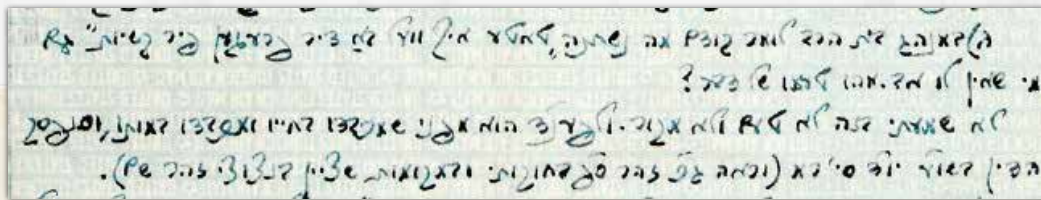




# HONOR AFTER LIFE

The following is a portion of a handwritten letter by the Rebbe,<sup>1</sup> in response to Dr. A. Hilman's question about a custom that the Rebbe cites in his Haggadah.

Published in honor of Chof Menachem-Av, 80th Yahrtzeit-Hilula of the Rebbe's father, Harav Levi Yitzchok:



ג) במנהג בית הרב לומר קודם מה נשתנה "טאטע איך וועל בא דיר פרעגען פיר קשיות" גם מי שאין לו אב. מהו טעמו של דבר? לא שמעתי בזה לא טעם ולא מקור. ולפענ"ג הוא מפני מכבדו בחייו ומכבדו במותו, וכנפסק הדין בשו"ע י"ד סי' רמ (וראה ג"כ זהר ס"פ בחוקותי ובמקומות שצ"י בנצוצי זהר שם).

3) [You ask] about the custom of our Rebbes' household to recite before the Ma Nishtana: "Father I will now ask you four questions..."— even if one does not have a father [among the living]. What is the reason for this?

I have heard neither a reason nor a source for this [custom]. In my humble opinion, it is [a fulfillment of the mitzvah to] honor [one's father, both] during his lifetime and [to] honor him after his passing, as ruled in Shulchan Aruch, *Yoreh Dei'ah Siman* 240. (See also Zohar end of Parshas Bechukosai<sup>2</sup>, and the sources referenced in Nitzutzei Zohar<sup>3</sup> there).<sup>4</sup>

1. From the year 5707, published in *Igros Kodesh* vol. 2, p. 239.

2. The Zohar discusses the obligation of a son towards his father even after his passing, and cites the example of Rebbi Elazar, son of Rebbi Shimon Ben Yochai.

3. By Rabbi Reuven Margolios.

4. It should be noted that in a sicha (11 Nissan 5743; Hisvaaduyos p. 1231) the Rebbe offered another explanation: By saying this introductory line, the Rebbeim invited the *neshamos* of their fathers to join them at the seder.