



דער רבי וועט געפינען א וועג...

לחיצוק ההתקשרות
לכ"ק אדמו"ר
נדפס ע"י משפחת טענענבוים
גורני, אילינואוס

Blessed Rains

AS TOLD BY RABBI YOSEF LEVIN (PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA)

In California we are well aware that water is not a free commodity. In fact, it is quite expensive; all the more so during a prolonged drought when strict limitations are imposed on water usage and the price of water soars. There have been several severe droughts in the history of California, and as the most populous state in the US and a major agricultural producer, drought in California can have a severe economic and environmental impact.

One of the most memorable droughts in the history of California began in the year 5746 and stretched for over five years. As the years wore on and the reservoirs drained, the authorities continued to cut back on allowed water use.

I had often contemplated requesting the Rebbe's *bracha* for rain but it felt strange for me to taking initiative and asking the Rebbe for a *bracha* on behalf of an entire state, especially taking into account that, as the *Nossi Hador*, the Rebbe is surely aware of the state of affairs in every corner of the world.

It was in the beginning of Adar in 5751, the sixth consecutive year of drought, when the authorities began discussing an additional fifty percent reduction (!) in allowed water use, in addition to the already severely limited supply.

At that point I called *mazkirus* asking what would be appropriate for me to do in terms of asking for a *bracha* for rain, and I received the suggestion to have all the shlichim (at that point there were five) in the Bay area sign a *pa"n* requesting rain. I immediately called each shliach and they all readily consented for me to sign their names. I faxed the *pa"n* and it was brought in to the Rebbe on 8 Adar, which fell out on a Friday.

On Sunday, Rabbi Groner called with the news that the Rebbe had given an answer to our *pa"n* worded as follows:

אזכיר עה"צ והזמ"ג למרבים ב(בבשו"ט ותוצאותיהן) שמחה כולל שכאור"א (ע"י משה שבכאור"א) יצוה נר מצוה ותורה אור מערב ועד תמיד.

[The Rebbe responds with a blessing for good news resulting in joy, and connects this with the theme of the month (Adar - joy) and parsha of the week (Tetzaveh - illuminating the world with Torah and mitzvos, by way of connecting with Moshe Rabbeinu).]

Ecstatic, we wasted no time in letting everyone know that the Rebbe had given a special *bracha* and that rainfall was imminent.

Taanis Esther fell out on Wednesday, and as was customary, the Rebbe said a *sicha* following *mincha*, in which he spoke about the significance of the *taanis* falling out on Wednesday and Purim on Thursday, connecting both to the daily *shiurim* of Chumash.

Listening to the *sicha* in California via live hookup, I suddenly heard something that left me deeply astounded. The Rebbe was speaking about the fact that the lessening of the moon, which took place following the creation of the sun and the moon on the fourth day, is only a *yerida* for the sake of *aliya*, which will happen with the coming of Moshiach. As it says: "וה' אור הלבנה כאור החמה וגו' שבעת ימים" "זהו אור הלבנה כאור החמה וגו' שבעת ימים" —The moon will become more luminous than the sun sevenfold, as it shone during the seven days of creation.

Then, in no apparent connection to the rest of the *sicha* (in the hanacha this piece appears in brackets), the Rebbe calculated (based on a passage in the Zohar) that "*shivasyim*"—seven times seven, multiplied by the seven days of creation (7x7x7)—brings you to the number 343, which is also the gematria of *geshem*—rain!

On the following day of Purim two miracles occurred. The first was the conclusion of the Gulf War, and the second was the torrents of rain that began to fall in California. It continued to rain for forty days and the reservoirs quickly

filled, all but obliterating the five and a half year drought from memory. This was soon dubbed by the mainstream media the "March Miracle."



The year 5772 was the start of the most recent drought here in California. The state population was much larger than it was in the 5740s and the memory of the events of some twenty five years prior was invoked by many early on. One newspaper, The San Francisco Chronicle, wrote, "It was pretty dire then, the way it is now. But then came a meteorological event of near-biblical proportions—forty days of rain known as the "March Miracle."

Last year, the fourth consecutive year of drought, there was talk of major reductions in water use, reminiscent of the proposed regulations in 5751. I was immediately reminded of how at that time, we had requested a *bracha* from the Rebbe for rain and the open moifes that had occurred as a result and I resolved to do the same now as well. It was well towards the end of the rain season when I contacted all forty-eight shluchim in the Greater Bay Area, and after some deliberation everyone signed a *pa'n* which I sent to New York to be placed at the Ohel.

Since then, an El Nino—a climatic phenomenon that causes heavy rainfall in the south—began to form in the Western Pacific. This year the Bay Area experienced heavy rainfall, effectively ending the drought in Northern California, and bringing up rainfall throughout the rest of the state to an average rate. ①



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בצפון קליפורניה, מבקשים ברכת
כ"ק לגשמי ברכה, היות וכבר חמש
שנים שאין מספיק גשם ויש פה
בצורת קשה.
יוסף יצחק בן רחל הלוי לוין
חיים יעקב בן מרים דלפין
יודה יצחק בן בריינא שרה פעריס
יוסף בן חנה דבורה לאנגער
אהרן בן ליבא העכט
ישראל נח בן איטא בתיה ריס
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