



BIRKAS HACHAMA

4 Nissan 5741

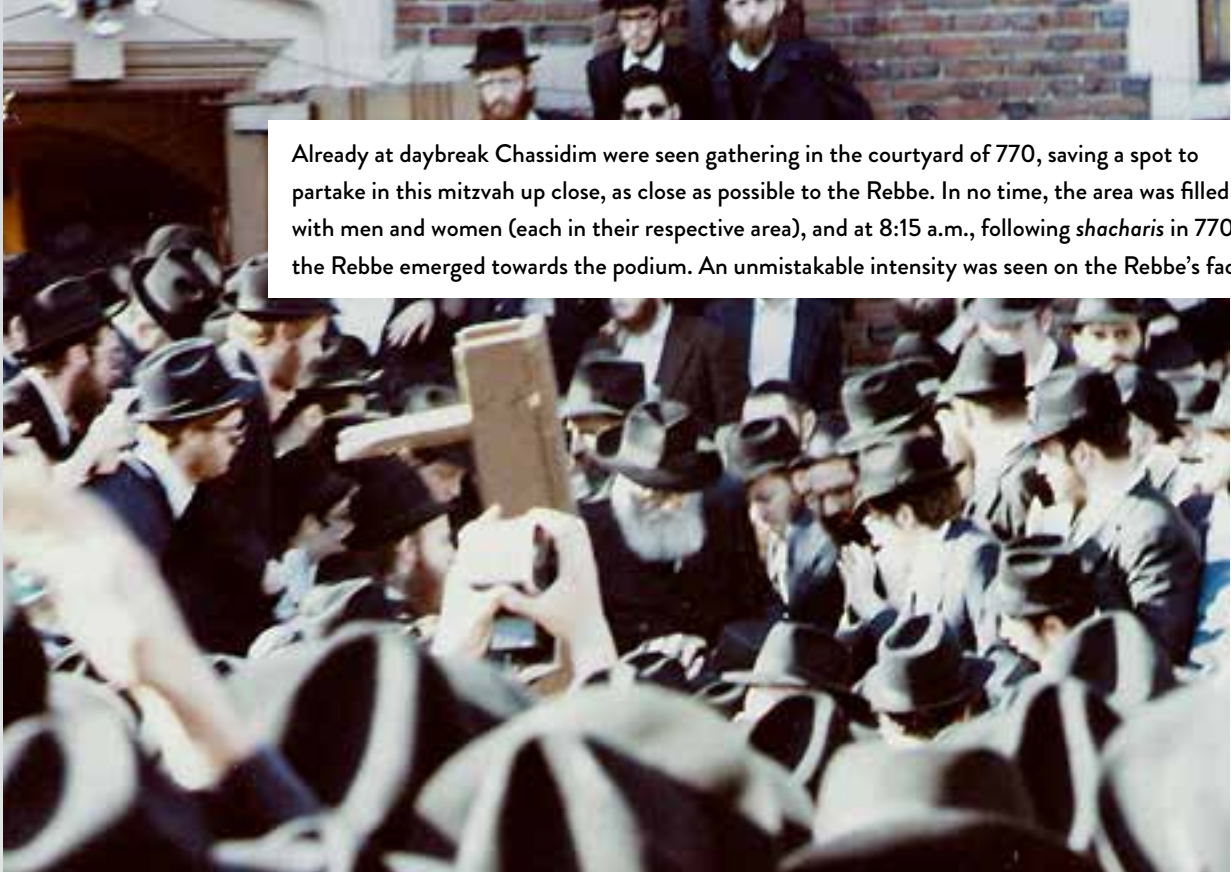
Anticipation filled the air for days. A truly historical moment was about to unfold. True, this rare ritual was being observed throughout the world, but standing there at this awesome moment with the Rebbe was a most memorable experience not to be missed.

Every 28 years, as the sun completes its orbit and returns to the very spot where it was first created, we perform the mitzvah of *birkas hachamah*. The days surrounding 4 Nissan, 5741 were overcast and cloudy, but on that Wednesday morning the sun radiated with an intensified shine, setting the scene for this special moment.



לזכות
פריינדא שתחיל
לרגל הגיעה לגיל שתיים עשרה שנה,
היא עונת בת מצוה
ד' ניסן ה'תשע"ז
נדפס ע"י הוריה הרה"ת ר' אברהם דוד
וזוגתו מרת שיינא חיל' שיחיו
ווויספיש





Already at daybreak Chassidim were seen gathering in the courtyard of 770, saving a spot to partake in this mitzvah up close, as close as possible to the Rebbe. In no time, the area was filled with men and women (each in their respective area), and at 8:15 a.m., following *shacharis* in 770, the Rebbe emerged towards the podium. An unmistakable intensity was seen on the Rebbe's face.

JEM105362



Facing east, towards the sun, the Rebbe instructed the Chassidim to sing the Alter Rebbe's *Niggun of Daled Bavos*. Throughout the *niggun* the Rebbe's eyes were closed, his hand lightly banging on the *shtender*. Afterwards the Rebbe instructed that his father's *hakafos niggun* be sung, this time encouraging the *niggun* and banging on the *shtender* stronger.

JEM 105367



As per the Rebbe's instructions, Reb Shea Pinson led the crowd with the *tefillah*. Before saying *Shehecheyanu*, the Rebbe took out of his pocket a new silk handkerchief over which to say the *bracha*. It should be noted that later on the Rebbe disclosed that he was also wearing a new silk *kapote* for the occasion.



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To the great delight of the Chassidim, the Rebbe began saying a *sicha*, an unexpected turn to the event.

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In between and following the three *sichos*, the Rebbe instructed for various *freiliche niggunim* be sung, some even started by the Rebbe himself. Throughout the singing, the Rebbe joyfully encouraged, clapping vigorously and turning to all sides.



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The Rebbe then requested that the 12 Pesukim be recited by six boys and six girls, yet another unexpected development. Following the Pesukim, amidst joyous singing, the Rebbe returned to his room at 770.