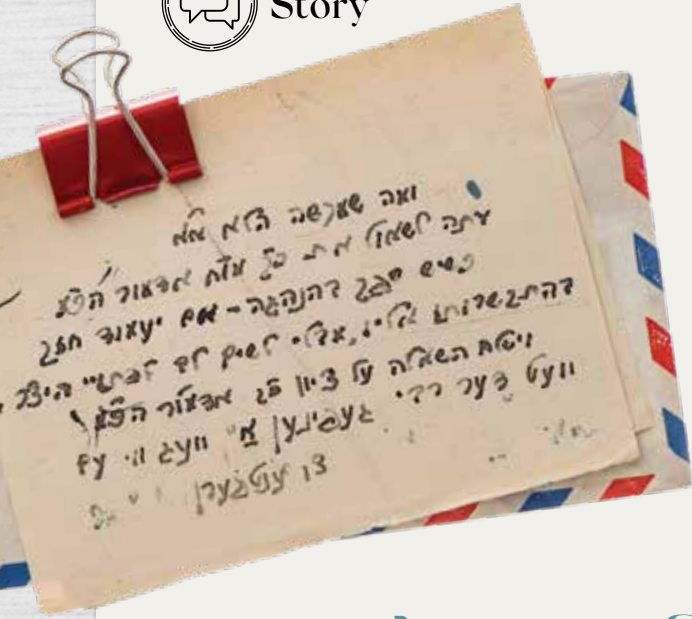




Story



לזכות
דוד בן שיינא
לרגל יום הולדתו, לשנת הצלחה
בכל מכל כל, אמן, והצלחה
מרובה בעבודת השליחות

דער רבי וועט געפינען א וועג...

WRITTEN BY: RABBI LEVI GREENBERG (TX)

כפליים לתושי

PART II



AS TOLD BY
RABBI BORUCH SHOLOM DAVIDSON

(Bala Cynwyd, PA)

AND RABBI YOSEF ARYEH SIMONOWITS

(Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)

Rabbi Davidson: In the summer of 5782, I discovered a dollar from the Rebbe in our brand new Chabad House. A friend of ours, Mr. Nesanel Zhivalyuk, had placed a stack of dollar bills for visitors to the Chabad House to give tzedakah; unbeknownst to him, among these bills was a dollar from the Rebbe. Nesanel had no idea that this dollar had ever been in his possession or how it got there.

When it was discovered, we both felt it was a *bracha* from the Rebbe in response to our respective requests on our community trip to the Ohel several weeks earlier.¹

Despite our best efforts, we could not find the dollar's original owner, so in the meantime, we had it framed and displayed in Nesanel's home.

During the month of Adar 5783, for no particular reason, I had a renewed curiosity to solve the dollar mystery. I contacted Rabbi Zalmy Ceitlin from JEM and asked him

to help me get to the bottom of it. We analyzed the writing on the dollar:

נתקבל מכ"ק אד"ש ט' שבט בביקורי עם חבר כנסת ...

Received from the Rebbe 9 Shevat during my visit with a member of the Knesset ... [the name was written in the printed part of the bill and I could not decipher it.]

On the middle of the dollar bill was written: כפליים לתושי - a double portion of blessing.

We had originally narrowed down the date to 9 Shevat 5750 and had confirmed that the Israeli Knesset members who were there that day did not match the details inscribed on the dollar. After some more thought, we realized perhaps the term *חבר כנסת* was not exclusive to an Israeli parliamentarian, but could also include parliamentarians of other countries. After another exhaustive search through the recordings of that Sunday, Erev Yud Shevat Hagadol

(which was the longest “Sunday Dollars” on record) he narrowed it down to one clip.

Zalmy recognized Rabbi Shabsi Alpern, the head shliach to Brazil accompanied by another shliach presenting a Brazilian congressman named Fabio Feldmann to the Rebbe. After blessing the congressman and giving him two dollars the Rebbe handed each of the shluchim two dollars and told them each “כפליים לתושי”.

Excitedly we contacted Rabbi Alpern through relatives to find out if the dollar belonged to him. He quickly responded that he had both dollars he received from the Rebbe that day. After some research, we identified the second shliach as the shliach to Brasilia – capital of Brazil – Rabbi Yosef Aryeh Simonowits. My good friend Baruch Cohen is his nephew so I asked him to send his uncle a photo of the dollar and ask him if it was his handwriting.

Rabbi Simonowits: On Lag B’Omer 5747, my wife and I arrived on shlichus in Brasilia. In addition to serving the local Jewish community, we worked with the Jewish politicians living and working there from all over the country. I was considerably close with a prestigious legislator named Fabio Feldmann.

On Sunday, 9 Shevat, I was in New York for Yud Shevat Hagadol when I received a phone call from Mr. Feldmann who had just arrived in New York from an important trip to Russia. He had heard about Sunday Dollars and asked if I would arrange for him to see the Rebbe that afternoon. I gladly scheduled a time for him to come to 770 and asked Rabbi Shabsi Alpern, head shliach to Brazil, to introduce Mr. Feldmann to the Rebbe.

There is a video of those few moments we stood in the Rebbe’s presence that day. The Rebbe said a few words to Mr. Feldmann and handed both Rabbi Alpern and myself two dollars with the *bracha* “כפליים לתושי”.

Years later, my daughter was learning in seminary abroad and I gave her one of the dollars I received from the Rebbe to take with her on her long trip away from home. Unfortunately, at some point during her time in seminary, the dollar was lost, but over time I forgot about it.

After fourteen years of shlichus in Brasilia, we moved to Rio de Janeiro to continue our shlichus running the Beis Chabad in the Barra da Tijuca area of

town. Today my daughter and son-in-law, Rabbi Leib and Sara Beila Rojtenberg are shluchim to Brasilia in our stead.

In Adar 5783 I was experiencing a severe crisis and wrote a letter to the Rebbe asking for a *bracha*.

A few days later my granddaughter came to our home with an envelope for my wife from the principal of her school Mrs. Margalit Berkes. She and her husband Rabbi Avraham Berkes are also shluchim in Rio de Janeiro. Since it was such a stressful time I forgot to give it to my wife till two days later. When I noticed the envelope on my desk I placed it in our bedroom so she would see it when she came home.

In the afternoon my wife opened the envelope and found a note from Mrs. Berkes with a page cut out from a Chabad magazine that was published in 5750. It was an article describing Congressman Fabio Feldmann’s visit to the Rebbe and a photo of the event. We were pleased to receive “regards” from our shlichus in Brasilia many years earlier, but I didn’t think much of it.

Later that evening, my nephew Baruch Cohen sent me a message on WhatsApp: “I’m sending you a photo of a dollar. Let me know if this is your handwriting.”

To my utter shock, he sent me a photo of the dollar I had received from the Rebbe on 9 Shevat 5750, which had been lost for so many years – and just hours earlier I had received a fresh “regards” from that special moment!

After hearing how the dollar was discovered and how Rabbi Davidson had so recently had an inexplicable urge to find the owner, I was overwhelmed by the tremendous *hashgacha pratis* of it all. This was a clear sign of encouragement and *bracha* from the Rebbe to us.

The Rebbe is with us today. When we write to him and ask for his *brachos* and guidance he finds a way to answer.

1. Read the full story in Derher Magazine, Elul 5784.

YOUR STORY

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