

TO OUR DEAR REBBE

In honor of the Rebbe's 70th birthday on Yud-Aleph Nissan 5732, the noted Chabad activist in Eretz Yisroel, Reb Shloimke Maidanchik, together with Reb Efraim Wolf, undertook a special project: collecting personal blessings and wishes from leaders and elected officials in Eretz Yisroel and bringing them to the Rebbe.

Using his many connections with the Who's Who of Israeli society, Reb Shloimke succeeded in gathering many handwritten wishes and compiled them into an album called "Sefer Habrachos Lshnas Hashivim," which he brought to the Rebbe for Yud-Aleph Nissan.

The book contained greetings from President Zalman Shazar, Rabbi Ovadiah Yosef, Foreign Minister Abba Eban, Rabbi Shlomo Goren, Mr. Avraham Shlonsky, Mr. Shimon Peres, and others.

Presented here are some of the notes.

Israel's President, Mr. Zalman Shazar, wrote:

In addition to my letter and the gift, I wish the greatest of blessings, honor, and love to my Rebbe, the beloved of my heart, upon reaching the good ripe age [70 years], in a good and auspicious time; along with the multitudes of well-wishers.

6 Nissan 5732.

Shneur Zalman Shazar

Israel's foreign minister, Mr. Abba Eban, wrote:

The greatest of my blessings and wishes to the great Rebbe of Lubavitch Shlita.

May the light of his Torah spread among the whole of the Jewish people, with blessings and peace.

Abba Eban

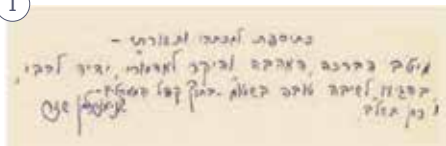
Chief Rabbi of Tel-Aviv (later Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi of Israel), Rabbi Shlomo Goren, wrote:

May Hashem bless the crown and beauty of Israel, the ga'on [genius/pride] and glory of Torah, lion of the highest stature, his holiness, light of

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WRITTEN BY:
RABBI MENDEL JACOBS

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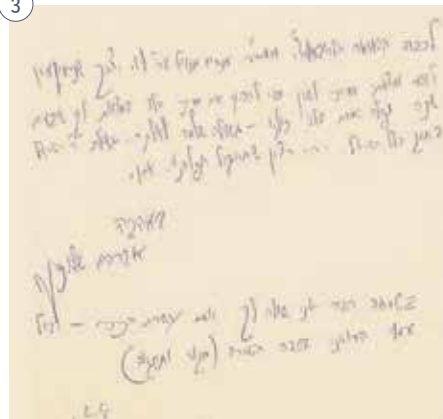


1. PRESIDENT ZALMAN SHAZAR
2. RABBI SHLOMO GOREN
3. MR. AVRAHAM SHLONSKY

2



3



Israel, pillar of the right side, our teacher Harav M. S. Shlita, the Rebbe of Lubavtich, as he reaches the ripe age [of 70 years]. May Hashem lengthen his years and days in his reign over the empire of Torah and Chassidus, till the coming of the righteous redeemer.

The Rebbe Shlita has succeeded in increasing the glory of Heaven and bringing the hearts of tens of thousands from every corner of the world closer to our Father in heaven.

Fortunate is he, and fortunate are the Chassidim of Hashem, full of strength, who heed his word, toiling with self-sacrifice in Eretz Yisroel and in the diaspora for the sake of Tzion and Yerushalayim, bringing the words of Hashem to forsaken Jews in every place. There is hardly a corner of the Jewish world where the name of Chabad is not extolled with praise and admiration. The fact that the embers of Judaism in Russia and its surroundings have not yet been extinguished is also due, in large part, to the self-sacrifice of Chabad.

May the giver of life give the Rebbe Shlita and all his people a long, good, and sustained life, with health and gladness of the soul, so they may spread the wellsprings of his holy Torah to all the Jewish people. May Hashem grant all his heart's wishes for goodness and blessing. In his day and ours, may Tzion and Yisroel be redeemed, dwelling securely in our holy and pure land in its entirety², and may we see the fulfillment of the Torah's blessing, "And I shall separate you from among all nations, to be Mine..."³

May he merit to come up to Yerushalayim in song together with all of the Jewish people.

6 Nissan 5732

Tel-Aviv — Yafo

1. For an extensive account on how Reb Shloimke gathered the greetings based on a duch he wrote to the Rebbe, see HaKatar Shel Chabad, p. 173.

2. A reference to the Rebbe's campaign for the integrity and totality of Eretz Yisroel.

Written and signed with the seal of blessings, of the Mikdash⁴ and the greater community,

Shlomo Goren

Mr. Avraham Shlonsky, noted Israeli poet and the Rebbe's cousin, wrote:

To the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Moreinu Harav M.M. ben Harav Levi Yitzchok Schneerson.

If only I could find the words to express the feelings of my heart as you complete 70 years. There is one prayer in all of our hearts: the complete and immediate redemption, the redemption of Reb Yisroel⁵ along with that of Klal Yisroel. May our prayers be answered, amen.

With love,

Avraham Shlonsky

[P.S.] With great joy, I am sending you ten volumes containing the fruit of my spiritual labor in the field of song (original and translation).

A.S.

Mr. Ariel Sharon, then IDF commander of the Southern Front, wrote:

To the dear Rebbe,

Warm blessings for your 70th birthday, till 120.

With the hope that your struggle will be emboldened, for the Jewish nation to trust in their strength; for the settlement of a Jewish presence all across the [liberated] territories; to strengthen the current borders; to grant freedom to the Jews of Russia.

With esteem and appreciation,

Gen. A. Sharon

Commander of the Southern Front

3. A reference to the Rebbe's campaign in response to the question of "Who is a Jew," for the integrity of the Jewish people

4. A play on the words of the Mishnah, Brachos 54a.

5. I.e. the redemption of each individual along with all the Jewish people.