



FARBRENGEN 11 NISSAN 5745.

YOSSI MELAMED VIA JEM 139537

FIRST SIYUM HARAMBAM

NISSAN 5745

The first Siyum Harambam, in Nissan 5745. Presented in honor of 40 years since the Rebbe launched takanas Limmud HaRambam, 5744–5784. This account is compiled from the diary of Mordechai Glazman, a bochur in 770 at the time.

COMPILED BY: RABBI YANKY BELL
WRITTEN BY: RABBI MENACHEM LAZAROFF

ע"י בנם	טור 'לעבן מיטן רבי'ן הוקדש לזכרון ולעילוי נשמת
ר' יקותיאל יהודה	ר' שמואל ב"ר יהושע אליהו ז"ל
וזוגתו מרת פעסל לאה ומשפחתם שיחיו	ואשתו מרת שרה ע"ה בת ר' יקותיאל ומרת לאה הי"ד
רוהר	תנ"צ'ב"ה

Shabbos Parshas Vayikra, Rosh Chodesh Nissan

When the Rebbe arrived at 770 in the morning, he glanced at the notice on the door announcing the upcoming Siyum Harambam in Tomchei Temimim. The poster also displayed the Rebbe's response to the notification of the Siyum Harambam at the Hilton in Manhattan.

Toward the end of today's farbrengen, the Rebbe gave *mashke* to Reb Nosson Gourarie in honor of the Siyum Harambam scheduled for tomorrow in Buffalo. The Rebbe also gave *mashke* to his father, Reb Zalman Gourarie, and asked Reb Nosson, "Where's your brother-in-law?" When Reb Nosson called out, "Nachum?" The Rebbe corrected him, saying, "REB Nochum" (Sternberg.) The Rebbe poured him *mashke* as well.

Monday, 3 Nissan

Starting this week, Maariv was scheduled at 7:00 pm due to the longer days. As the Rebbe entered the *zal* for Maariv, the crowd sang the new niggun from the Rebbe's upcoming new Kapitel, "*Yeilchu Meichayil*" to the tune composed by Reb Shalom Brochshtat, and the Rebbe encouraged the singing. The niggun was sung again on Tuesday.

Tuesday, 4 Nissan

After Mincha, the Rebbe went to the library holding a bundle of 100 and 500 shekel bills. At the library, the Rebbe was *Mafrish Challah* (from the Matzos), and gave Reb Yehoshua Yuzevitch four boxes of Matzos to bring to Eretz Yisroel. The Rebbe also gave him the aforementioned bills, and instructed him to deliver it to the *Vaad Haruchni* of Kfar Chabad, adding that, "They already know what to do with the money." The Rebbe then gave him two copies of the *Michtov Kloli*, one for himself and one for all the Yidden in Eretz Yisroel. The Rebbe also instructed him to take some of the Matza as payment for all his hard work and to distribute the rest in Yerushalayim, as was usually done.

The Rebbe then asked Reb Yaakov Herzog for his travel itinerary, and upon learning that he would be traveling directly to England on Air India, the Rebbe handed him a box of Matzos for England along with a *Michtav Kloli*.

The Rebbe then asked for Reb Kuti Rapp. When he approached, the Rebbe inquired if he was familiar with



Air India, to which he responded that he was not. The Rebbe suggested that he contact the "*Eretz Yisroel'dike*" airline (El Al), with whom he had connections, and request them to convey to Air India the importance of the Matzos. The Rebbe then handed him a *Michtav Kloli* as "*S'char Tircha*."

The Rebbe added "There are other Yidden present, and *Michtovim klolim* will be sent to them by mail."

The Rebbe asked Reb Chaim Baruch Halberstam with a smile, "Where is your toy [camera]? An artist without an instrument?!" Reb Chaim Baruch showed the Rebbe his tape recorder, which was recording the proceedings.

As the Rebbe left the library for his room, the people sang "*Vehi She'amda*."

In the evening, there was a Siyum Harambam at Tomchei Temimim. During the Siyum, Rabbi Mentlik delivered a *hadran*, and at the conclusion of the official program, Reb Yoel Kahan farbrenged with the *bochurim*.

Wednesday, 5 Nissan

Today, Reb Leibel Groner told Reb Kuti Rapp that the Rebbe was very pleased with the *Du"ch* describing the distribution of the Matza.



THE REBBE SPEAKS WITH RABBI GRUBNER AT THE FARBRENGEN, YUD ALEPH NISSAN 5745.

YOSSI MELAMED VIA JEM 129772

After Maariv, the Rebbe remained in the *zal* until after the final kaddish in the minyan that was taking place next door in *Cheder Sheini*.

Friday, 7 Nissan

As the Rebbe left 770 for the library, he distributed coins for Tzedakah, and gave to Reb Shloimo Cunin as well, saying, “You take every time!”

A few minutes before *Licht Bentchen*, the Rebbe was handed the booklet containing the Hadran on Rambam from Yud Tes Kislev 5735 that the Rebbe had edited a few days earlier.

Shabbos Parshas Tzav, Ches Nissan

At the conclusion of today’s farbrengen, the Rebbe poured L’chaim for the Talmidei Hashluchim from Morocco, using the *mashke* brought back from the Siyum Harambam there. The Rebbe also poured L’chaim for Reb Binyomin Gorodetzky

The Rebbe then gave a bottle of Mashke to Reb Mendel

Shemtov for the upcoming Siyum of the *Vaad Hashchuna*, scheduled for Yud Aleph Nissan. Following that, the Rebbe poured L’chaim for each member of the Vaad, as well as Reb Yisroel Duchman. The Rebbe then poured some of the *mashke* brought from Morocco into a new bottle, which he presented to Reb Menachem Gerlitzky for tomorrow’s Siyum at 770.

Sunday, 9 Nissan

Today, the Rebbe instructed that it would be a good idea to give out the (above-mentioned) Hadran on the Rambam at all of the siyumim.

Monday, 10 Nissan

Tonight there was a farbrengen in honor of Yud Aleph Nissan.¹

Before the third *sicha*, the Rebbe looked into a page that was in his siddur, the handout from the Siyum Harambam. (On one side of the page was a picture of the Rambam and on the other side, the Siyum and *Has’chala*.) The Rebbe also read the Siyum from this page in the next *Sicha*.

Later, the Rebbe instructed Rabbi Grubner, head of the Vaad Harabanim in Detroit, to say Lchaim, and they spoke for several minutes. The Rebbe showed him something on the handout and, among other things, mentioned, "You are responsible for ensuring that everything goes well at the Siyum Harambam in Detroit." (The Vaad Harabanim played a role in organizing the Siyum there.)

When the farbrengen concluded, as the Rebbe was getting up from his place, he said "Yasher Koach" to Rabbi Bomzer, who was involved in the Siyum Harambam. After the farbrengen, as the Rebbe was leaving 770, he addressed Rabbi Gutnik from Australia with a broad smile, saying, "You are a Kohen, bentch the *kahal!*"

Tuesday, Yom Habahir Yud-Aleph Nissan

When the Rebbe arrived at 770 in the morning, he spent fifteen minutes distributing nickels for Tzedakah, including to adults.

Following this, the Rebbe spoke with a group of prominent supporters of the Shluchim. During the conversation, one of the supporters suggested that "The Rebbe should be the 'Chairman.'" The Rebbe replied: "*Chas v'sholom!* You should bring me the financial calculations?!"

Mr. David Chase, who was the sitting Chairman, then proposed that the Rebbe should be the "Chairman of the Chairman." The Rebbe responded, "I will be the Honorary President."

Later, the Rebbe went to the Ohel.

In the evening, Dr. Weiss spent over an hour in the Rebbe's room.

Wednesday, 12 Nissan

When the Rebbe arrived at 770, he distributed nickels to everyone present.

When the poet Reb Tzvi Meir Steinmentz passed, the Rebbe told him with a smile, "Mazal tov! Not for the poetry, although I read it in 'Kfar Chabad,' but for overseas." (His grandson Menachem Lazar had his *Upshernish* in Italy today.) When Rabbi Mentlik passed, the Rebbe instructed him to wait, and when the distribution was finished, he went into the Rebbe's room for a few minutes. There the Rebbe informed him that he wanted to sell his Chametz through Rabbi Piekarsky.

In the afternoon, it was announced that there would

be a farbrengen tonight for Yud-Gimmel Nissan.

In a really special moment, during the niggun "*Yemin Hashem*," the Rebbe energetically encouraged the singing with both hands!²

Thursday, Yud Gimmel Nissan

After Mincha, the Rebbe entered *Gan Eden Hatachton* for *Mechiras Chametz*. The Rebbe mentioned to Rabbi Piekarsky, the Rov involved in the sale, "I'm assuming that you always sell the Chametz via an '*Arev-Kablan*.'"³

Following the proceedings, the Rebbe apologized to Rabbi Piekarsky for "troubling a Rov on Erev Pesach."

Friday, 14 Nissan, Erev Pesach

At about 4:00 pm, the Rebbe's Matzos arrived from the bakery and were placed in *Gan Eden Hatachton*. The Rebbe then went to Mincha, and the Matzos were brought into the Rebbe's room.

After Mincha, the Rebbe distributed Matzos to a number of people. Following this, the Rebbe proceeded to the library, and on the way, gave out coins for Tzedakah to people present.

Second Night of Pesach

Tonight, the Rebbe again distributed matzos. At the end of the distribution, the Rebbe asked for Reb Berel Junik, who had already come by earlier, assisting Rashag. Reb Leibel Groner went to look for him. Meanwhile, the Rebbe said that one of Reb Berel's sons should take the Matzah on his behalf. Shimshon Junik took the Matzah for his father. When the Rebbe left *Gan Eden Hatachton* on his way to the Library, Reb Berel Junik was standing near the elevator door, and the Rebbe asked him if he had received the Matzah.

Monday, 17 Nissan, First Day of Chol Homoed

When the Rebbe entered the shul for Shacharis, he smiled broadly at Rabbi Yolles from Philadelphia. After Davening, Rabbi Yolles approached the Rebbe, delivering a note that the Rebbe placed in his siddur. With a



RABBI YOLLES, WHO WAS A KOHEN, STANDS NEAR THE REBBE AFTER RECEIVING AN ALIYAH, CHOL HAMOED PESACH 5745.

warm smile, the Rebbe engaged in a brief conversation before pausing for the post-davening announcement. Subsequently, Rabbi Yolles accompanied the Rebbe up the elevator (as was his custom every year on Chol Hamoed,) joining him in *Gan Eden Hatachton* along with his son-in-law and two grandchildren. After his family left, Rabbi Yolles remained there for a few minutes. As he departed *Gan Eden Hatachton*, the Rebbe gazed at him with a smile.

Tuesday, 18 Nissan

At the end of the Tzivos Hashem Rally, there was an announcement that the Rebbe would give out dimes to the “*Tankistim*” to distribute to everyone present for tzedakah. (The children each received four dimes.)

Tonight there was a gathering of Anash from outside Crown Heights in the Levi Yitzchak library.

At this event, Reb Yisroel Leibov related that he wrote to the Rebbe regarding a specific issue, that if the business of Anash was conducted with more *achdus*, a lot more could be achieved. The Rebbe’s responded with something to the effect of, “Moshiach is already here, and the Satan runs rampant, inciting conflict between brothers in a manner that defies logic.”

Friday Night, Acharon Shel Pesach

Tonight, as people were coming back from *Tahalucha*, they began to sing “Napoleon’s March” near the library. The Rebbe briefly opened and then closed the door. After a few seconds, the Rebbe went over to the first-floor window and opened the shutter, clapping and tapping along lightly on the window. After a few minutes, the Rebbe closed the Shutter.



THE SIYUM HARAMBAM OF THE TMIMIM, LED BY MEMBERS OF THE HANHALA AT 770.

Shabbos, Acharon Shel Pesach

Towards the end of the Moshiach Seudah farbrengen, the Rebbe declared, “A Kohen should have another four cups.” Turning around, the Rebbe gestured to Rabbi Gutnik, a Kohen, indicating that he should drink an additional four cups of wine.

The farbrengen concluded at 11:30 pm, followed by Kos Shel Bracha.

As Reb Yitzchak Raitport passed by, the Rebbe handed him a bottle of *mashke* and inquired, “When will you publish another sefer?”

To Reb Shloime Zarchi, the Rebbe presented a bottle of Mashke with a broad smile, and said, “For *hatzlacha* with *shidduchim!*”

The Rebbe also gave a bottle to Reb Shmuel Melamed and told him, “For the Rambam stamps. The more stamps, the more *parnassa.*”

A boy passed and told the Rebbe that he was a twelfth-generation descendant of the Baal Shem Tov. The Rebbe told him, “The Baal Shem Tov established a path in *avodas Hashem* that you should follow.” When the boy mentioned that his brother wasn't following this path, the Rebbe responded, “It's your responsibility to influence him.”

To Rabbi Avraham Hecht (rov of a prominent Sefardic shul), the Rebbe said not to forget to mention Moshe

Hasfardi [as the Rambam signs his name in the Mishneh Torah] at tomorrow's Siyum Harambam.

When the two-year-old son of Aharon Leizer Ceitlin from Tzfas passed by, the Rebbe poured him wine with a big smile, following him with his gaze as he passed.

The Rebbe gave each of the Talmidei Hashluchim from Morocco who were present a bottle of wine, and asked where the others were. (Eight of them came to New York before Pesach, but two had already left before Yom Tov.)

After almost three hours, Kos Shel Brocha concluded, and the Rebbe took some of the spilled wine from the plate, applying it between his eyes. Following this, the Rebbe instructed Rabbi Mentlik to announce the grand Siyum Harambam for tomorrow, and then the Rebbe started “*Ki V'simcha.*” The Rebbe departed for home at 2:45 am.

Sunday 23 Nissan, Isru Chag

Today the Rebbe went to the Ohel.

Since the vast majority of Temimim and Anash attended the Siyum Harambam in Manhattan, there was a small crowd present at Mincha and Maariv.

Shabbos Parshas Shemini, 29 Nissan

During today's farbrengen, the Rebbe gave a bottle of *mashke* to Rabbi Schanowitz for the Siyum Harambam scheduled for Motzei Shabbos at the “Ksav Sofer Shul” on Empire Blvd. The Rebbe also poured *mashke* for a few others involved, as well as for those participating in the Siyum Harambam in French. The Rebbe instructed one of them, Hatamim Sholom Chriqui, to announce the Siyum and specify that it would be in French. Misunderstanding the Rebbe's intention, he began the announcement in French. After being corrected by people nearby, he concluded the announcement in English. The Rebbe then instructed him to announce the Siyum in French as well.

1. This was the last time the Rebbe farbrenged on Yud Aleph Nissan.

2. See: videos.jem.tv/video-player?clip=1460

3. I.e., ensuring a third party guarantees payment, in case the buyer does not pay, as the Alter Rebbe insisted. See *Seder Mechiras Chametz Lefi Takanas Rabboseimu*, Rabbi Sholom D. Levine, 5757.