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כ"ה אדר תרצ"ה  
פוקערסדארף.

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THE REBBE'S HOLY HANDWRITING  
ON THE BACK OF THE IMAGE.



# In the Austrian Winter

25 ADAR I 5695 - PURKERSDORF

JEM 2945



For many years the majority of Chassidim knew precious little about the depth of the Rebbe's *askonus* and involvement with directing various Lubavitch activities on behalf of the Frierdiker Rebbe while in Europe, save for some oral testimonies and the few rare occasions at which the Rebbe shared little pieces of his own recollections at *farbrengens*.

The picture shown here, portrays the Rebbe and Frierdiker Rebbe in the year 5695, outdoors in the Austrian town of Purkersdorf, where the Frierdiker Rebbe had gone for medical treatment. The Rebbe recorded the date and location that the picture was taken by writing it on the back of the photograph.

We have no information of the exact circumstances of the photo, such as who shot it and for what precise purpose. For many years we also had no documented information on why the Rebbe was in

Purkersdorf at the time. Although it was known that the Rebbe would visit the Frierdiker Rebbe while he stayed in different rest homes in Purkersdorf, Perchtoldsdorf, and others.

But in recent years a great deal of light has been shed onto the time preceding the Rebbe and Rebbetzin's arrival in the USA. Volume 15 of the Frierdiker Rebbe's *Igros Kodesh*, containing written correspondence between the Frierdiker Rebbe and the Rebbe and Rebbetzin, provides us a glimpse into the depth of the Rebbe's involvement and *askonus* on behalf of the Frierdiker Rebbe. We also learn how the Frierdiker Rebbe entrusted his major medical decisions with the Rebbe, and the vast efforts made by the Rebbe in consulting with medical experts for the Frierdiker Rebbe's health, spanning many years.<sup>1</sup>

For example, in a letter dated 24 Teves 5693<sup>2</sup>, addressed to the Rebbetzin, the Frierdiker Rebbe extols the Rebbe's tireless



JEM 2946

care for him and express his pleasure at the prominent contacts the Rebbe was aware of and in touch with.

Before choosing one plan of action over another, or consultation with one doctor over others, the Frierdiker Rebbe would solicit the Rebbe's opinion on the matter, requesting that he weigh in and give his advice.

On many occasions the Frierdiker Rebbe wrote to the Rebbe and Rebbetzin, requesting that if their schedule allowed, perhaps the Rebbe could join him in Austria to handle the various tasks related to the Frierdiker Rebbe's recuperation.<sup>3</sup>

#### TIME FRAME

During the time that the Rebbe spent together with the Frierdiker Rebbe in Purkersdorf, the Rebbe and Frierdiker Rebbe conversed a great deal. In Reshimas Hayoman,<sup>4</sup> we find a relatively lengthy entry

detailing stories the Rebbe heard then and dutifully recorded.<sup>5</sup>

Interestingly, it is precisely at the time this picture was taken, when the doctors began noticing signs of improvement in the Frierdiker Rebbe's health. **T**

1. This is besides for the Rebbe's work on the Frierdiker Rebbe's behalf writing and transcribing letters, interfacing with dignitaries and acting as a secretary of sorts. See "Total Transformation" part I; A Chassidisher Derher #40, Shevat 5776.

2. Page. קל

3. See page רלח (footnote), רסד, רנט, *et al.*

4. Page שסא

5. It is worthwhile to note that in this reshima, the Rebbe references to the *lange briv*, the famously long letter which the Frierdiker Rebbe wrote his daughter, Rebbetzin Chaya Mushka. At the doctor's behest the Frierdiker rebbe had been urged to refrain from excessive exertion including public speaking, as he required total rest for the sake of his recuperation. It was at this time that he authored the *lange briv*, which in the incomplete version that we have is 120 pages long!