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“Ana Avda”

Reb Zalman Teibel's Niggun

29 ELUL 5743

Kos shel bracha at the end of yom tov was an opportunity for Chassidim and Jews of every background to come before the Rebbe and receive some wine from the cup that the Rebbe used for *birkas hamazon* and *havdala*. As people would pass by and the Rebbe's cup would empty, Rabbi Mordechai Mentlik, and later Rabbi Berel Junik, would refill it.

During the hours-long distribution, the assembled crowd sang lively *niggunim* one after another, their tempo determined by the Rebbe's gestures of encouragement. The lines of people swelled rather than thinned with the passing hours, as thousands of Yidden from near and not-so-near communities arrived to behold this awesome sight, and to receive some wine of their own. The distribution sometimes continued into the early hours of the morning.

It was on one such occasion, on Motzei Rosh Hashana 5743, that upon seeing the elderly Chossid Reb Zalman Teibel, that the Rebbe began singing the *niggun* "Ana-Ana Avda." At first Chassidim tried joining in the song as they normally would, but the Rebbe kept on singing, so the crowd slowly quieted down and listened. As he sang, the Rebbe motioned passionately in the direction of Reb Zalman, and then added in Yiddish, "It was just Rosh Hashanah. Now we're going to Tzom Gedalya, the Asseres Yemei

Teshuva, Yom Kippur, Z'man Simchaseinu, Simchas Torah. May we be *zoche* to sing this [*niggun*] with Moshiach as an 'ana avda,'¹ together with you!"

Reb Zalman had been privy to special moments like this before. At the Rebbe's request, he had 'brought' this *niggun* to Chassidim during the Shavuos farbrengen in 5729. The day before, while sitting at the Rebbe's *seudah* in the Friediker Rebbe's apartment on the first day of *yom tov*, the Rebbe asked Reb Zalman to sing a *niggun*, and after his unsuccessful attempts at remaining silent, he acquiesced and sang *Ana Avda*. During the *seudah* that night and then again on the following day, the Rebbe asked him to sing it again. At the farbrengen on the second day of Shavuos, the Rebbe asked that the Chassidim adopt this *niggun* and learn it.²

Pictured here, we find a similar instance. Almost exactly a full year after the *kos shel bracha* incident mentioned above, as Reb Zalman's turn came to give the Rebbe his *pan* before Rosh Hashana 5744, the Rebbe began singing *Ana Avda* while gesturing at Reb Zalman.

Reb Zalman passed away a short time thereafter. ⓘ

1. "באופן ד'אנא עבדא'"

2. See Sichos Kodesh 5729 vol. 2 p. 136 for more on this.



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