



לזכות

חבר מערכת של גליון זה החתן הרה"ת ר' מנחם מענדל שיח'ל גרינברג
והכלה מרת ח'ל מושקא שתח'ל שם טוב
לרגל חתונתם בשעטומ"צ ביום י"ג סיון ה'תשע"ו, שנת הקהל

Shavuos with the Rebbe

DIARY OF A BOCHUR; SIVAN 5740



WEDNESDAY, 28 IYAR

As the Rebbe was leaving to go home at 10:40 PM, Rabbi Simcha Kook, chief rabbi of Rechovot, was waiting in the hallway. The Rebbe greeted him and asked if he is Rabbi Kook from Rechovot. When he answered in the affirmative the Rebbe spoke to him for about five minutes.

The Rebbe first noted that he is a Kohen, and requested that he give him a *bracha*.

Rabbi Kook: I came to receive a *bracha* [and not to give one]...

The Rebbe again requested a *bracha*, and Rabbi Kook again refused, saying that he was embarrassed, but he promised to mention the Rebbe at the Kosel.

The Rebbe: I apologize for speaking to you here and not in my room, I didn't know that you were here. Thank you for helping arrange and participating in the Lag B'omer parade in Rechovot.

Rabbi Kook: I am involved now with the Chabad House in the Old City.

The Rebbe: In Rechovot?

Rabbi Kook: In the Old City of Yerushalayim.

The Rebbe wished him success and thanked him for all the help he provides to Chabad in Rechovot.

The Rebbe: Until when are you here?

Rabbi Kook: Another few days.

The Rebbe: Are you leaving before Shabbos or after?

Rabbi Kook: Right after Shabbos.

The Rebbe: So you will be in Eretz Yisroel for Shavuos!

The Rebbe then quoted the Friediker Rebbe, and *bentched* him with “*Kabbalas haTorah besimcha ubepnimius*.”

“We never know when a *bracha* will ‘descend’ and have an effect. *Birchas Kohanim* is different though; the Alter Rebbe says that with *Birchas Kohanim* “עך מהרה ירוץ דברו”—its effect is immediate. Since you are active in maintaining the integrity of Eretz Yisroel (שלימות הארץ), your arrival in Eretz Yisroel should be with “completeness” (“בשלימות”). This will also have an effect on the rest of the world.”

Again the Rebbe apologized for not receiving him in his room, and then continued walking out of 770.

On the way to his car the Rebbe was approached by Rabbi Baruch Horowitz, founder and rosh yeshiva of Dvar Yerushalayim, a yeshiva for *baalei teshuvah*.

The Rebbe first thanked him for speaking at the convention of Agudas Yisroel in Yerushalayim¹. Upon his request for a *bracha*, the Rebbe replied: “You deal with people who are even greater than a *tzadik gamur* [i.e. *baalei teshuva*].”

Rabbi Horowitz again requested a *bracha*, and the Rebbe blessed him. When he asked to be admitted for *yechidus*, the Rebbe responded that it wouldn’t work. Noting his surprise the Rebbe explained that due to time constraints it is impossible to meet everyone individually at this time, and there are matters beyond his control.

THURSDAY, 29 IYAR

The Agudas Harabonim declared a half-day fast today. This past Shabbos the Rebbe encouraged it as well.

Mincha was at 1:30. After *mincha* there was a *sicha* for approximately 40 minutes (the *sicha* was later printed in *Lekutei Sichos*, Vol. 23 p. 245).

At the end of the *sicha* the Rebbe instructed that for the next few days there should be gatherings of children wherever possible, where they should proclaim “נעשה ונשמע”, and prepare for Shavuos. In Eretz Yisroel, a children’s *kinus* should be held at the Kosel and other holy sites, and permits should be obtained to assemble in Chevron and at Kever Rochel.

As for Shavuos itself, the Rebbe announced a new initiative: That all children should be brought to shul to hear *Aseres Hadibros*.

The Rebbe then said that he wants to personally address the Jews behind the Iron Curtain, in their own language. He began speaking in Russian, reminding them that according to Soviet law, Jews are allowed to observe their religion. They should therefore go to shul on Shavuos, and the police must protect them from harm. The Rebbe then concluded the *sicha* with a *bracha* in Yiddish.

On the way out, someone asked the Rebbe why the *sicha* was not translated in English. The Rebbe answered him to ask his friends and they will explain to him what was said. The Rebbe then turned to Rabbi Groner and asked why indeed it was not translated to English.

Although only a half day fast was proclaimed, the Rebbe himself fasted the whole day. *Maariv* was at 8:45 PM, after which the Rebbe went home.

SHABBOS PARSHAS BAMIDBAR, 2 SIVAN

The Rebbe arrived from his home at 9:45 AM, and informed Rabbi Groner that there would be a *farbrengen* later that day.

The *farbrengen* began at 1:30 PM. The Rebbe began by discussing the date of Beis Sivan, and spoke at length about *kinusim* for children. After the *maamar*, the Rebbe connected the customary Rashi *sicha*, insight in *Lekutei Levi Yitzchok*, and *Pirkei Avos*, with the idea of children positively influencing their parents².

At the close of the *farbrengen* the Rebbe asked that his father’s *hakafos niggun* be sung, and he strongly encouraged the singing.

SUNDAY, 3 SIVAN

The children’s rally began at 2:30 PM. At 3:20 the Rebbe entered the shul and davened *mincha* with the kids. On the way to his place, the Rebbe distributed coins to a few children. After *mincha* the Rebbe turned around to encourage the singing of *Utzu Eitza* and clapped vigorously.

The Rebbe then said five *sichos*, which were translated by Rabbi Hecht. They were about Gimmel Sivan, preparations for Matan Torah, the children being the guarantors for Torah, and hearing the *Aseres Hadibros* in shul.

After the *sichos* the Rebbe said that to unite with the children behind the Iron Curtain, he will speak in Russian. Once again, he said a short *sicha*

in Russian about the the relationship between a Jew and the Torah, as well as a brief explanation on Modeh Ani.

At the end of the rally the Rebbe began singing *Ufaratzta* and encouraged the singing with his hands the whole way out.

MONDAY, 4 SIVAN

After *krias haTorah*, ten guests from France recited *Birchas Hagomel*.

The Rebbe entered for *maariv* at 9:15 PM and smiled to Reb Zalmon Jaffe.

The farbrengen of Erev Shavuos began at 9:30 PM. The Rebbe began by speaking about how on Erev Shavuos every year we are given the strength to proclaim *naase venishma* anew. He spoke at length about the “two crowns,” the reward for *naase venishma*, which were given on Hei Sivan.

In the third *sicha* the Rebbe addressed the opposition to Lag Bomer parades in Eretz Yisroel³, explaining that the reason for it is *sinas chinam*,

baseless hatred, which is the result of incomplete control over one’s heart and mind. For this there can be only one explanation: that the primary opponent to the parades davens with *pasule tefillin!*

Afterwards, the Rebbe spoke about utilizing the hours remaining until Shavuos for activities with children, and about the uniqueness of the paper crowns that the children were wearing at the Lag Bomer parade.

TUESDAY, 5 SIVAN, EREV SHAVUOS

The Rebbe went to the Ohel at 3:30 PM and returned at 7:30.

The Rebbe was wearing his silk *kapote* for *mincha* and sat at his Shabbos place⁴. Upon leaving the Rebbe began singing *Vesamachta*.

When the Rebbe entered the big shul for *maariv*, the crowd began singing *Uveyom Simchas’chem*, and when the Rebbe reached his place he turned to the crowd and clapped vigorously for a short time.



YOSSI MELAMED via JEM140258

CHASSIDIM SING AND DANCE WITH THE REBBE’S ENCOURAGEMENT DURING KOS SHEL BROCHA, MOTZEI SHAVUOS 5740.

WEDNESDAY, FIRST DAY OF SHAVUOS

In spite of the heavy rain, hundreds of children came to 770 for davening in accordance with the Rebbe's instructions.

During the reading of *Aseres Hadibros* the Rebbe looked occasionally at the *baal koreh* and at the children.

In the afternoon, when the Rebbe returned from his house (at 5:20 PM), there was a children's rally underway in the upstairs *zal* of 770. When the Rebbe entered 770 and walked past the *zal*, they began singing, and the Rebbe motioned with his hand in encouragement.

At six o'clock the *tahalucha* left from 770, and the Rebbe went outside to see them off. Most of the time he clapped to the children singing Napoleon's March and *Va'anachnu Amcha*. When the last of the walkers disappeared from view, the Rebbe returned to his room.

THURSDAY, 2ND DAY OF SHAVUOS

As the shul was emptying out for *yizkor*, the Rebbe watched the crowd leave, and only after the last person exited did he cover himself with his tallis and started saying *yizkor*.

On the way up to his room after *shacharis*, the Rebbe saw two children fighting in the hallway (they apparently did not realize that the Rebbe was approaching). He took hold of one of the kids until they stopped fighting.

Just before *shkia*, at 8:00 PM, the Rebbe entered for the *farbrengen*. In the *sichos* he spoke at length about educating children, and the influence they could have on their parents. After the *maamar* he spoke about *tahalucha*, and instructed all who went to say *l'chaim*.

At the conclusion of the *farbrengen*, the Rebbe said that since the *farbrengen* is nearing its end, now would be the time to do as the Gemara says "*chatof ushesi*"—hurry and drink [i.e. say *l'chaim*]. He then waited for a few minutes until everyone said *l'chaim*, and motioned to many individuals to say *l'chaim*.

After *havdallah* the Rebbe distributed *kos shel bracha* to those present at the *farbrengen*, as well as to the many people who came after *yom tov* especially. When Rabbi Shlomo Cunin passed by, the Rebbe told him that he should see the fulfillment of the saying of קדושי עליון—holy people—that after a fire one prospers⁵ [his Chabad



LEVI FREIDIN via JEM 188420

House had recently suffered a devastating fire]. As Rabbi Cunin was returning to his place the Rebbe made joyous gestures in his direction, as *Al Hasela Hoch* was being sung by the crowd.

As the distribution was nearing its end the joy was indescribable. The Rebbe literally danced vigorously in his place with incredible joy and energy, and the crowd reacted with unrestrained jubilation.

FRIDAY, 8 SIVAN

The Rebbe received people for *yechidus* today from 3:00 to 6:00 in the afternoon.

It was announced today that the Rebbe would *farbreng* on Shabbos and on Monday.

When the Rebbe entered for *Kabbolas Shabbos* the crowd sang *Uviyom Simchaschem*. As he reached his place he turned around and clapped energetically.

SHABBOS PARSHAS NASO, 9 SIVAN

At 1:30 PM the Rebbe entered the *farbrengen*, and spoke about continuing the special *peulos* for children until Yud-Beis Sivan.

The Rebbe then instructed to sing the *niggun* before a *maamar*, and said the *maamar Al Shlosha Devarim*. After the *maamar* Rashag approached the Rebbe with a bottle of *mashke* for the upcoming Tomchei Tmimim dinner. In standard procedure, the Rebbe poured from the bottle into his own cup, and then from his cup back into the bottle, and shook the bottle three times. He then poured some into Rashag's cup for him to say *l'chaim*, blessed him with success in the dinner, and instructed him to distribute some of the *mashke* at this farbrengen.

During some of the *niggunim* the Rebbe encouraged the singing very strongly.

During the Rashi *sicha*, the Rebbe stopped and asked if anyone is keeping count of the questions. Reb Zalmon Jaffe answered that he was counting, and the Rebbe asked him which question he was up to. He answered that the Rebbe was in middle of the fifth question, and the Rebbe smiled. Some time later the Rebbe again asked him how many questions he had asked so far, and he replied "Twenty." The Rebbe answered that this is enough.

The Rebbe stood up in his place, stretched out his hand to the boy and said: shalom aleichem Yaakov!

SUNDAY, 10 SIVAN

When the Rebbe came back from his home in the afternoon, the Kramer family was waiting outside. The Rebbe asked them if they gave tzedakah yet, and gave each of the children a coin, telling them to put it in the pushka. Mrs. Kramer said that today is the *upshernish* of the boy that she was holding, and the Rebbe replied that it should be *besh'ah tova umutzlachas*. One of the girls thanked the Rebbe for the tzedakah, and the Rebbe answered "Tzu gezunt."

This evening the Rebbe received people for *yechidus* from 8:00 PM until 1:10 AM. Among those who went in were a group from France, and rabbonim that came to spend Shavuos with the Rebbe.

The following are a number of exchanges from that night's *yechidus*.

Rabbi A. of Kfar Chabad came with his son, and the Rebbe asked the young boy how many tzitzis he

has. He answered: 32 [tzitzis have 32 strings]. The Rebbe asked with a smile: You have so many tzitzis?

To the bochur K.K. the Rebbe asked: Did your father's depression already pass? Tell him that this was the first question that I asked you. He later added: He should have *bitachon* and this will improve his health in body and soul; he should have much success.

Reb A. entered with his wife, and told the Rebbe that they are married fourteen years without children. He added that he had written a letter to a certain prestigious doctor and did not receive a response. The Rebbe answered that he didn't receive a response because he asked himself, [without a referral]:

"Go tomorrow to the doctor here in shul and ask him to write the letter on his official stationery and sign it at the bottom. Include a return envelope with stamps, and a few dollars for the secretary, and he will then answer you."

Reb A. asked the Rebbe for a *bracha*, and the Rebbe replied that if they get an answer from the doctor everything will work out.

A young boy came in with his father and the Rebbe asked him for his name. He answered: Yaakov. The Rebbe asked him if he knows who Yaakov was, who were his parents, and who were his grandparents. Then the Rebbe stood up in his place, stretched out his hand to the boy and said: "Shalom aleichem, Yaakov!"

Rabbi Pachter, who had brought the group from France, came in for *yechidus*. The Rebbe asked him if the French group which was here before were his "fruits." The Rebbe then gave him a sum of money as his participation in the travel expenses, and told him to divide it equally among the whole group (55 people). The Rebbe concluded the *yechidus* with saying: "Very soon Moshiach will come and you will greet him with the fruits of your labor."

MONDAY, 11 SIVAN

At 9:30 PM the Rebbe entered for the farbrengen. Rabbi Groner informed the Rebbe that there is leftover wine from the farbrengen on Shabbos, and the Rebbe requested that it be poured into his cup.

The Rebbe spoke about Yud-Beis Sivan being the end of the *yemei hatashlumin* for Shavuos [the period that one could still bring his Shavuos *korban*], and that the final hours of this day should be used for fulfilling the *hachlatos* from Shavuos. The Rebbe also spoke about the day of the week that



YOSSI MELAMED via JEM 139981

THE REBBE ADDRESSES THE 25TH ANNUAL NSHEI UBNOS CHABAD CONVENTION, 17 SIVAN 5740.

it fell out on this year, as well as the day's Chitas, and the lesson for children from this. He then spoke again about holding children's rallies at the holy sites in Eretz Yisroel.

Towards the end of the farbrenge the Rebbe said:

"Perhaps *Hoaderes Vehaemuna* which was composed in France should be sung, as there are guests from France here. Where is the Kohen [Rabbi Pachter]? Did he go to sleep? There is no *Birchas Kohanim* at night."

Someone said that he is translating the *sicha* to French. The Rebbe responded: "Does he have to translate right now?" They replied that he is doing a simultaneous translation, and the Rebbe answered: "Nu, let him sing from there. It should be quick because Moshiach is already preparing to come and there won't be time."

He finally came up and started singing; the Rebbe clapped his hands strongly to encourage the singing. After this *niggun* the Rebbe started *Utzu*

Eitza, and told Rabbi Pachter to say *l'chaim*. The Rebbe then asked that *Hoshia, Ufaratzta*, and his father's *hakafos niggun* be sung.

TUESDAY, 12 SIVAN

In response to reports of the preparations for the children's rally tomorrow, the Rebbe wrote: "בּוּדָאָ יְעִשֶׂה גַם עֵתָהּ בְּאוֹפֵן שִׁיעֵשֶׂה רוֹשֵׁם בְּכָל הָעוֹלָם כּוֹלֵוּ, מִיט אֶ עֵשֶׂה נֹא—They will most certainly do it now as well, in a manner that will have an effect on the entire world with a large 'bang,' in the literal sense."

"There are guests from France here. Where is the Cohen? He went to sleep?!"

WEDNESDAY, 13 SIVAN

At 2:30 PM the children's rally began, completely filling up the downstairs shul. There were also many

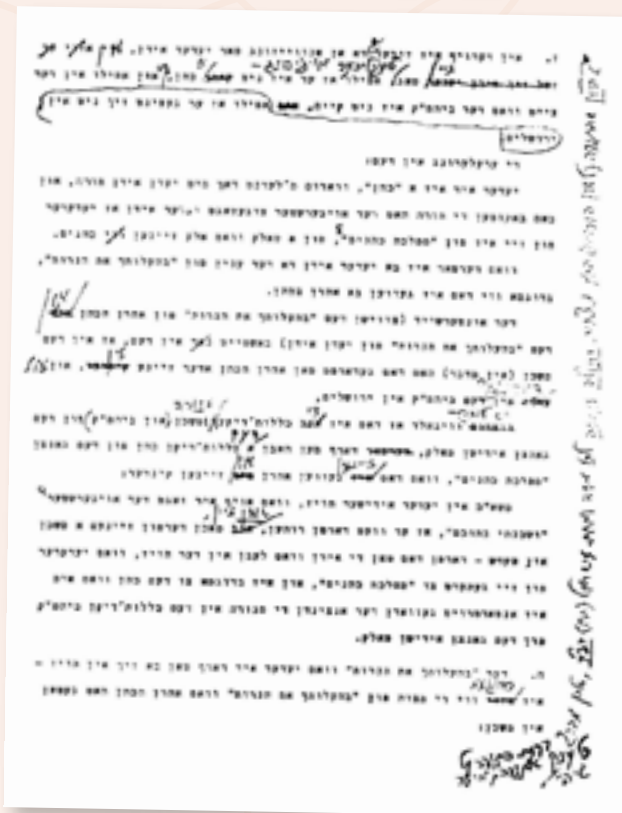
public school kids in attendance. The Rebbe joined the rally for *mincha* at 4:00.

At 8:00 PM the Rebbe began receiving people for *yechidus*, which lasted until 1:50 AM. Amongst those who entered were Rabbi Halperin, director of Machon L'cheker Hahalacha; Rabbi Lipshitz, director of Hape'ilim; Reb Zalmon Jaffe, who was in *yechidus* for approximately half an hour; and Mrs. Resnik, who was in *yechidus* for more than an hour and a half.

The following are some of the exchanges that took place during that evening's *yechidus*:

The editor of the newspaper Új Kelet, a Hungarian newspaper printed in Eretz Yisrael, spent about twenty minutes in *yechidus*. The Rebbe spoke with him about many subjects, among them regarding the need for Jews to settle in Shchem, Chevron, and Yerushalayim. The Rebbe said that while a military presence was needed, civilian families also had to settle in these areas.

The Rebbe: Although there are many holy sites in Eretz Yisroel, people become used to them, therefore reminders are needed to feel the holiness. When visitors come however, they are much quicker to be moved by visiting these places. The



THE REBBE'S HAGAHOS ON THE SICHA OF 13 SIVAN 5740.



LEVI FREIDIN v68 JEM 188274

same goes for Jews today relative to those in the Ghetto of old—more *mesirus nefesh* is needed now, because there is no longer a Jewish atmosphere.

The editor: Everyone is waiting for the Rebbe to visit Eretz Yisrael.

The Rebbe: When one is in a forest, he is surrounded by trees and he doesn't see the whole forest. Only from outside can one see the full picture.

The Rebbe then inquired if he publishes stories of Chassidim and the *parshas hashavua* in his newspaper.

A young Iranian refugee entered in honor of his bar mitzvah. The Rebbe gave him a *bracha* in English, and then asked the person accompanying the boy to explain the *bracha* to him in simple English. The boy asked for a *bracha* for the director of his yeshiva in Iran, who had been arrested and sentenced to capital punishment, *r"l*. The Rebbe replied: The only way to rescue him is with Torah and mitzvos. At the end of the *yechidus*, as the boy was leaving, the Rebbe said again: Remember! The only way to save him is through Torah and mitzvos.

FRIDAY, 15 SIVAN

This afternoon, as the Rebbe was leaving to his home, Reb Zalmon Jaffe was waiting by the Rebbe's car with his family. As he and his grandchildren waited, his son stood off to the side with a video camera and filmed the scene.

The Rebbe asked Reb Zalmon with a smile if he was ready for Shabbos, and he answered that he was. The Rebbe then turned to his grandchildren and asked where their father was. They replied that he was filming with his camera. Turning to the father the Rebbe commented that he can come here and film.

When he approached the Rebbe smiled and asked if he has any more film. He responded that he does, and began filming. The Rebbe stood still, turned to the camera with a broad smile, and waved goodbye to the children.

SUNDAY, 17 SIVAN

After *mincha* Reb Zalmon Jaffe approached the Rebbe to tell him that he was travelling home after the *sicha* to N'shei Chabad. The Rebbe said to him: You must remember to come back for "Hakhel,"⁶ at least for Sukkos and maybe earlier.

At 7:40 PM the Rebbe came down to say a *sicha* to the women participating in the Kinus N'shei

Chabad. The Rebbe encouraged them to make a greater effort in learning and teaching about *taharas hamishpacha*. He then spoke at length about the importance of raising large families, with many children, and not interfering with Hashem's plans.

The Rebbe concluded the *sicha* with a request to publicize his opinion on this matter all over the world, and ultimately the efforts will be successful. After the *sicha* (9:10 PM) the Rebbe gave the directors of N'shei Chabad coins to distribute for their involvement in Taharas Hamishpacha, and left for his house at 10:00.

"Twelve hours have already passed, did they do anything yet?"

MONDAY, 18 SIVAN

This morning Rabbi Hodakov called the office of N'shei Chabad and asked them if they started working on the new project yet. He reported that the Rebbe had asked: "twelve hours have already passed, did they do anything yet?" He also added in the Rebbe's name that although there was a live broadcast of the *sicha*, they must not rely on that, rather they should publicize it as far and wide as possible. **T**

1. Held every 7 years. Many rebbes and Torah scholars would attend, and an invitation was sent to the Rebbe each time. The Rebbe would send a letter of encouragement for this convention.
2. On Rosh Chodesh Nissan that year, the Rebbe announced the campaign of *בנימי על (ע"י) אבות לב*. In the months that followed, the Rebbe alluded to this campaign at almost every *farbrengen* and gathering. For details about the campaign and the events surrounding it—including anecdotes from Sivan of that year and the new initiative of bringing every child to hear the *Aseres Hadibros*—see Derher Sivan 5774, "Children at the forefront."
3. That year the Rebbe strongly encouraged Lag Bomer parades across the globe, participating with a dollar or more towards each parade. Many parades were arranged in Eretz Yisroel for the first time, under the new slogan of *יחד כל ילדי ישראל*. See the abovementioned article for more on this.
4. Read more about the Rebbe's Shabbos place - Derher Issue 30 (107) Nissan 5775
5. Derech Mitzvosecha p. 114
6. The following year, 5741, was a Hakhel year.