



The Timely Telegram

לזכות
החיילת בצבאות ה'
חיל מושקא שתחי'
ווצ'רשנסקי
לרגל הגיעה לגיל שתים-עשרה שנה,
היא עונת בת מצוה
נדפס ע"י
משפחתה שיחיו

PRESENTED IN HONOR OF BEIS IYAR—BIRTHDAY OF THE REBBE MAHARASH

“A new decree has been proposed? What now?”

“What now?” you ask. Well they want to pass a bill that will further restrict us Yidden from being able to conduct proper business and they want to harshen up the rules about the ghetto we have to live in.”

“Oy! Father in Heaven, who can help in these difficult times?”

Sadly this conversation wasn't unique to two Yidden, it was the feelings of all the Yidden in Russia during Nissan of 5640, who were afraid that they would be further victimized by their cruel anti-semitic Russian rulers.

But there was indeed one person who felt their plight and took it upon himself to

do all he could to prevent these new laws from being passed; the Rebbe Maharash.

The Rebbe Maharash travelled from Lubavitch to Petersburg and began rallying support among cabinet officials and ministers. He spent a considerable amount of time there. And it was time well spent. He made significant progress in convincing the cabinet members to delay the vote and implementation of the new laws until the following year at least.

However, one obstacle stood in his way.

The scheming Jew-hating minister who had designed and authored the terrible decrees had a good friend in the committee and this friend began convincing his colleagues to push the decrees forward and write them into law.

As the days moved on, the Rebbe Maharash had to return home to Lubavitch but his efforts to help Yidden never eased; even from Lubavitch he did all he could by sending letters and messengers to the necessary parties.

On Tuesday, the 2nd of Iyar, he called in his son, the Rebbe Rashab, and said:

“From the time I arrived in Petersburg to deal with these decrees, I began saying Tehillim in abundance.¹ Today, when I said the words *כי מכל צרה הצילני ובאיבי ראתה עיני*—For He saved me from every distress, and my eye saw my enemies,” Bentzion [the attendant] walked in and handed me a telegram with important news. The telegram stated that the evil minister had contracted a sickness and died a sudden death.”

The Rebbe Maharash then concluded, “Notwithstanding the good news, I finished the portion of Tehillim.”²

1. The Rebbe Rashab explained that this meant that his father took upon himself to say the Tehillim the way it is divided for the days of the week, in addition to the portion for the day of the month.

2. Adapted from Sippurei Chassidim - Moadim ; see also Kovetz Michtavim Tehillim, letter 8 Teves 5696