the Baal Shem Tov. Namely, that before involving himself in the spiritual life of a Yid, he concerned himself with his material well being.

Consequently, the Rebbe went on to say, the same applies to the shluchim of *nessi doreinu*; that all the *brachos* of the *meshaleiach* have been fulfilled in their entirety both physically and spiritually! The Rebbe cautioned the shluchim not to worry about negative things, rather remember the words of the Tzemach Tedeck, “*Tracht gut vet zain gut.*”

The surprise of this Shabbos came during the third *sicha*. The Rebbe began by saying that in continuation to what was earlier said [i.e. that the shluchim shouldn’t need to worry about any distractions] he will now announce what will be done—*maaseh b’poel*.

Every shliach who finds himself in debt should engage the services of a licensed bookkeeper. They should make an accounting of the entire budget up until Rosh Chodesh Kislev. This should then be sent to a specially designated division within the Vaad Hashluchim. Ten percent would be covered by Merkos and half of the remaining ninety percent (forty-five percent in total) will be given as a loan to be paid up over the following four to five years.

Following this *sicha* the Rebbe recited a *maamar ke’ein Sicha*, after which came yet another bombshell:

The Rebbe announced that on Sunday a special *kuntres* would be distributed to every shliach and shlucha.

At *mincha* the Rebbe encouraged the singing of *Aleinu*. It began spontaneously as the crowd burst into song. This was followed by *Al Tira*, which was sung as well. The Rebbe continued to encourage the singing until *maariv*, after which the Rebbe left the *shul* to the *niggun* of Rosh Chodesh Kislev.

The overjoyed crowd remained in their places and continued to sing and dance to the *niggun* at fever pitch. It was a natural expression of the immense joy and overflowing emotion felt by all, for their great *zechus* to spend this Shabbos with the

Rebbe and to witness the unique farbrengen this week.

After Shabbos there was a farbrengen/*seudas hodaah* to celebrate Rosh Chodesh Kislev.

The farbrengen began with Reb Yoel Kahn reviewing what the Rebbe had said earlier, at today's farbrengen.

The featured guest speaker was Dr. Weiss who flew in from Chicago especially for this event. Dr. Weiss spoke about his connection with Chabad, and in particular, with the Rebbe himself.

Amongst other things, he told the story of the Rebbe's heart attack and recovery in 5738. The warm words from Dr. Weiss were received with lots of applause from the crowd.

Rabbi Aron Leizer Ceitlin from Tzfas was also invited to address the crowd. He spoke passionately about the Rebbe's new "*mitvza Hakhel*" and called upon those gathered to mobilize all their *kochos* for this special campaign. He then went on to relate some personal experiences and successes that he had had in his involvement in the *mitvza*.

As the farbrengen came to a close, Reb Meir Harlig surprised everyone by showing a beautiful video. The film included excerpts of different events and farbrengens, beginning from when the Frierdiker Rebbe arrived in America until today!

The night passed with singing and dancing, to thank and praise Hashem's greatness "*Al nisecha ve'al nifle'osecha ve'al yeshuosecha.*"

### SUNDAY, ROSH CHODESH KISLEV

This afternoon the shluchim took a group picture outside 770.

The scene was stunning; hundreds of shluchim arranged in rows one above the other. As the picture was being taken, the shluchim sang the Rosh Chodesh Kislev Niggun.

Afterwards, they entered 770 for *mincha*, anxiously anticipating receiving the *kuntres* and dollar, as per the Rebbe's announcement yesterday.

When the Rebbe came in he turned unexpectedly to Rabbi Groner and informed him that he would deliver a *sicha* immediately after *mincha*. Quickly, the *shtender* and microphone were set up.

The Rebbe began by blessing the shluchim and shluchos in their holy and crucial *avodah*. The Rebbe mentioned that he had received *duchos* from a number of shluchim who had reported incredible



GROUP PHOTO OF THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL KINUS HASHLUCHIM.



THE REBBE DISTRIBUTES KUNTREISIM AND DOLLARS TO THE SHLUCHIM ON ROSH CHODESH KISLEV, 5748.

JEM/THE LIVING ARCHIVE / 147582 / 1 KISLEV, 5748

JEM/THE LIVING ARCHIVE / 147134

JEM/THE LIVING ARCHIVE / 147587 / 1 KISLEV, 5748



KINUS HASHLUCHIM BANQUET.



MR. DAVID CHASE ADDRESSES THE CROWD AT THE KINUS HASHLUCHIM BANQUET.

success. The Rebbe then encouraged anyone who had not yet done so, to send one in.

The Rebbe then started the distribution of *kuntresim* and dollars, and announced that the shluchim—only the Shluchim—should come over, and everybody else should stand on the side.

Numerous people who passed were asked by the Rebbe whether or not they were shluchim. When one person answered that he is a rof, the Rebbe smiled but raised his hands in wonder. When someone else said that he is a *mashpia*, the Rebbe told him “I’m not even taking for myself!”

### MONDAY, 2 KISLEV

We witnessed a touching scene this morning, as the Rebbe gave out tzedaka to the children. One boy put his hand out a second time and the Rebbe gave him another coin. Afterwards, the child called, “Rebbe...” and put his hand out once again. The Rebbe gave him a third coin and stood with him until he put it into his *pushka*.



THE SEFARIM ARE RETURNED TO 770 ON BEIS KISLEV, 5748.

As the day progressed, so did our excitement, as we were waiting with anticipation for the return of the *sefarim*!

At around 2:00 p.m. the Rebbe left to the Ohel. Before he got into the car, the Rebbe distributed coins to the children for tzedaka. As the Rebbe was giving out the coins, we stood around singing Didan Notzach. As the Rebbe came to the last of the children, he turned to us with a pained expression, and began scolding us for not using the victory as an opportunity to learn from the *sefarim*. Instead we were using our time singing Didan Notzach without taking advantage of the gift we’ve been given. The Rebbe then got into the car and left to the Ohel.

Rumor has it that the Rebbe asked that if the *sefarim* arrive while he is at the Ohel, some of them should be sent over to the Ohel.

Around an hour later, the *sefarim* arrived. With delight and elation, the members of Aguch brought them into 770. The *sefarim* were placed in *Gan Eden Hatachton* next to the door to the Rebbe’s room, and some were sent to the Rebbe at the Ohel.

In the afternoon the main session of the Kinus Hashluchim took place. The guest speaker was attorney Jerry Shestack, who was involved in the court case and his speech was received enthusiastically.

Later on in the evening there was a farbrengen, where the members of Aguch spoke about the great victory. More importantly, they emphasized the importance of using it as an inspiration for growth—to increase and strengthen our learning in general and particularly the teachings and lessons of the Rebbe. **T**