



REB ZALMON JAFFE SPEAKS WITH THE REBBE ON THE FRONT STEPS OF 770 AS HIS GRANDCHILDREN LOOK ON. SIVAN 5735.



# BRINGING JOY TO THE REBBE

SHAVUOS 5733 WITH THE REBBE

By Reb Zalmon Jaffe

Reb Zalmon and Mrs. Roselyn Jaffe merited tremendous *kiruvim* from the Rebbe over the years. Beginning 5724, Reb Zalmon and his family would visit the Rebbe each year for the Yom Tov of Shavuos. Reb Zalmon wrote a detailed diary, in his unique style, of the time he spent in the Rebbe's presence and the Rebbe very much encouraged this endeavor. These would be published in his "My Encounter with the Rebbe" series.<sup>1</sup> Here we present excerpts of his visit to the Rebbe for Shavuos 5733.

COMPILED BY: RABBI YANKY BELL

טור 'לעבן מיטן רבי'ן הוקדש לזכרון ולעילוי נשמת  
ר' שמואל ב"ר יהושע אליהו ז"ל  
ואשתו מרת שרה ע"ה בת ר' יקותיאל ומרת לאה הי"ד  
תנ"צ'ב"ה

ע"י בנם  
ר' יקותיאל יהודה  
וזוגתו מרת פעסל לאה ומשפחתם שיחיו  
רוהר

## Arriving at 770

Roselyn and I arrived in Brooklyn on Wednesday, May 30th [28 Iyar], almost a week before Shovuos and just ten minutes before the Rebbe was due to attend Mincha at 3.15pm. The following day the Rebbe went to the Ohel, so on that day Mincha took place at 9.00pm - another Belzer Mincha!

Roselyn, as was her usual custom, stood in the hallway and waited for the Rebbe to walk past, on his way from the office to the Beth Hamedrash. She was not disappointed; within minutes the Rebbe left his office, saw Roselyn and gave her a lovely glorious smile. Nu, one 'satisfied customer.'

I received my 'rations' in the Beth Hamedrash. The Rabbis say that "words that issue forth from the heart, reach directly to another one's heart." The Rebbe's eyes are most eloquent and expressive. He does not have to say anything; when his eyes are lit up with that wonderful superb smile, then the message that the Rebbe is pleased to see me comes over 'loud and clear.'



THE KOLLEL BUILDING THAT THE REBBE VISITED ON UNION ST.



LEVI FREIDIN VIA JEM 143067 / CHESHVAN 5736

## Surprise Visit to the Kolel

We then learnt that the Rebbe had visited our apartment on the previous day. The Rebbe always loans us these rooms above the Kolel for our stay over Shovuos.

I do not know exactly what transpired, but the net result was that our apartment was spick and span, neat and tidy. For the first time ever! All '770' was in turmoil. Angry accusations were leveled at me that I had asked the Rebbe to ensure that our flat was clean and tidy. Of course, I would never have had the chutzpah to suggest such a thing to the Rebbe...

Still, it was interesting to find out what did occur. It seems that R Binyomin Klein called at the Rebbe's home in President Street, in the car to bring him to '770,' as usual. The Rebbe asked him to drive to Union Street, then told him to stop at the Kolel.

This was the first time ever that the Rebbe had visited the Kolel, and no warning or intimation was given. One can just imagine the scene. Young men learning, studying, lounging or lolling about. Everyone's attire extremely casual, to say the least, and the whole place untidy; bottles, cigarette ends and paper strewn all over the floor and tables - when in walks the Rebbe.

Actually, the Rebbe was very pleased to see 50 young men, all learning, except that they were all studying different gemorrahs, instead of the same Mesechta. Rabbi Chodakov remarked that it was a great chizuk - a source of strength for them, and they would all receive great benefit from this visit, ultimately.

What they did receive the next morning was a very strong letter from the Rebbe enumerating all the points,



MY ENCOUNTER WITH THE REBBE VOL. 2, BY PCL PUBLISHING

REB ZALMON JAFFE CONVERSES WITH THE REBBE. 5730S.

which had to be attended to immediately or else - the Kolel would be closed down by Friday.

The Rebbe then ascended 2 flights of stairs to our apartment to inspect the place, with the result as aforementioned - a nice, clean flat, ready for us.

My son-in-law, Shmuel [Lew], was also in Brooklyn for Shovuos together with my grandsons, Yoseph Yitzchok and Menachem Mendel.

I was very fortunate in being able to arrange for an immediate private talk with Rabbi Chodakov. I handed him a copy of my diary. "I have been waiting for that," he said.

I had my usual large package of letters to send into the Rebbe from friends in Manchester, I also enclosed my own covering letter and my diary. Rabbi Label Groner was taking an additional extra 35 letters to the Rebbe for signature.

Mr. Bloch, (the 'boss' of the Soncino Press) had promised me faithfully that the first copy of the new Hebrew/English Tanya would be ready for me to take to the Rebbe for Shovuos. The evening before we left England for New York... he personally brought to me a beautifully bound, thick volume of the new Tanya. The very first copy, as promised. When I opened it I found therein only one printed page. All the rest of the pages were just blank - this was real 'progress'. The very first one page Tanya! Anyway, it was something to show the Rebbe.<sup>2</sup>

## Hagomel

The following morning after our arrival, Thursday, Shmuel had Yohrtzeit... He was confronted with a similar problem as he had on the previous year. There was a Yohrtzeit, a Bar Mitzvah and of course, the Rebbe.

The following day, Friday, was Rosh Chodesh. Here again, there was another Bar Mitzvah... Every time we layen there are always many visitors who come forward to the bima to 'bentch Gomel.' They feel sublimely happy when the Rebbe answers "omein" to their brocha... On Shovuos, in particular, as many as thirty men join the procession to 'bentch Gomel' on the Bima in the shul - just before the Rebbe's Haftorah.

The Rebbe went to the Ohel, as usual, on Erev Rosh Chodesh. The Tanya does mention that today men have not the strength nor the ability to fast so many times as had the Gedolim of the past. Our Rebbe proves the exception to this rule. The Rebbe fasts every time he goes to the Ohel, which he visits at least twice a month, and sometimes six times a month. During Nissan (before Pesach) every other day - and of course, the Rebbe also fasts on the usual 'communal' fast days. I am quite certain I am correct when I state that the Rebbe fasts on an average of 70 days every year. That is really tough - so is, thank G-d, the Rebbe!

*[In the next year's diary, Reb Zalmon writes the*



THE REBBE AT A FARBRENGEN. CIRCA 5733.

*following:*

*In last year's 'Encounter' I mentioned the fact that the Rebbe fasts all day when he visits the Ohel of the previous Rebbe (Z.L.) at the Beth Olam.*

*The Rebbe has explained to me that this is not quite correct. He then went on to inform me that there are many and various opinions on this subject, but the Rebbe follows the one which actually prohibits fasting when visiting the Beth Olam. So the Rebbe has a drink before he leaves in the morning. He then partakes of neither food nor drink until he returns in the evening, sometimes as late as 9.00pm.*

*To be precise, of course, this is not exactly fasting and I apologize for giving a wrong impression!]*

On this day, the Rebbe returned from the Ohel at 9.00pm. Obviously the day is not long enough for the Rebbe. He increasingly has more and more requests from people of every walk of life, for special help and assistance in so many various matters. My own personal opinion is that only at the tomb of the previous Rebbe in perfect solitude and quietness, undisturbed and uninterrupted, without a break for food or drink, can our Rebbe Shlita

concentrate and plead for Klal Yisroel - for all Israel - with a broken heart - near to, beside the last resting place of his father-in-law, the previous Lubavitcher Rebbe, whose soul still lingers over this holy place. It is alleged that the Rebbe once gave the following reply to somebody, "You all need a Rebbe - I also have a Rebbe." It is a good answer for some.

The whole area around '770' was packed tightly with men and boys awaiting the arrival of the Rebbe. Within seconds of the Rebbe's car drawing up to the curb, the place was absolutely deserted - like a windswept beach after a storm. Only Roselyn and I were left standing, about ten yards from '770.'

The door of the car was pushed open from the inside by the Rebbe. Unfortunately, because his arms were full of seforim and a large paper parcel, he had the utmost difficulty in keeping the door open, to enable him to alight from the car. Thank G-d I had the presence and the mind to jump forward and hold open the door. For this action, I received a very nice "thank you" from the Rebbe.

## An Answer from the Rebbe

Soon after Shacharis, Rabbi Binyamin Klein beckoned me. He had a reply from the Rebbe for me, to my letter of the previous evening. Considering that I had left my bundle of letters with the Rebbe at 6.00 pm the night before and it was now only 10.00am the next morning, one cannot deny that the Rebbe attends to and replies to his mail at once - without any loss of time, and mine were not the only letters.

I had written in my letter, amongst other things that "...I hope the Rebbe will enjoy reading my diary." The Rebbe responded, writing on the margin of this paragraph in Hebrew, "keposhut" (=obviously). I concluded by writing that "I am looking forward to the next twelve days with keen anticipation and pleasure." The Rebbe had underlined the word days and written in Hebrew "Have great Hatzlocho."

I also received replies, which friends of mine in Manchester were eagerly and impatiently awaiting, for their letters which were sent through me.

Friday evening, after Kabollas Shabbos and Maariv, I sang, as usual, a Nigun when the Rebbe was leaving the Shul. A girl asked her father why were they singing, she was told "because Jaffe was here." A boy also approached me a few days afterwards and said it was so obvious that the Rebbe was very happy and delighted to see me.

Well, I am also proud and delighted to think that I do make the Rebbe happy. But why, oh why then, does nobody follow my example! Every year I emphasize this point and still no one takes any notice. I can assure them that the rewards are immediate and well worth while. To bask in the Rebbe's glorious smile - it is a wonderful feeling.

On Shabbos morning I was offered an aliya. This is a great zechus and tribute to any visitor coming to '770' and davenning with the Rebbe. Some men had to wait, literally many years before they had the privilege of having an aliya on Shabbos with the Rebbe's minyan.

On this Shabbos morning I was lucky to be called up for shevii. This is the best aliya, because after this one the Rebbe is then called up for maftir and haftorah. Being next to the Rebbe, I can obviously hear the haftorah very well. I can also see the Rebbe's finger following the text word by word in his chumash.

And finally, when the Rebbe has concluded the

brochus and is leaving the bimah, one can say with deep sincerity, "Always follow the Rebbe and you will come to no harm." I therefore, dash off the Bimah in the wake of the Rebbe and within seconds I am back in my place, safe and sound. It is always a constant surprise and amazement to me, to see, on the Rebbe's approach to this solid mass of men and boys, how a pathway is miraculously opened and immediately closed again in the fraction of a second it takes the Rebbe to pass. Almost as big a miracle as the parting of the waters at the Red Sea.

We all sang 'Hu Elokanu' as usual. Everyone knows by now that the Rebbe likes this singing and yet it is only when I am present that this takes place. It is really amazing. I cannot understand their mentality at all.

## How Many Questions?

As expected there was a Farbrengen at 1.30pm sharp.

It was a lovely, fraileche Farbrengen. The only discordant note was when the Rebbe discussed the subject of 'Mi Yehudi.' After all these years the position regarding the conversions of non-Jews, especially in America has not much improved... That is the danger to Klal Yisroel, and the reason why the Rebbe is fighting so hard to get this odious practice stopped.

The Rebbe then fiercely denounced those Israeli Cabinet Ministers who went out of their way to attract and tempt back the Arabs to return to Jerusalem. They offered the Arabs so many conceivable types of benefits, that they were coming back in their thousands, at the



REB ZALMON AND MRS. JAFFE WAIT TO ENTER THE REBBE'S ROOM FOR YECHIDUS AFTER SHAVUOS 5732.

MY ENCOUNTER WITH THE REBBE VOL. 2 BY PCL PUBLISHING

expense of Jewish taxpayers and Jewish charities, whilst the Jews were actually prohibited from making their own homes in the ancient Jewish city of Jerusalem. "They are always frightened of what the goyim will say!"

The Rebbe then started on a mishna from Pirkei Avos. "One should honour him from whom one has learnt even one or two letters." He had a number of questions to ask on this one Mishna. He asked me to count the questions. Right. One, two, three... "How many now?" asked the Rebbe. "Eight," I replied. My neighbors said I was wrong, it was number eleven. Shmuel said it was ten. Anyway, the Rebbe did not shame me (and in any case I may have been correct), and said "The ninth question is..."

## Visiting the Rebbetzin

Sunday, we once again were privileged and honoured to be able to pay a visit to our dear and gracious Rebbetzin. It is always a wonderful experience, to which we look forward with very keen anticipation.

When we arrived at 6.30pm the Rebbetzin was surprised that Shmuel, Yossi and Mendel were not with us. She had expected them too. We spent an extremely pleasant two hours - they seemed like only a few minutes.

The Rebbetzin is a wonderful listener, and laughs at the right moment. She looked very well, "um berufun" (as she would say herself). She told me to keep on writing "biz 120" - the 'diary' is so interesting and people know nothing of the things about which I write. I should distribute these to students - to Hadar Hatorah.

We discussed and talked about the Rebbe ("my husband"), Lubavitch in general, Manchester in particular, the family and many other matters.

She again laughed heartily at an old joke which I had recounted to her two years ago. I am certain - quite sure, that she knew it but she was too polite to say so! However, we were delighted when we were asked to call again "next Sunday at 7.30pm."

## Lively Niggunim

Taking a precedent from last year, I anticipated that there would be a Farbrengen before Yom Tov, and I expressed this view to Rabbi Chodakov and to others. No one knew anything at all. But at 9.00pm there was an announcement that there would be a Farbrengen at 9.30pm immediately after Maariv.

The Lubavitch 'grapevine' worked overtime and within

a half an hour over 1,000 people were assembled in the Hall.

In Brooklyn this can be done. In England it is more difficult. Lou Tiffenbrun telephoned Hackner in London at 3.00am, English time, to try and get the chevra together within 30 minutes for this Farbraingen which was so unexpected that no one was prepared for it - everyone was fast asleep! Manchester had also to be contacted.

The Rebbe entered at about 9.45pm and almost before he had time to sit down immediately commenced the Maamer, without any preceding Nigun. This Maamer took exactly 30 minutes, as usual.

After every sicha we sing a nigun. Many years ago we used to sing two nigunim after every sicha. At present, Rabbi Gansburg<sup>3</sup> normally starts the tune. After last Shabbos I complained to Rabbi Gansburg that the tunes we sang (and which he started) were neither well known, popular or 'swinging.' In the past we used to sing irresistible nigunim.

Well, he took heed of my request and off we went with 'Al Achass.' Immediately the Rebbe got us all going by the usual little twitch of his head, and it did not take long before the Rebbe was 'conducting' with head and hands. You should know what that means. Over 1,000 people singing, yelling, shouting and screaming the Nigun at the top of their voices. Their arms and bodies swinging to the tune, all in unison. It looks as if the whole hall is rising and falling to the music.

As was the custom I wished to say Le'chaim to the Rebbe so that in return I would receive his brochah, Le'chaim v'livrocho. I held a paper tumbler, half filled with wine, caught the Rebbe's eye (every one of the thousand men and boys had the same idea) and wished him Le'chaim.

The Rebbe answered and signaled me to drink the whole lot without a pause ("Bottoms up" in English). I managed to do this and held up the tumbler upside down to show the Rebbe that I had obeyed his request. The Rebbe was not satisfied. It was only half a glass! So I was handed another half a tumbler of wine to make up to the full glass, and repeated the exercise. The Rebbe was still not satisfied and quite unimpressed with my protestations. He wanted me to say Le'chaim with a full tumbler of wine, which I had to drink, in one go! Well, orders are orders! And it certainly put more spirit into me, in more ways than one.

The whole Farbrengen took only one hour and three



REB ZALMON JAFFE SNAPPED THIS PHOTO OF MRS. JAFFE AND SOME OF THE GRANDCHILDREN AS THE REBBE ENTERED THE SMALL ZAL AS THE REBBE LEAVES HIS ROOM.

quarters. Short, sweet, exciting and terrifically lively. Just like old times! I was told that it was the most exhilarating Farbrengen for almost 12 months. No wonder they kept asking Shmuel - "When is your shver, Zalmon Jaffe coming to make the Rebbe freilach?"

The Rebbe then spoke about Matan-Torah... Suddenly there was a storm. The sky was rent by continuous flashes of lightning accompanied by the rolling and heavy crashes of thunder, and heavy rain was pelting down with terrific force - exactly as it must have been thousands of years ago at Har Sinai. The storm had ended when the Farbrengen finished.

The Rebbe reminded us that we were chosen by G-d to be His very own people. Chosen to be given the Torah and we had accepted this unconditionally. In fact we said "Naase veNishma," we will do (first) and then we will listen and understand. We would have faith in the one G-d, He who had chosen us from so many nations.

But first, G-d wanted guarantors before He would part with His Torah. He wished to ensure that the Torah would become precious and a treasure to us, as we were to G-d. Finally, G-d accepted our children as our sureties. Throughout the ages we had to teach them the value and the ethics of this wonderful gift. In their turn, our children had to hand this down to their children and so on, right down to our present generation.

The Rebbe then stressed the fact that during the summer vacation (three months in the States) the children were left wandering about to their own devices. Schooling and secular studies were postponed for twelve weeks and this was a marvelous opportunity to get the children to learn Limudei Kodesh - Jewish Studies.

The Rebbe also emphasized that there were plenty of rabbonim and teachers who would be only too willing and happy to teach these boys and girls and at the same time to earn a few extra dollars for themselves. It





THE REBBE HANDS A COPY OF THE BILINGUAL TANYA TO MR. BERNARD PERRIN ON 16 SIVAN 5735.

was a unique and wonderful opportunity, and we should take every advantage of this three month holiday period. The Rebbe spoke on this subject three times during the 'Shovuos' Farbrengen.

Before I left Brooklyn for home, I had a short Yechidus with the Rebbe. He told me again about this inyan. I said that in England we only had six weeks vacation. "OK," says the Rebbe, "It is forty-two days and every day counts."

The following afternoon, Friday, a special delivery arrived at our flat. A huge box with a large cream cake inside; a gift for Yom Tov from the Rebbetzen. How very sweet and thoughtful of her!

## *Out Marching*

We spent a delightful Yom-Tov, davening with the Rebbe. My friends Tzvi Fisher and Lou Tiffenbrun were excellent helpers when it came to the singing.

As usual, the boys went marching to Borough Park... At Mincha on that day, there were exactly fifteen men and small children present. The Rebbe was delighted to see so few people. It meant that practically all the men and boys were 'marching!'

On the second day of Shovuos, Mincha took

place upstairs in the Beth Hamedrash just before the Farbrengen. Most of the people were already downstairs in the hall making sure of their seats or 'standing room.' There was still a good crowd upstairs with the Rebbe.

After davening, the Rebbe started walking to the exit. At that very moment I was in a bit of a "dream." I was recalling my conversation with Yossi, my grandson. He had asked me, "Zaidie, why do you always sing when the Rebbe leaves the shul?" I said, "because the Rebbe likes it." "But everyone laughs at you," he retorted. I explained to him that as long as one does what is right and correct, then one should carry on in spite of what others will say or do. In any case, the Jewish people are used to others laughing at them.

I then suddenly realised that in a few seconds the Rebbe would have left the Beth Hamedrash, and no one was singing. I didn't know what to do. I was fed up with continually having to start the singing, and on many occasions, not one person joining in with me. And just then, the Rebbe turned around, looked straight at me, gestured with his hand and said, "Nu?" Well, that was all I needed. What an uplift to my ego! What a justification of my attitude hitherto! I can tell you I felt good - on top of the world. Furthermore, both Yossi and Mendel (my

grandsons) were present and saw what had happened. Needless to say, everyone joined in and sang with vigour and gusto, and then made their way downstairs.

I washed, made Hamotzi and rushed to my seat. I beckoned and shouted to Shmuel to tell him how the Rebbe had encouraged and vindicated me in my singing. But, already everybody and everyone knew - in less than five minutes!

The Farbrengen was very lively indeed. Can you just imagine - over 2000 people (including women and girls) who have all come along to listen to one man - the Rebbe. No chairman and no other speakers. No one to object that the Rebbe speaks too long. (Six hours at this Farbraingen and over 14 hours during the whole Shovuos 'week.') In fact everyone wants more and all are disappointed when the Farbrengen ends. All sit or stand 'glued' to their places and hardly anyone leaves the hall. It is unnatural - uncanny.

## *L'chaim for Manchester*

I was called up to receive a bottle of vodka "for Manchester." The Rebbe opened the bottle, poured a little into my glass and I wished him Le'chaim, to which he replied Le'chaim v'livrocho as usual. Bernard Perrin was also given a bottle of vodka for the Tanya, and to be divided between Manchester and London. The Rebbe laughingly told him that it was for "taking over the Soncino Press." (I am afraid it may even come to that!)

The Rebbe asked me why I do not follow the example of my grandsons who were standing and saying Le'chaim to the Rebbe all the time. I was a little taken aback because I had already said Le'chaim to the Rebbe three times! I did not want to keep 'pestering' the Rebbe.

On Motzei Shabbos after Shovuos, the Rebbe usually comes out into the roadway to be 'makedesh the levono' (bless the full moon). It was a very cloudy night with the moon disappearing every few seconds. We did not really expect the Rebbe to come out this evening in view of the uncertainty of the moon remaining visible for any length of time. Still, I was ready and prepared in case the Rebbe did arrive. I had to maneuver very astutely to be near the Rebbe.

Out came the Rebbe - and out come the moon - bright and brilliant until the Rebbe had returned to his office.

Fifteen minutes later, the Rebbe left for home, and although I was on the opposite side of the road, facing

the Rebbe, he waved his hand to me.

## *Friday Afternoon Yechidus*

Every year it is getting more and more difficult to arrange Yechidus with the Rebbe. I have heard Rabbi Binyamin Klein tell Americans, personally and on the telephone, that it would be many months before they could have a private interview with the Rebbe. However, Bernard Perrin and I got a message that the Rebbe was prepared to see us on Friday, Erev Shabbos of all days, at 3.00pm.

Roselyn and I were already waiting outside the Rebbe's office at 3.00pm. At six o'clock I sent Roselyn home to boil up the Shabbos kettle. At 7.25pm we entered the Rebbe's private office - Shabbos was at 8.10pm. The Rebbe asked about the flat and what else (not whether anything) was needed to be done.

I paid my usual 'cheque' for the rent, obviously just an excuse, as the Rebbe would refuse payment for this apartment. It is not a matter of money. There are just no private apartments available for a short-term period nearby the Rebbe. Anyway, the Rebbe said that he does not really need this money before Shabbos because the kugel is already made.

After 15 minutes we asked Bernard Perrin to join us, as we had mutual Lubavitch business to discuss. The Rebbe asked me about a certain Lubavitch worker of ours. I replied that this fellow was making wonderful progress. The Rebbe said, "You are not talking with enthusiasm." I said, "Then please ask Bernard Perrin." "Yes, yes," interposed Bernard, "he is wonderful." "Tut tut," said the Rebbe, "you are also not talking with enthusiasm."

We asked the Rebbe to decide on the profit allocation, when we published our Tanya, between London and Manchester. The Rebbe would not do this. He said he could not take the responsibility, when he P.G. [please G-d] reached the age of 120 years, having to answer a complaint that he had taken a pound from one and given it to another.

He had received wonderful reports about Jan Pearce's exceptional and notable efforts on behalf of Lubavitch in California. The Rebbe knew that we in Manchester were the first to enlighten Jan Pearce regarding Lubavitch work, and suggested that we should phone to congratulate and thank both Jan and Alice, his wife.<sup>4</sup>

We reminded the Rebbe that last year he gave us a Brocha “iber dem kop,” and would like the same again. The Rebbe replied, “It will be still better, with P.G. nachas from all the children.”

Roselyn and I left the Rebbe’s presence at 7.45pm. But Bernard still remained for his own private Yechidus - Shabbos was due in 25 minutes time!

On Shabbos, as stated before, we had an extremely fraileche Farbrenge.

## Farewell

The following morning, we were due to leave Brooklyn very early. I was determined therefore, to try and say farewell to the Rebbe just after Ma’ariv. I told Roselyn to be prepared too. When the Rebbe left his office on his way to the Beth Hamedrash, he saw Roselyn and L.G. standing in the hallway. With a nice smile he said, “Fort gezunterheit.”

After Maariv I followed immediately after the Rebbe who was returning to his office. Before he entered he saw that I was following and turned around to wish me “Tzeischem Leshalam.” The Rebbe reminded me that he had given three Sichos on the importance of teaching children during the school holiday (vacation).

He asked me how did the boys like my talk to them at the Kinus Hatorah, and did I inspire them. I suggested that it might be better to ask the boys. “No,” said the Rebbe, “I am asking you.”

By then, there was a huge crowd of boys surrounding us, all craning their necks to see and stretching their ears to hear, what the Rebbe was saying. Suddenly the Rebbe turned to them and said “What are all you boys doing here? Have you nothing better do to? Go and learn.” This did have an effect for a minute or two, and a number of boys, including Shmuel ran away into the Beth Hamedrash.

I informed the Rebbe that I had phoned Jan Peerce, as I was told. The Rebbe remarked that he hoped I had called Jan Peerce – ‘hakohen.’ Jan Peerce liked this, the Rebbe knew! I reminded the Rebbe that I wrote a letter to him every two weeks. The Rebbe disagreed. “No, Kimaet every two weeks, not regularly,” he said.

He then rebuked me about the Tanya. “You are a business man,” he said, “and I am surprised at you. Every day goes by and people are not learning because they have not got the proper translation.”

I would like to translate and put into words, the wonderful and wondrous smile of our beloved Rebbe. This is a difficult task. Not only is our Rebbe’s face transformed, but also his whole personality. The whole atmosphere radiates excitement, pleasure and laughter. The beneficiary of this smile feels invigorated and ‘on top of the world,’ and would go to any extreme lengths to please the Rebbe.

Roselyn was standing a little distance away. The Rebbe called to her to say farewell. He also told her that “next year the apartment will be better still.” He then asked for Shmuel, who was also leaving with us. “And where are the Grandchildren?” They were not at ‘770.’ The Rebbe said, he will see them next year.

The Rebbe said that L.G. is a very good girl. She should be encouraged. He then enquired whether she was actually travelling back to England with us. When I answered in the affirmative, the Rebbe then expressed a desire to say farewell to her, too. But she had disappeared. The cry went up, “L, L,” the Rebbe wants to see L.G.

In a few moments she was brought to the Rebbe. She was pale and trembling. She could not understand what was happening. What did the Rebbe want with her? And why just her? Well, the Rebbe soon reassured her. He enquired after the health of her parents and hoped that L.G. would convey the regards of the Rebbe to them. He then wished her a “Bon Voyage.”

L.G. then left, her head in a whirl, followed by scores of people who all wanted to know what the Rebbe said to her in those few minutes.. It was most unusual and a great Zechus for L.G. When she had left, the Rebbe again repeated to me that L.G. is a good girl, and that I should do my best to hearten and to inspire her. I told the Rebbe that L.G. visits and stays quite a lot with Hindy and Shmuel in London, so she would be in good hands. “Yes,” said the Rebbe, “but she will be with you on the plane tomorrow for about seven hours.”

And so ended another Shovuos visit to our Rebbe. **1**

1. Published and copyright in My Encounter with the Rebbe vol. 2, by PCL Publishing. Preserving the original spirit of the diary, we have only inserted minor edits herein.
2. For the description of the Tanya being presented to the Rebbe two years later, see “The Bilingual Tanya” - Derher Sivan 5781.
3. Reb Heske Gansburg would begin the *niggunim* at the Rebbe’s farbrengens.
4. For more about Mr. Peerce’s connection to the Rebbe, see “The Singer’s Cane” - Derher Tishrei 5773.