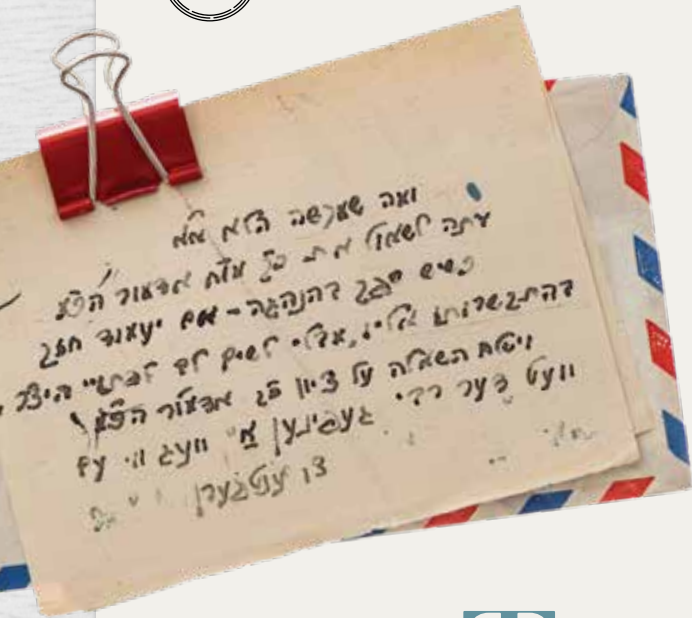




Story



לזכות
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 לרגל יום הולדתה ד' מר חשון
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 שמפיין אילינוי

דער רבי וועט געפינען א וועג...

WRITTEN BY: RABBI LEVI GREENBERG (TX)

Treasures From Above



AS TOLD BY
RABBI LEVI YITZCHOK CEITLIN
(Haifa, Eretz Yisroel)

Chanukah 5750 was the first time my father Rabbi Aharon Eliezer Ceitlin ע"ה organized an official group trip to the Rebbe from Eretz Yisroel, with 85 participants.

The "Kvutza" was so successful that 115 people joined the next one, for Lag B'Omer 5750. They participated in the Lag B'Omer parade, and, as they walked by, the Rebbe clapped his hands enthusiastically for a significant amount of time. These group trips continued each year, even after Gimmel Tammuz.

In 5762, several educators suggested that my father gear these annual trips to Lubavitch girls who had never had the opportunity to see the Rebbe or be in the Rebbe's presence. He appreciated the impact such an organized

trip would have on the hiskashrus of the next generation and, from then on, he organized the "Kvutza" for them to coincide with Chof-Beis Shevat and the International Kinus Hashluchos.

In addition to a full week program, the highlight being their visit to the Ohel, he felt that their participation in the banquet of the Kinus Hashluchos would inspire them to dedicate themselves to the Rebbe's shlichus. After some persuasion, the organizers agreed to the plan and my father raised considerable funds every year to cover the cost of their participation in the banquet. He was so passionate about this, that his happiest day of the year was when he secured the funds necessary for the girls to



REB AHARON LEIZER CEITLIN LEADS A GROUP OF GIRLS ON THEIR VISIT TO 770.

participate in the Kinus banquet.

On 2 Cheshvan 5776 my father passed away and I inherited the merit of organizing and leading the annual Kvutza of Lubavitch girls to the Rebbe for Chof-Beis Shevat.

In the year 5780, I arrived in New York a day before the Kvutza to make some last-minute preparations; my main problem was that I still needed to raise the necessary funds for the girls to participate in the banquet. Due to jet lag, I woke up in the middle of the night and found a ride to the Ohel. In my short note, I asked the Rebbe for only one bracha: to succeed in raising the money needed for the girls to experience the banquet of the Kinus Hashluchos.

After spending a significant amount of time davening at the Ohel, I entered the main tent and met Rabbi Chaim Yaakov Leibovitch, who is renowned for his generosity. I shared with him what was on my mind and after asking several questions he took out his checkbook and wrote out a check for an amount I had never before received from one benefactor. As he handed me the check he commented that he had pledged to donate to my father several years back and now he was following through. Although it was not the entire amount I needed I was overwhelmed at how swiftly the Rebbe's bracha was materializing.

Later that morning Rabbi Moshe Kotlarsky asked me how the trip was coming along and he was very moved to hear what had transpired at the Ohel that day. His interest in our trip gave me a big boost and he recommended some people to fundraise from. By the end of the day the girls' participation in the banquet was confirmed.

A few weeks later the world shut down due to Covid and the annual Kvutza did not happen in its regular format for the next three years. In anticipation of the Kvutza of 5784 we decided to again arrange for the girls to participate in the banquet and I started fundraising for this purpose.

When the war broke out on Simchas Torah, our plans for the Kvutza were put on hold, but when it was decided to go ahead with the program we introduced a new incentive. The minhag is that every year we learn another chapter of Basi Legani 5710 and the maamarim from the years in which the Rebbe expounded on that chapter. The year 5784 corresponded to chapter 14 of Basi Legani 5710 and the maamarim of Yud Shevat 5724 and 5744. We arranged a unique program for seminary girls to study the maamar Basi Legani 5744 and every girl who excelled was granted a scholarship toward their trip. Fifty more girls registered for the trip as a result of this and the money I had fundraised thus far went to covering these

scholarships. When I arrived in New York on Thursday of Chof Beis Shevat, I had no idea where the rest of the money would come from.

Early Friday morning, I went to 770 and learned the maamar Basi Legani 5724. Yud Shevat 5724 was on Shabbos and the Rebbe said this maamar three times. The first time was on Friday night after Kabbalas Shabbos, then during the Shabbos farbrengen with a different dibbur hamaschil, and once again on Motzei Shabbos at the main farbrengen in honor of Yud Shevat. Although all three maamarim were largely the same ideas, the main transcript of the maamar we have on record is the one from Motzei Shabbos. Reb Yoel Kahn wrote some notes with specific details from the Friday night maamar that were not included in the Motzei Shabbos maamar. These notes were included in 19 footnotes throughout the maamar printed in the set of Toras Menachem - Basi Legani published by Vaad Hanachos B'Lahak.

Towards the end of the maamar the Rebbe discusses the tremendous treasures given from Above to win the war to bring Moshiach. On this, there is a note which begins with the following statement:

יש להוסיף, שבענין האוצרות דלמעלה נכלל גם כללות הענין
דהתגלות אלקות ע"י צדיקים, ובפרט ע"י נשיא הדור...

The concept of the "treasures from Above" includes the general idea of divine revelation through Tzaddikim, especially through the Nossi Hador...

Such a definition for the Heavenly treasures we learn about in the Basi Legani maamarim was new to me and quite refreshing in my present situation, as I needed special miracles. A few minutes later I found a ride to the Ohel. In my note to the Rebbe I asked for success in fundraising the money necessary for the girls to participate in the banquet and I quoted this line from the maamar I had just learned, asking the Rebbe for a special miracle and made a commitment to publicize the miracles that would surely happen.

The program continued with tremendous success and, although a significant sum was still missing, the Kinus organizers graciously allowed the girls to participate, trusting that I would pull through with my commitment. After the banquet, I accompanied a small group of girls who needed to leave earlier than the rest of the group to JFK Airport. I was on such a spiritual high from

the success of the Kvutza and especially since once again they were able to participate in the banquet, so instead of returning to Crown Heights, I decided to come to the Ohel where I ended up learning and talking with Rabbi Sholom Ber Kesselman from England. I shared with him my personal feelings about the trip and the fact that I still needed to fundraise several thousand dollars before my return to Eretz Yisroel the next day. "But I am sure it will all work out tomorrow. If you meet me before my flight, ask me how it went," I said with complete sincerity.

Early in the morning, I returned to Crown Heights and as I approached the corner of Kingston and Eastern Parkway on my way to 770 I met Rabbi Mendel Kotlarsky and the tzedakah agent of a generous chossid who donates annually to our cause, who I was unable to reach until then.

All three of us greeted each other and Rabbi Mendel Kotlarsky asked me if I was ready to pay my bill. We entered his office and I suggested that since this tzedakah agent would surely arrange a generous donation for our cause, he should discuss it directly with Rabbi Kotlarsky. They agreed and a short while later I was notified that half my bill was covered.

An hour later a friend of mine gave me the address of another wealthy chossid in Crown Heights whom I had never met before to fundraise from. The first time I rang the doorbell no one was home, but after taking care of last-minute errands I tried one last time, was greeted with a smile, and after several minutes left with a generous donation that covered the rest of our bill, plus extra!

Rushing to my final errand before heading out to the airport I met Rabbi Kesselman on the street.

"Nu? How did it all work out?" he asked me with a smile.

"Even better than I expected!" **T**

YOUR STORY

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