

DAYS OF MEANING

EXPLORING SPECIAL DATES ON OUR CALENDAR

11 NISSAN

Birthday of the Rebbe

The Rebbe was born in Nikolayev on Friday, Yud-Aleph Nissan 5662 (תרט"ב). The Rebbe was named after the Tzemach Tzedek. The Rebbe Rashab sent six telegrams to the Rebbe's father, HoRav Levi Yitzchok, containing *brachos* and good wishes, as well as inquiries and instructions regarding the Rebbe's birth and education.

[Read more in "Early Years" in this magazine.]

Chazal tell us: "When *tzaddikim* enter the world, good enters the world and calamity leaves the world."

At the second *seder*, in 5699 (תרצ"ט), the Frierdiker Rebbe said, "In 5662, there were evil decrees against the Jewish People, and before Pesach, they were miraculously annulled."

{IN THE REBBE'S PRESENCE}

Chassidim first found out the date of the Rebbe's *yom huledes* from the Rebbe's mother, Rebbetzin Chana, while the Rebbe was in France in 5707. Rebbetzin Chana suggested to the Chassidim there that they should ask the Rebbe to *farbrenge* in honor of the *yom huledes*, and the Rebbe agreed.

Yud-Aleph Nissan is a uniquely special day for the Rebbe, for Chassidim of *dor hashvi'i*, for all Yidden, and for all people living in this generation. Chassidim would present gifts to the Rebbe; specifically by increasing in spiritual matters and studying Torah, as the Rebbe requested (Purim *farbrenge* 5732). People from across the globe would send in their *brachos* and good wishes to the Rebbe in honor of the birthday; many Chassidim would also travel to the Rebbe for the occasion. The Rebbe expressed his appreciation for these gestures on numerous occasions. Each year, one of the elder Chassidim would give the Rebbe a *bracha* in the name of all of the Chassidim.

On the occasion of the Rebbe's 60th birthday in 5722, the Rebbe *farbrenge*d for the first time (during the *nesius*) on 11 Nissan. Starting from 5731, the

Rebbe *farbrenge*d every year on this day, until 5745. From 5741 and on, these *farbrenge*s were televised live.

In 5746, 11 Nissan was on Sunday, and the Rebbe distributed dollar bills to men, women, and children. This was the beginning of the "Sunday Dollars."

2 NISSAN

Histalkus of the Rebbe Rashab and Beginning of the Frierdiker Rebbe's Nesius

The Rebbe Rashab was *nistalek* in Rostov on Motzoei Shabbos parshas Vayikra, 2 Nissan, 5680 (תר"פ). The Rebbe Rashab's resting place is in Rostov. The Frierdiker Rebbe—the Rebbe Rashab's only son—accepted the *nesius* immediately after his father's *histalkus*.

{IN THE REBBE'S PRESENCE}

The Rebbe did not *farbrenge* on the day itself, but on a few occasions, at *farbrenge*s in proximity to the day, the Rebbe spoke about the day—about the *histalkus* of the Rebbe Rashab and the Frierdiker Rebbe's acceptance of the *nesius*. On 2 Nissan 5748, the Rebbe said a special *sicha* in his home marking 68 years—*gematriya* חיים (life)—of the Frierdiker Rebbe's *nesius*.

מוקדש לחיזוק ההתקשרות
לכ"ק אדמו"ר
בקשר עם יום הבהיר י"א ניסן
ולזכות
מושקא שתחיל
לרגל הגיעה לגיל שנים עשרה שנה,
היא עונת בת מצוה
י"ב ניסן התשע"ז
נדפס ע"י הור"י הרה"ת ר' מנחם מענדל
וזוגתו מרת אסתר מרים ומשפחתם שיחיו
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13 NISSAN

Histalkus of the Tzemach Tzedek

The Tzemach Tzedek was *nistalek* on Wednesday night, 13 Nissan 5626 (תרכ"ו). The Tzemach Tzedek's resting place is in Lubavitch.

{IN THE REBBE'S PRESENCE}

The year 5726 marked 100 years since the *histalkus*, and the Rebbe made a big *shturem* about this in the months leading up to the *yahrtzeit*. That year was the first time that the Rebbe *farbrenge*d on 13 Nissan during the *nesius*. In the ensuing years, the Rebbe *farbrenge*d on this date many times; and from 5738, it was nearly every year.

18 NISSAN

*Birthday of
HoRav Levi Yitzchok*

The Rebbe's father, HoRav Levi Yitzchak, was born on 18 Nissan 5638 (תרל"ח) in Podobranka, near Homel, to his parents HoRav Boruch Shneur and Rebbetzin Zelda Rochel. HoRav Levi Yitzchok was named after his paternal grandfather, HoRav Levi Yitzchok, the Tzemach Tzedek's grandson.

His genius was apparent at a young age, as his *mechutan*, the Frierdiker Rebbe, wrote: "From the earliest youth of HoRav Levi Yitzchok Schneerson, his exceptional talents were apparent."

18 NISSAN

*The Rebbe's
Bris Milla*

On HoRav Levi Yitzchok's 24th birthday, 18 Nissan 5662 (תרס"ב), the *bris* of his son, the Rebbe, took place. The *seuda* was held that same day, at the home of HoRav Meir Shlomo Yanovsky, rov of Nikolayev, the Rebbe's maternal grandfather. The many local Yidden who assembled listened with pleasure to HoRav Levi Yitzchok's *divrei Torah*, as he spoke at length, connecting the two events of the day

20 NISSAN

The Rebbe and Rebbetzin Receive US Visas

In 5701, France was partially occupied by the Nazis YM"SH, while the unoccupied part was governed by a puppet government also under Nazi control. The Frierdiker Rebbe expended enormous effort to free the Rebbe and Rebbetzin from there, and after much effort, they received visas to the United States. The visas enabled the Rebbe and Rebbetzin to escape the occupied European Continent, and they arrived to the U.S. several months later, on 28 Sivan.

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS



The Rebbe draws lessons from occurrences on dates in Jewish history:

18 NISSAN

Expelling Pharaoh's Emissaries

When the Yidden left Mitzrayim, they had requested, and received, permission to leave for three days. Pharaoh sent emissaries along with the Yidden to ensure that they return after the allotted time. When the fourth day arrived, and the Yidden began preparing to travel onward, these emissaries told them, "Three days have passed, and you must return." The Yidden replied, "We didn't leave by Pharaoh's permission." The emissaries said, "Whether you like it or not, you will be compelled by Pharaoh to follow his will." The Yidden rose up against them, striking, injuring, and killing many of them, while the survivors fled and told Pharaoh what happened. Moshe then told the Yidden, "Travel a bit back the way we came, so that Pharaoh shouldn't say that we are [scared and] fleeing from him." (Mechilta, Beshalach 14, 2)

At a Chol Hamoed Pesach children's rally, the Rebbe elaborated on the lesson a Jewish child takes out from this story:

Three days of freedom have gone by since the beginning of *Z'man Cheiruseinu*. One has been freed from the *yetzer hara*, but the *yetzer* may still be trying to influence the person in all sorts of ways. What did the Yidden do when faced with such a challenge? They expelled the agents of Pharaoh, who fled in shame, and the Yidden showed their determination and fearlessness by travelling back a little bit.

"When it comes to fighting the *yetzer*, we demonstrate that we aren't affected or afraid of him at all, because he has no chance to succeed."

(*Hisvaaduyos 5745 vol 3, p.1782*)