

BY: RABBI MENDY GREENBERG

# A Royal Visit

THE  
FRIERDIKER REBBE'S  
TRIP TO THE  
HOLY LAND



To The Amazing Staff Of The  
Chassidisher Derher We Thank You  
For All Your Hard Work And Devotion  
In Putting Together This Beautifully  
Written And Inspiring Magazine!

Dr. And Mrs. Levi A. Reiter

*Thanks!*

# The Rebbe is Coming!

It was a hot summer day in Yerushalayim—the fast-day of *Shiva Asar B'Tammuz*—when the arrival of a letter changed the mood in Yeshivas Toras Emes. The letter was from the Frierdiker Rebbe in Riga, addressed to the Yeshiva and its *menaholim*.

“In my homeland,” the Frierdiker Rebbe wrote, “I was accustomed to visiting - from time to time - the *Ohelim* of my forebears, the Rabbeim, to daven on our behalf, and on behalf of the *talmidim*, Anash, and the Jewish people.” Two years earlier, however, after the Frierdiker Rebbe’s imprisonment, he had been forced to leave the Soviet Union, never to return. He was no longer able to visit the *Kivrei Avos* there; so, the Frierdiker Rebbe wrote, he was to visit the holy sites in Eretz Yisroel.<sup>1</sup>

News of a potential visit had been spreading for some time, but now it was confirmed. The Rebbe was coming!

It would be a long journey. Eretz Yisroel of 1929 was a backwater, and there were no direct ships or trains to the destination; ten days would pass between the Frierdiker Rebbe’s departure and his arrival.

The news spread like wildfire throughout Eretz Yisroel. The world-famous Lubavitcher Rebbe, celebrated for his heroic struggle against the Communists, would be visiting the Holy Land.

At the time, the Jews in Eretz Yisroel were divided into many political groups. The Edah Hacharedis opposed Zionism, the Mizrachi supported Zionism, Agudas Yisroel was ambivalent, and all sorts of secular groups and movements had their own approach to Yiddishkeit and Eretz Yisroel.

The Frierdiker Rebbe transcended political associations.



THE LOD TRAIN STATION AROUND THE TIME OF THE FRIEDIKER REBBE'S VISIT.

In the Soviet Union, the state of emergency for Yiddishkeit had rendered most political affiliations irrelevant. Jews across the world—whatever their differences—were united in their common concern for Russian Jewry and admiration for the Lubavitcher Rebbe’s fearless leadership.

So, when news of the expected visit arrived, it received wall-to-wall coverage. Welcoming posters were hung by the Chief Rabbinate, Agudas Yisroel, and Edah Hacharedis. The visit was covered in the leftist Haaretz newspaper, and Ze’ev Jabotinsky’s right-wing newspaper called for all residents of Yerushalayim to come greet “the beating heart of the two million Jews of Soviet Russia.”<sup>2</sup>

Everyone waited in anticipation.

## TIMELINE

### TUESDAY MORNING, 22 TAMMUZ

A large crowd of Chassidim gathered in Riga’s train station to bid the Frierdiker Rebbe farewell.

Although he would spend only two weeks in Eretz Yisroel, the Frierdiker Rebbe would continue to America and return home only a full year later. Eighty Chassidim accompanied him on the train for a short distance. The close Chassidim and the Rebbe’s family joined until the city of Meitene on the Latvian border. After traveling on two trains traversing Lithuania, Konigsburg, and Germany, they arrived in Berlin Wednesday morning.

### WEDNESDAY, 23 TAMMUZ

The Frierdiker Rebbe spent the day in the company of the Rebbe and Rebbetzin, then living in Berlin, and boarded a train to Vienna on Wednesday night, accompanied by the Rebbe and several other Chassidim from Berlin.

### THURSDAY, 24 TAMMUZ

Shacharis was davened at a stop in Prague, and they arrived in Vienna on Thursday afternoon.

### FRIDAY, 25 TAMMUZ

The entourage traveled by train to Trieste, Italy.

# A Holy Nostalgia

S. Petrushkin was a correspondent for *Der Tag*, an American Yiddish newspaper. Early in the morning of the Frierdiker Rebbe's arrival, he headed for the Lod train station.

"The Tel Aviv streets are still empty, but as I reach the train station, I see buses full of Chassidim wearing Yom Tov clothing on their way to Lod. Near the Shtible on Yavneh Street, another few buses stand ready, and the Chassidim—who already finished davening—are passing a bottle of mashke from hand to hand, saying l'chaim and singing joyous niggunim. Ribono Shel Olam! How did Tel Aviv, the city of Apikorsus, suddenly get so many Chassidim?"<sup>3</sup>

When the Frierdiker Rebbe's train first rolled through Rechovot at 5:30 on the morning of 2 Av, the station was already packed with people; the next station, Be'er Yaakov, was also full. But the real spectacle took place in Lod, a more central location, where the Frierdiker Rebbe was to switch trains for Yerushalayim.<sup>4</sup> In a letter to his daughter Rebbetzin Sheina, the Frierdiker Rebbe described that morning.

"It was a touching scene. At the train station in Lod, there were several hundred Yidden, from Yerushalayim, Chevron, Tzfas, and Yaffo—some of them elderly, some who had visited my forebears.

"It took ten minutes before I was able to leave the train car. As I stood in the door, they emotionally called out *'shalom aleichem,'* and the *'baruch habah'* was with warm, holy tears. In a moment, they became younger and full of life. I saw them each seeking within me for his own holy memories of old; they want to see in me the holy Tzemach Tzedek, the holy Zeide from Lubavitch,<sup>5</sup> the uncle Maharil,<sup>6</sup> the Zeide Maharin,<sup>7</sup> or the Zeide Reb Yosef Yitzchak,<sup>8</sup> or the Tatte...



A NOTICE ON BEHALF OF THE CHIEF RABBINATE OF ERETZ YISROEL REGARDING THE FRIERDIKER REBBE'S ARRIVAL IN YERUSHALAYIM.

"It was evident that they were experiencing an inner battle, a feeling of joy mixed with nostalgic memories—this moment impacted me greatly and elevated me to a different world."<sup>9</sup>

## SHABBOS, 26 TAMMUZ

was spent on a ship traversing the Adriatic sea.

## SUNDAY, 27 TAMMUZ

When the ship arrived at the Italian port city of Brindisi, the Rebbe and the Berlin Chassidim took leave of the Frierdiker Rebbe and Rashag, who boarded a ship called "The Hollywood" for a two-day voyage to Alexandria.

## TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY, 29 TAMMUZ-1 AV

The Frierdiker Rebbe spent 24 hours as an honored guest in the Alexandrian Jewish community, visiting the local shul and Jewish institutions. This was followed by a

seven-hour train ride to El Qantara, where they crossed the Suez Canal and boarded a train with the final destination of Lod.

## THURSDAY, 2 AV

The Frierdiker Rebbe arrived in Yerushalayim via Lod. Thousands welcomed him at the train station, in the Amdursky Hotel and at the Kosel Hamaaravi. Rav Yosef Chaim Sonnenfeld visited and received a visit in return.

## FRIDAY, 3 AV

The Frierdiker Rebbe visited the homes of Rav Kook and the Rishon Litziyon, Rav Yaakov Meir. Some suitcases

# Skirmish at the Station

Hundreds of people joined the train to Yerushalayim, which rolled into the station at 9:30 in the morning. Unprecedented crowds waited to greet the Frierdiker Rebbe, and thunderous applause erupted when the Rebbe appeared. Dozens of British police created a ring around the Rebbe and his entourage, helping them reach a car that would take them to the Amdursky Hotel, where they would stay for the duration of the visit in Yerushalayim.

As the journalist S. Petrushkin was leaving the station, he noticed a scuffle. A fight had broken out between several young men.

“Yerushalayim,” he explains, “has a group of extremist chareidim who are more fanatical than Rabbi Zonnenfeld and Agudas Yisroel. They believe that Rabbi Kook is, *rachmana litzlan*, worse than the Zionists.

“When it became known that the Lubavitcher Rebbe would be visiting Rabbi Kook, they published a *kol koreh* saying that the Rebbe would visit ‘*osoh ha’ish*’ only because the Rebbe visits many wicked people for the sake of Russian Jewry.

“The pamphlet was signed ‘*Chassidei Chabad*,’ and one well-known *mechutzaf’diker sheiget* was handing it out to the public. Many people—not only Rav Kook’s supporters—were offended; such a *Bizayon HaTorah!* A scuffle ensued until Arab policemen separated the fighters and no longer allowed distribution of the pamphlet.”<sup>10</sup>

This incident was indicative of the state of affairs in Eretz Yisroel. The many conflicts caused people of various interests to claim the Frierdiker Rebbe’s visit as a support for their side of whatever issue. The Frierdiker Rebbe was very

displeased about these reports. He made clear that the visit was a personal one, with the simple goal of visiting *mekomos hakedoshim*. He would take no side in local politics, and make no decisions about local issues.

When the Tel Aviv city council visited the Frierdiker Rebbe, he expressed his disappointment and explained that Chabad was apolitical. “My political party,” the Rebbe said, “is *Chizuk HaTorah V’HaMitzvah*.” When he was in Russia, he explained, he thought that the Jewish nation had transcended political parties, because, “when the head is struck with a blow, the entire body is affected, and all the limbs feel only the head.” But when he left Russia, he was disappointed to discover that political parties still existed.<sup>11</sup>



RAV YOSEF CHAIM SONNENFELD (LEFT) AND RAV AVROHOM YITZCHOK KOOK (RIGHT).

## TIMELINE

failed to arrive, so the Frierdiker Rebbe purchased a new shtreimel.

### SHABBOS CHAZON, 4 AV

Anash from all over Eretz Yisroel converged on the Amdursky Hotel. In the final hours of Shabbos, the Frierdiker Rebbe said a two-hour maamar, *Tziyon B’mishpat Tipadeh*.

### MOTZEI SHABBOS, 4 AV

Rav Kook returned a visit to the Frierdiker Rebbe.

### SUNDAY, 5 AV

Rav Yaakov Meir returned a visit to the Frierdiker Rebbe, and the Rebbe visited his relatives Reb Yisroel Asher Liba (one of the heads of Kollel Chabad) and the elderly Rebbe, Reb Nochum’tche of Rachmastrivka.<sup>23</sup> The Frierdiker Rebbe didn’t turn his back to Reb Nochum’tche, and later told Reb Alter Simchovitch, “There is a Yid in Yerushalayim like Reb Nochum’tche, and people don’t go to him? That’s an *avlah!*”

At noon, the Frierdiker Rebbe embarked on a trip towards Tzfas, stopping in Afula to visit Tel Aviv Chief Rabbi Shlomo Aharonson. Despite only a half-hour’s notice, the

# A Moment of Life

In a scene that would repeat itself in every city, hundreds of people gathered outside the Amdursky Hotel, hoping for a glimpse of the Frierdiker Rebbe. It would be impossible for every person to be received for *yechidus*, but the Frierdiker Rebbe came out to his balcony and blessed the large crowd. Then, at five in the afternoon, news spread that the Rebbe would soon visit the Kosel for Mincha.

Hundreds made their way to the narrow plaza; when the Frierdiker Rebbe arrived, they cleared a pathway with great difficulty. In his *yoman*, the Frierdiker Rebbe wrote that Minchah was davened with a *hisorerus* like Erev Yom Kippur.



THE AMDURSKI HOTEL IN YERUSHALAYIM.

Tehillim was recited after davening, and then the Frierdiker Rebbe kissed the holy stones. “During those moments,” he later wrote to Rebbetzin Sheina, “I was alive; I forgot about everything, I was a *tefach hecher* (above the mundane), I tasted a moment of life.”

One of the first visitors that day was Rav Yosef Chaim Zonnenfeld, the revered eighty-year-old Rav of Yerushalayim. He made his way to the Frierdiker Rebbe’s hotel only minutes after his arrival, and the Frierdiker Rebbe returned his visit on the way back from the Kosel. Rav Zonnenfeld’s grandson later recounted how his elderly grandfather yearned to see the image of the famous tzaddik from Russia—whose beard was still red: “The feeling of holiness during that visit was indescribable.” In his own diary, the Frierdiker Rebbe noted that Rav Yosef Chaim sat him in his own chair, and said a Dvar Torah about Yosef Hatzaddik, who sustained the entire world.<sup>12</sup>

Another very warm meeting was held with Rav Avraham Yitzchak Hakohen Kook. Rav Kook had been personally involved in securing the Frierdiker Rebbe’s release two years earlier, and he was visibly moved to finally welcome the Rebbe into his home. Several more visits would follow.

Rav Kook’s elderly mother came from a Chabad family – after the meeting, she came over for a bracha – and Rav Kook spoke at length about his Chabad heritage. He showed the Frierdiker Rebbe a yarmulka that had belonged to the Tzemach Tzedek which he wore every Yom Kippur.

“That’s the *yenikah* from Chabad into the *olamshe*,” he quipped.

The Frierdiker Rebbe smiled and responded, “*Uber dos darf duch poel’n*, but it needs to have influence as well...”<sup>13</sup>

Tzfas Rabbanim gathered for a short reception, followed by a visit to the *kever* of the Arizal (it being his *yahrzeit*), the Ramak, Reb Shlomo Alkabetz, the Beis Yosef, and the Alshich. A second reception was held later that evening where the Rebbe met with the local Jews. The building where the meeting took place is the current home of Mechon Alte.<sup>24</sup>

## MONDAY, 6 AV

At 4:15 AM, the entire entourage headed for Miron and visited the *kever* of Rashbi and Rabbi Yitzchak Nafcha. On the *kever* of Rabbi Yitzchak Nafcha, which the Frierdiker Rebbe entered privately, a *chossid* found the Rebbe’s

handwriting: “*All the Talmidim in Russia. Klal Yisroel is suffering want materially and spiritually.*”<sup>25</sup> After Shacharis, they visited Yeshivas Bar Yochai and the local Moshav Zkeinim.

At 7:30, they arrived in Teveria and visited the *kevarim* of Rabbi Meir Baal Hanes, Reb Mendel Vitebsker, Reb Avraham Kalisker, the Rambam, Rabbi Akiva, Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakai, and the Shelah.

As they were driving from Rabbi Meir Baal Hanes to Reb Mendel Vitebsker, the residents of Teveria—who had just heard about the visit—ran up to the car, and the Frierdiker Rebbe gave *shalom* to everyone from the window.

# The Local Chassidim

Upon arriving at the Lod train station, the Frierdiker Rebbe was approached by Reb Avraham Pariz, who handed him a large bundle of money. “Rebbe, *Maamad!*”

Aware of the difficult financial situation in Beis Harav, Reb Avraham had sold his orchard before the Frierdiker Rebbe’s arrival, bringing the entire sum to the Rebbe to ensure that the visit would be a *malchusdiker* one.<sup>14</sup>

Reb Avraham was part of a group of some fifteen Chassidim who accompanied the Frierdiker Rebbe throughout the entire visit, not willing to miss a single moment. Each night, Reb Avraham would take the Frierdiker Rebbe’s boots to the shoe-shiners at the entrance to the Amdursky Hotel. There were two shoe-shiners, but Reb Avraham would choose the more expensive one. If he charges more, he explained, he surely makes a greater effort—and for a king, even the boots need to shine as much as possible.

Another chossid who remained close was Reb Sholom Posner, who was a shochet in Rishon L’Tziyon. He left all of his affairs behind and remained at the Frierdiker Rebbe’s side until the end of the visit.

At one point, one of his children became ill, and his wife used the opportunity of the Frierdiker Rebbe’s visit to ask for a bracha. Before leaving, the Frierdiker Rebbe asked Reb Sholom how his son was feeling, but Reb Sholom looked confused. The Rebbe smiled when he realized that Reb Sholom had been so occupied with the visit he hadn’t even heard about his son’s illness...

Chabad had deep roots in Eretz Yisroel. The first Aliyah of Chassidim had taken place over a century earlier, led by Reb Menachem Mendel of Vitebsk; the Ashkenazi community of

Chevron was populated primarily by Chabad Chassidim, who continued to emigrate throughout the ensuing decades from Russia in small numbers. These were members of the ‘Old Yishuv,’ the Ashkenazi community in Eretz Yisroel, which was supported by the Jews of Europe via the *chaluka* system of Colelim. At the time, the ‘Old Yishuv’ was centered in Yerushalayim.

There were also the ‘New Yishuv’ immigrants, who had come to Eretz Yisroel in the fifty years before the Frierdiker Rebbe’s visit as part of the modern effort to rebuild Eretz Yisroel. The majority of this Aliyah was secular in nature, with its center in Tel Aviv, but there were many religious Jews as well. There were entire frum *moshavot*, such as Petach Tikvah and Bnei Brak, both of which would be visited by the Frierdiker Rebbe. Many Chabad Chassidim lived in these communities as well.

For Chassidim of both groups, this was the opportunity of a lifetime. Most Chassidim from the ‘Old Yishuv’ had never seen a Rebbe in their lifetimes, and many of the ‘New Yishuv’ Chassidim had last seen a Rebbe—perhaps the Rebbe Rashab or Rebbe Maharash—decades earlier.

The Chassidim made every effort to remain close to the Frierdiker Rebbe at every possible moment. For most of the visit, the Frierdiker Rebbe was based in Yerushalayim, but he made several trips, one to Tzfas, Miron and Teveria, another to Kever Rachel and Chevron, and a third to Tel Aviv, where he remained for his final few days in Eretz Yisroel (see the timeline below for the full account of the trip). Each time, buses filled with eager Chassidim accompanied the Frierdiker Rebbe.

At the close of the visit, Reb Shimon Glitzenshtein—secretary of Yeshivas Toras Emes—published an official diary chronicling the historic visit; his account is the main source

## TIMELINE

They returned to Yerushalayim that afternoon, and the Frierdiker Rebbe began receiving *yechidus* that evening, from six o’clock until eleven o’clock at night.

### TUESDAY, 7 AV

After receiving several visitors in the morning, the Frierdiker Rebbe paid a historic visit to the offices of Colel Chabad, which had been mired in *machlokes* for many years. He would subsequently agree to assume the *nesius* over the Colel.

At noon, the Frierdiker Rebbe left for Kever Rachel. So many people joined that the Rebbe appointed five Chassidim to receive everyone’s *panim*. The Frierdiker

Rebbe spent two and a half hours davening and reading *panim* there. After a short visit to Migdal Eder, they continued to Chevron, where the entire community and the Chevron Yeshivah came out to greet the Rebbe and accompany him to Me’aras Hamachpelah.

An emotional Mincha was davened on the seventh step, the closest point where Jews were allowed to approach Me’aras Hamachpelah in those days. Chassidim heard the Frierdiker Rebbe sobbing the entire time, davening to the tune of Yomim Noraim; the davening took an hour and forty minutes. Afterward, in a historic gesture from the Arab leadership, the Frierdiker Rebbe and a small

of the information in this article. The Frierdiker Rebbe kept a short diary of the visit as well.

# The Maamarim of Eretz Yisroel

“Towards the evening of Shabbos Chazon,” writes Reb Shimon Glitzenshtein, “crowds began to stream towards the hotel. Jews of all stripes, Rabbanim, Talmidei Chachomim... everyone ran to grab the best possible place to hear the maamar from the Rebbe.”

The two Shabbosim—Shabbos Chazon and Shabbos

Nachamu—were special moments during the trip. Chassidim arrived from all over Eretz Yisroel to spend Shabbos with the Frierdiker Rebbe. The Rebbe davened in a private room, but on Friday night, everyone had the opportunity to wish the Rebbe Gut Shabbos, and, on Shabbos morning, the Rebbe emerged to read the *haftorah*, then returned to his room to daven privately.

The highlight was in the final hours of Shabbos, when the Frierdiker Rebbe delivered a Maamar. “On the expansive roof of the hotel, a crowd of thousands gathered to hear the maamar, which the Rebbe delivered in a special tent erected for that purpose.”

The British police struggled to maintain order, and were forced to close the doors of the hotel to prevent a crisis. Many



THE ENTRANCE TO ME'ARAS HAMACHPELA AS IT APPEARED AT THE TIME.



YIDDEN DAVENING AT THE KOSEL AROUND THE TIME OF THE FRIERDIKER REBBE'S VISIT.

entourage were allowed into the building for a short tour.

From Me'aras Hamachpela, the Frierdiker Rebbe visited the Avraham Avinu Shul and Beit Romano, his personal property in Eretz Yisroel and the former home of Yeshivas Toras Emes. After a short rest, he delivered a maamar in the central shul and then paid a short visit to the Chevron Yeshivah. Late that night, the Frierdiker Rebbe returned to Yerushalayim.

## WEDNESDAY, 8 AV

The entire day was dedicated to *yechidus*. At night, a minyan was held for Eicha near the Frierdiker Rebbe's room.

## THURSDAY, TISHA B'AV

The Frierdiker Rebbe spent the afternoon on Har Hazeisim, visiting the resting places of Zecharyah Hanavi, the Or Hachayim, the Pri Chadash, Shimon Hatzaddik, and more.



## THE AURA OF THE REBBE MAHARASH

On his first day in Tel Aviv, the Frierdiker Rebbe received some 700 visitors in a non-stop line. This was the Frierdiker Rebbe's first day in the center of the New Yishuv, with its many Chassidim who had immigrated in recent decades. Some, the Rebbe writes in his *yoman*, were Chassidim of the Rebbe Maharash and the other sons of the Tzemach Tzedek; most had been *mekushar* to the Rebbe Rashab. Among the visitors were many who had preserved their Chassidishe upbringing despite the distance from the Rabbeim. "It was a pleasure to see such *baalei tzurah*, even the simple among them have an exalted countenance."<sup>27</sup>

A story about one such chossid was often repeated by the Rebbe:

"The [Frierdiker] Rebbe looked very much like his grandfather, the Rebbe Maharash, to the extent that in Eretz Yisroel during his famous visit . . . a chossid who had seen the Rebbe Maharash entered for *yechidus* and immediately fainted. He was asked, 'Why did you faint?' He responded, 'He looks just like the Rebbe Maharash!'"<sup>28</sup>

people were left in the street. Due to the immense crowds, it was also difficult for many to hear, so, the following week, a stage was erected, allowing everyone to hear the maamar properly.<sup>15</sup>

Another special maamar took place on a weekday evening in Tel Aviv.

The Frierdiker Rebbe spent his final three days in Tel Aviv, where endless crowds came to greet him. There were the Chassidim from throughout the area, curious onlookers who had heard about the Rebbe, and many descendants of Chabad Chassidim who were now secular but had deep respect and fascination for the world of Chabad of which they had heard from parents and grandparents.

When news spread that the Frierdiker Rebbe would



1. DIARY OF THE FRIEDIKER REBBE'S VISIT TO ERETZ YISROEL PUBLISHED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE VISIT.

2. A KUNTRES PUBLISHED BY YESHIVAS TORAS EMES WITH MAAMARIM THE FRIEDIKER REBBE DELIVERED DURING HIS STAY IN ERETZ YISROEL.

## TIMELINE

After the fast's conclusion, the Frierdiker Rebbe held a special visit in Yeshivas Toras Emes, where he far-bred with the bochurim and delivered a maamar.

### FRIDAY, 10 AV

After transcribing the maamar from the night before, the Frierdiker Rebbe visited the Diskin Orphanage, the home for the elderly, and the Shaarei Tzedek and Bikkur Cholim hospitals. More *yechidus*'n were held, and the Rachmastrivka Rebbe returned a visit.

### SHABBOS NACHAMU

Once again, crowds streamed to the hotel to spend Shabbos with the Frierdiker Rebbe. This time, a special *bimah* was constructed for the Maamar on Shabbos afternoon, attended by thousands.

### SUNDAY, 12 AV

This would be the final day in Yerushalayim.

In the early morning hours, the Frierdiker Rebbe davened and transcribed the maamar from the previous evening. At nine o'clock, he began a long series of visits to institutions and dignitaries.

deliver a maamar, thousands came to listen. In his *yoman* of that day, the Frierdiker Rebbe notes that there was incredible noise on the roof; “they say there is a very large crowd, over two thousand people...”

At ten in the evening, the Frierdiker Rebbe appeared on his balcony and delivered the maamar *Ki Ner Mitzvah V’Torah Or*. Thousands listened from the square below, and from the roof above.

“The silence is remarkable,” the Frierdiker Rebbe describes in his diary. “Two thousand people on the roof, all the people in the square, listening with concentration. May Hashem grant that the words have an impact.”<sup>16</sup>

One of the many people in attendance was a young Shneur Zalman Rubashov, later known as Shazar. His grandfather had been a chossid of Reb Yitzchok Dovber of Liadi,<sup>17</sup> but he had never himself visited a Rebbe.

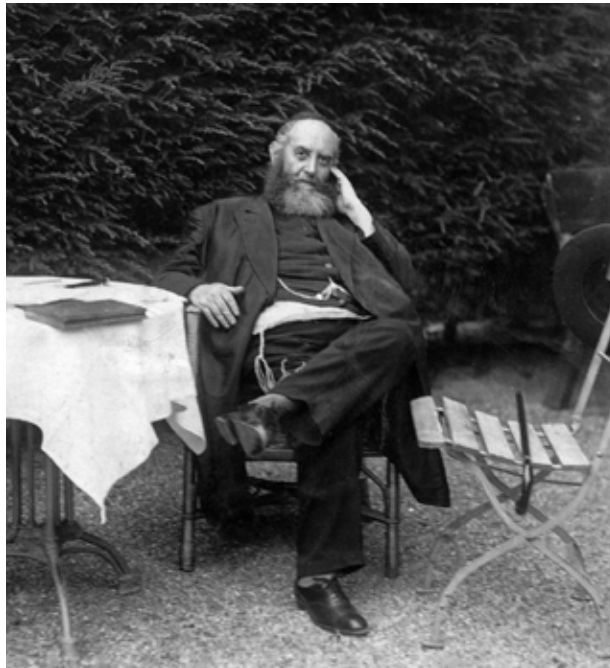
“I recall that you told me,” the Rebbe wrote once to Shazar, “that the first time [you saw the Frierdiker Rebbe] was when you heard a maamar from him. Even if—as you say—it was *bivchinas makif*, the Rabbeim explained that a maamar Chassidus penetrates all five levels of the neshamah.”<sup>18</sup>

## A Rebbe’s Inner World

When the Frierdiker Rebbe was in America in the months following the trip to Eretz Yisroel, Reb Yisroel Jacobson noticed that the Rebbe was losing weight. Concerned about his health, Reb Yisroel discussed the matter with Reb Nissan Telushkin, who shared that the Frierdiker Rebbe was fasting on days when he received *kavod*; the Frierdiker Rebbe had told Reb Nissan, “*Kavod darf men oisdaren*, honor needs to be ‘fasted-out.’”<sup>19</sup>

He visited the homes of Reb Shlomo Leib Eliezrov (one of the most distinguished Chassidim in Eretz Yisroel), Rav Yaakov Meir, and philanthropist Reb Yehoshua Yehudayov (whose home today is Beis Chana of Yerushalayim). A reception was held by the Bucharian community, and the Frierdiker Rebbe visited the Bnei Tziyon Talmud Torah for Sephardic children, Yeshivas Eitz Chaim, Misgav Ladach hospital, the library of the Sdei Chemed, Yeshivat Porat Yosef and Yeshivat Shaar Hashamayim.

In the afternoon, the Frierdiker Rebbe visited the Tzemach Tzedek shul, and held a final visit with Rav Kook and the Rachmastrivka Rebbe. Returning to



A RECENTLY PUBLISHED PICTURE OF THE FRIERDIKER REBBE IN THE COURTYARD OF A HOTEL IN THE SUMMER OF 5689. IT’S UNCLEAR IF THIS PICTURE WAS TAKEN IN ERETZ YISROEL.

In Eretz Yisroel, the Frierdiker Rebbe received immense *kavod*. Politicians wanted to host him, journalists wanted interviews, and cities wanted a visit. In a fascinating letter to Rebbetzin Sheina, the Rebbe described the experiences of his own inner world as he navigated those two weeks in Eretz Yisroel.

The Frierdiker Rebbe describes a series of ups and downs—from moments of *kavod* to moments of true spiritual inspiration. “During the hours of my arrival, the reception

his hotel, hundreds were waiting for *yechidus*. The Frierdiker Rebbe gave a public *birchas preidah* in the hall, and *yechidus* continued until one thirty in the morning.

### MONDAY, 13 AV

After a final visit to the Kosel and a few last visitors, the Frierdiker Rebbe left for Tel Aviv accompanied by ten buses of Chassidim. Over a thousand people came out to receive him. For most of the afternoon and evening, the Frierdiker Rebbe received hundreds of visitors; each person only had the opportunity to say Shalom Aleichem and mention their name to the Rebbe.

ceremonies and *kavod* spoiled my mood to some extent,” he writes, until they arrived in Lod and the Friediker Rebbe saw the spiritual *hisorerus* his appearance caused in the assembled (described above). “This moment impacted me greatly and elevated me to a different world.” The mood soon changed again; “the half-hour journey from Lod to Yerushalayim was once again difficult for me, the [welcome] calls and the honorifics; I felt a lowliness, as a result of feeling my own existence; but when we arrived closer to Yerushalayim, waiting to tear *kriah* . . . I again entered a different world.”<sup>20</sup>

Tisha B’av was another difficult moment. The Amdursky Hotel was located in a secular area of the city, and the atmosphere on that evening wasn’t a solemn one. “This evening made a bad and depressing impression on me,” the Friediker Rebbe wrote in his diary. “Young men and women strolling noisily and joyfully, eating and drinking...”

The Friediker Rebbe recalled that as a child of six or seven, he asked a visiting chossid from Eretz Yisroel how Tisha B’av looked in Yerushalayim. “Tisha B’av in Yerushalayim is like Yud-Tes Kislev in Lubavitch,” was the response. At the time, he thought it meant that as Yud-Tes Kislev was joyous, Tisha B’av was mournful, but he now discovered that he was mistaken. “Tisha B’av in Yerushalayim is *rachmana litzlan*, literally, like Yud-Tev Kislev in Lubavitch.”<sup>21</sup>

The next evening, however, was the opposite. After the fast, the Friediker Rebbe held a *farbrengen* with the bochurim of Yeshivas Toras Emes, where bochurim of Eretz Yisroel were being educated in the ways of Tomchei Temimim. “When the Rebbe entered the Yeshivah, his face shone,” wrote Reb Shimon Glitzenshtein. “Inner joy and an uplifted spirit were evident on his face.” The Rebbe spent several hours with the bochurim; he spoke about the special meaning and purpose



THE HOTEL “PALTIN” IN TEL AVIV AS IT APPEARED AT THE TIME THE FRIEDIKER REBBE STAYED THERE. THE FRIEDIKER REBBE DELIVERED A MAAMAR FROM ONE OF THESE BALCONIES.



THE PLAZA IN FRONT OF THE PALTIN HOTEL, NEAR THE SEA, IN WHICH THOUSANDS CROWDED TO HEAR THE MAAMAR.

## TIMELINE

During a short break, the Friediker Rebbe paid a visit to Rechovot. Back in Tel Aviv, the crowds had grown so large that the Friediker Rebbe came out to the balcony and gave a general bracha to everyone.

### TUESDAY, 14 AV

Hundreds more passed by the Friediker Rebbe in the morning hours, and he visited Rav Avraham Avichazir (retired chief rabbi of Alexandria) and Reb Shneur Zalman Slonim, the Rav of the Chassidim in Yaffo. In the afternoon, the Friediker Rebbe traveled to Petach Tikva, visiting the main Shul for a reception and also visiting the Lomzhe Yeshivah. Afterwards, the

Friediker Rebbe came to Bnei Brak where a reception was held once again. Later that evening, the Friediker Rebbe delivered a maamar from his balcony in Tel Aviv, attended by thousands of people. The ruckus from visitors was so overwhelming that the Friediker Rebbe spent the following two nights in a different hotel, returning only during the day to receive visitors.

### WEDNESDAY, 15 AV

This was the final day in Eretz Yisroel. In the morning hours, the Friediker Rebbe transcribed the maamar of the previous evening. In the afternoon, he paid a visit to Rabbi Aharon Eliyahu Mileikovsky<sup>26</sup> and then received

of Tomchei Temimim, shared stories from his arrest and liberation, and even delivered a maamar.

# The Impression That Will Never Be Erased

A glance through the Frieddiker Rebbe's diary reveals that the visit took an enormous physical toll. The Frieddiker Rebbe often slept no more than four hours a night, and spent full days traveling, speaking, and receiving people non-stop for *yechidus*. In his *yoman* and his correspondence, the Frieddiker Rebbe often concludes with a simple hope—that the visit, the *kavod*, and the immense effort it entailed, have practical results in strengthening Torah and Mitzvos.

The Frieddiker Rebbe departed Eretz Yisroel on Thursday, 16 Av, after fourteen uplifting days in the Holy Land. Many hundreds came to see him off at the train station. There wasn't enough time to speak at length, but the Frieddiker Rebbe gave a *ksav* of a maamar, *Al Yipater Adam Meichaveiro Elah Mitoch Dvar Halachah*, to be studied upon his departure.

“When we took leave of the Rebbe,” Rabbi Glitzenshtein wrote, “the Rebbe was very emotional. He gave his bracha to every person, giving an especially warm bracha to the students of his Yeshivah, Toras Emes.

“During the Rebbe's visit to Eretz Yisroel, a genuine sense of holiness pervaded every person's heart. When the Rebbe left, the void was unmistakable, but the impression made on our hearts by the visit will never be erased.”<sup>22</sup> **T**

1. Igros Kodesh Admur Harayatz vol. 2 p. 185.
2. Masa HaRebbi B'Eretz Hakodesh p. 48-52.
3. Masa HaRebbi B'Eretz Hakodesh p. 60.
4. Masa HaRebbi B'Eretz Hakodesh p. 57.
5. The Rebbe Maharash.
6. Reb Yehudah Leib of Kopust, son of the Tzemach Tzedek.
7. Reb Yisroel Noach of Niezhin, son of the Tzemach Tzedek and grandfather of Rebbetzin Nechama Dina.
8. Of Ovrutch, the son of the Tzemach Tzedek and maternal grandfather of the Frieddiker Rebbe.
9. Igros Kodesh Admur Harayatz vol. 2 pg. 204. Masa HaRebbi B'Eretz Hakodesh p. 58.
10. Masa HaRebbi B'Eretz Hakodesh p. 72.
11. Masa HaRebbi B'Eretz Hakodesh p. 198.
12. Masa HaRebbi B'Eretz Hakodesh p. 76, 83-4.
13. Masa HaRebbi B'Eretz Hakodesh p. 85-86.
14. Masa HaRebbi B'Eretz Hakodesh p. 62.
15. Masa HaRebbi B'Eretz Hakodesh p. 92-95.
16. Masa HaRebbi B'Eretz Hakodesh p. 206.
17. Nasi V'Chossid pg. 43.
18. Igros Kodesh vol. 23 pg. 91.
19. Zikaron Livnei Yisroel pg. 181.
20. Masa HaRebbi B'Eretz Hakodesh p. 234-5.
21. Masa HaRebbi B'Eretz Hakodesh p. 143.
22. Masa HaRebbi B'Eretz Hakodesh p. 212.
23. First cousin of Reb Yosef Yitzchak of Ovrutch, the Frieddiker Rebbe's grandfather.
24. A longer description of the visit in Tzfas can be found in Derher Av 5780 pg. 35.
25. A longer description of the visit in Miron can be found in Derher Iyar 5779 pg. 36.
26. Originally from Russia, who had been active in the Frieddiker Rebbe's underground and involved in the Frieddiker Rebbe's release.
27. Masa HaRebbi B'Eretz Hakodesh p. 190.
28. 12 Tammuz 5745. Ashreinu Audio, sicha 4 min. 3:33. The Rebbe often cried while relating this story.

people for *yechidus*. From nine in the evening, large numbers of people were allowed in, in groups of forty or fifty, to receive a parting blessing from the Rebbe; some two thousand people passed.

## THURSDAY, 16 AV

After a few final *yechidus*'n, the Frieddiker Rebbe left for the Lod train station, followed by fifteen buses and three hundred Chassidim. Other Chassidim arrived in Lod on the train from Yerushalayim. Huge crowds filled the station (which later became the home of Tomchei Temimim of Lod). Before leaving, the Frieddiker Rebbe stood on the highest step of the train and gave a

parting bracha to the Chassidim. “I blessed them,” the Frieddiker Rebbe wrote in his diary, “and they blessed me, and we parted amid great joy.”

The Frieddiker Rebbe boarded the train to Al-Qantara, and then another train for Cairo. At midnight, the Frieddiker Rebbe visited the pyramids.

## FRIDAY, 17 AV

The Frieddiker Rebbe boarded the ship to Trieste and continued to Germany, from where he embarked on the journey to the United States of America.