



THE REBBE DEPARTS FOR THE MIKVAH, 7 CHESHVAN 5750



LEVI FREIDIN VIA JEM 187891

A YEAR OF MIRACLES

Cheshvan 5750

We continue with some of the special occurrences of the year 5750 – Shnas Nissim, this time focusing on the month of Cheshvan.

One thing that stood out conspicuously in Cheshvan was the fact that the Rebbe had begun wearing a silk kapota every day, something previously reserved for Shabbos, Yom Tov, and special occasions. The Rebbe had actually made this change earlier, from the beginning of the new year, but it was mostly noticed at the beginning of Cheshvan, once the month of Tishrei and its Yomim Tovim came to a close.

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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
ת"נצ"ב'ה'



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





CHAIM BARUCH HALBERSTAM VIA JEM 32929

HATOMIM MORDECHAI FARKASH PRESENTS HIS FATHER'S SEFER TO THE REBBE.



CHAIM BARUCH HALBERSTAM VIA JEM 32931

BROTHERS VELVEL AND MORDECHAI FARKASH WITH THE REBBE.

Sunday Dollars

As he would every month, the Rebbe spent hours every Sunday greeting thousands of people and giving each one a dollar for tzedakah and a *bracha*. This was also an opportunity for people to approach the Rebbe with questions and requests, and interesting conversations often ensued. Below are some excerpts from these interactions:

SUNDAY, 7 CHESHVAN

Two brothers, Velvel and Mordechai Farkash, passed by the Rebbe and presented the most recent *sefer* of their father's, Rabbi Yekusiel Farkash, a translation of *Machasheves HaTahara* into English.

The Rebbe opened the *sefer* and said (confirming), "Rabbi Farkash from Yerushalayim." Rabbi Groner pointed out that it was an English edition, and the Rebbe repeated after him, "In English!" (indicating his satisfaction). The Rebbe asked if it was already available in stores, and when he was told that it was, the Rebbe responded, "*Oib azoi is duch gut...*" (Very well then). The Rebbe handed them another dollar, and Velvel asked the Rebbe for a *bracha* that their father should not have to worry about *parnassa*. The Rebbe replied: "Worries? They only disrupt [from his work]."

A Lubavitcher woman passed by with her nephew who was strengthening his commitment to Yiddishkeit, saying "He used to be not so good, but now he is doing good. He davens three times a day." The Rebbe responded: "He was always good. Now he is even better!"

The Mayor of Bnei Brak, Rabbi Moshe Orenstein, approached the Rebbe, and discussed various matters pertaining to his city. His son, who was with him, had recently been in an accident and had trouble putting Tefillin on his arm. The Rebbe asked the father, "What does he do about Tefillin?" The father did not know the answer. The son explained that he only puts Tefillin on his head. The Rebbe turned to the father and said, "Even when your son is 119 years old, you should always know which hand he puts Tefillin on!"

SUNDAY, 14 CHESHVAN

Israeli Cabinet Secretary, Mr. Elyakim Rubinstein, approached the Rebbe and said that he had come to the States to arrange a meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Shamir and President Bush, and was asking for the Rebbe's *bracha*. The Rebbe told him to instruct Mr.

Shamir to stand firm on the integrity of Eretz Yisroel. After all, he was the only one who stood up against the land concessions of the Camp David Accords; he must stand strong now as well. He need not do so out of mere stubbornness; he can explain to them that this is crucial for our very survival. Remind them, said the Rebbe, that the United States at its founding also stood up to other nations like England and France, because she understood that it was crucial for her survival.

SUNDAY, 21 CHESHVAN

A woman from France passed by and told the Rebbe: "I came in special all the way from France. My son is sick..."

The Rebbe: "The Torah is concerned about Jewish people's money."

Woman: "But my son is sick!"

The Rebbe: "Your son is healthy!"

(The woman didn't understand what the Rebbe said, and she repeated that her son is sick.)

The Rebbe: "Nu, may there be good news."

(Soon afterwards, the woman called home in France and found out that her son had miraculously begun recovering).

SUNDAY, 28 CHESHVAN

An individual publishing a *sefer* about Rashi on Chumash asked the Rebbe if he would mention an idea from his new *sefer* at a farbrengen, and the Rebbe responded, "I have already mentioned you at the *Tziyun...*"

The Scharf Children

An interesting occurrence in the Rebbe's presence this year, beginning in the month of Tishrei, was the Rebbe's care of, and attention to, the Scharf children, whose father had passed away right before Yom Kippur on 8 Tishrei. Each day when the Rebbe came in for davening, he had the children stand right near his place, often looking at them during davening and encouraging them on his way in and out of shul.

On Sunday, 14 Cheshvan, Mrs. Scharf brought her children to the Rebbe for dollars, celebrating the youngest child's *upshernish*. The Rebbe asked if today was his actual birthday, and proceeded to cut his hair, saying, "We need to make sure he won't be afraid of me." The Rebbe blessed Mrs. Scharf with much Chassidische *nachas* from all the



THE REBBE CUTS THE HAIR OF SHOLOM SCHARF ON THE OCCASION OF HIS UPSHERNISH.



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children, and waved his hand in encouragement when the oldest boy passed by.

The next day, the youngest boy joined his brothers for Maariv with the Rebbe for the first time after his haircut. The Rebbe gazed deeply at the child a few times throughout the davening, and upon leaving the shul, the Rebbe waited until the child looked back at him, and then waved his hand towards the boy.

On Thursday, 18 Cheshvan, the Rebbe returned from the Ohel and came into the shul for Mincha and Maariv. While saying Ashrei, the Rebbe looked towards the Scharf boys and waited until the oldest boy turned around to notice that the Rebbe was looking, then the Rebbe gave

him a small nod, as if greeting him.

On Shabbos Parshas Vayera, Chof Cheshvan, when the *Aron Kodesh* was opened for *Krias HaTorah*, the Scharf boys were looking at the Rebbe, but the Rebbe pointed in the direction of the *Aron*, indicating that they should look there instead.

Shabbos Farbrengens

As is his custom over the past years, the Rebbe farbrenged every Shabbos, with many beautiful *sichos* and interesting occurrences each time.

On Shabbos Parshas Noach, the Rebbe began by stating that this is the first ordinary Shabbos of the year, and he therefore would like to remind everyone once again about the importance of gathering together each Shabbos to study Torah—a practice instituted by Moshe Rabbeinu. (The Rebbe had spoken about this at the surprise farbrengen of Rosh Hashanah, the first Shabbos of the year.)

Almost the entire farbrengen was dedicated to this subject. In the second *sicha*, the Rebbe took this a step further saying that even if one spends Shabbos alone, or in the presence of non-Jews, he should take time on Shabbos to do a “gathering” within himself, bringing together the “*esser kochos hanefesh*” (the 10 intellectual and emotional faculties of the soul).

The next Shabbos, Parshas Lech Lecha, the Rebbe spoke about this again.

It was a very special farbrengen in many ways: The Rebbe spoke much louder than he has been in recent months, and the presence of a large group of French-Canadian guests from Montreal made things very lively. During the second *sicha*, the Rebbe spoke about this group, concluding that, “The guests should create a storm (“*mach’n ah tumel*”); give them *l’chaim!*” The group sang the *niggun* of *Ha’aders V’ha’emuna* (to the tune of the French anthem), and the Rebbe vigorously encouraged their singing.

The Rebbe also added more detailed instructions as to what to study at the weekly Shabbos gatherings he’s been speaking about, explaining that it should be something on the weekly Parsha. The Rebbe said that because the objective of the gathering is to bring people together, the best thing to study is *Pnimiyus haTorah*, the soul of the Torah, that unites us all. *Maamarim* should be chosen for each Parsha, for example the *maamarim* of the Tzemach Tzedek in Ohr HaTorah, which cover every Parsha of the year.

The Rebbe concluded the farbrengen with a very interesting new *hora’ah*:

In addition to increasing Torah study as stated, there should also be an increase in giving tzedakah. Every educational institution and every organization in general should get together once a week and give each of their students or employees a coin for tzedakah. Best would be to have this done on Friday, before everyone leaves for Shabbos, this way the students and employees will bring the coins home and encourage family members to give tzedakah as well.

Interestingly, the Rebbe added that this should be done in non-Jewish organizations too. According to many opinions, the mitzvah of tzedakah is included in the *Sheva Mitzvos Bnei Noach*, and it is the bedrock of a healthy society in general. In this country especially, we have seen how tzedakah is practiced by the non-Jews as a most important value.

Kinus Hashluchim

Towards the end of the month, the International Kinus Hashluchim took place, bringing a festive mood to 770.

On Tuesday, 23 Cheshvan, the Rebbe went home for the first time in a while (the Rebbe had been staying at 770 most of the time in those years), and stayed there till Friday afternoon.

When the Rebbe davened Shacharis at his home on Friday morning, only the Shluchim were allowed in.

Later that day, the Rebbe came down for Mincha in his house wearing new shoes for the first time in over 20 years!

After Mincha, the Rebbe left for 770, where he would spend Shabbos.

On Shabbos afternoon, the Rebbe held a farbrengen as usual, dedicating much of the *sichos* to the subject of the Kinus Hashluchim and *shlichus* in general.

The Rebbe also spoke about the Siyum HaRambam taking place this week (the conclusion of the sixth cycle of *Shloscha Perokim* and the second cycle of *Perek E Chad*) encouraging everyone to join and not to think that their presence there is not needed.

In the last *sicha*, the Rebbe gave a special instruction about the Kinus Hashluchim: An album should be published with photographs of all the Shluchim and their families, as well as *divrei Torah* shared during the Kinus. In this manner, when they return to their posts, they’ll remind themselves about the time they were together with everyone in unity at the Kinus. Even the children, who may not understand what is written in the book, will be able to enjoy the photographs and gain inspiration from them.

Towards the end of the farbrengen, the Rebbe distributed bottles of *mashke* to people making events in the coming week. Due to the Kinus Hashluchim, the Rebbe distributed a total of 35 bottles, for events that included: the Rosh Chodesh Kislev *seuda* at 770; the Siyum HaRambam taking place on Sunday in Manhattan;



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RABBI YEHUDA KRINSKY DISTRIBUTES MASHKE FROM THE REBBE TO THE SHLUCHIM.



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MR. DAVID CHASE ADDRESSES THE KINUS.



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THE SHLUCHIM GATHER FOR THE ANNUAL GROUP PHOTO.

THE KINUS
HASHLUCHIM 5750
BANQUET IN THE
OHOLEI TORAH
BALLROOM.



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the Siyum HaRambam taking place in Morocco, and more. For the Siyum in Morocco, Reb Leibel Raskin approached to take the bottle, and when he announced the purpose of the bottle, the Rebbe said that he should add that this bottle would also be distributed at the Siyum HaRambam in the house in Morocco where the Rambam had lived! The Rebbe also gave a small bottle of *mashke* to Hatomim Yossi Hodakov, to give to his grandfather, the Rebbe's *mazkir*.

At the end of the farbrengen the Rebbe gave the plate of Mezonos to Rabbi Shmuel Butman to be distributed at Sunday's Siyum HaRambam.

On Sunday afternoon, while Rabbi Krinsky was driving the Rebbe to the Ohel, the Rebbe asked him, "*Al mi natashta hamelucha?*" (With whom did you leave the rulership—i.e. the responsibility for the Kinus Hashluchim). Rabbi Krinsky responded that all the shluchim had gone to Manhattan to participate in the grand Siyum HaRambam, and the Rebbe said that he had already heard an initial report that the distinguished rabbis and guests have already arrived. Rabbi Krinsky said that it seems like the venue is too small; people are lining up outside awaiting their turn to enter.

That night, the Rebbe spoke a beautiful *sicha* about the Kinus Hashluchim Ha'Olamim, beginning with the fact that he considered it a personal "*zechus*" to be able to participate in the Kinus. The Rebbe spoke about the tremendous influence of the shluchim all over the world, as the name

of the conference suggests "*Olamim*"—international (lit.: the world-over), including influence over the non-Jewish world to live a more divine life, with justice and charity.

Following the *sicha*, the Rebbe distributed dollars. Although the distributions after Maariv are generally very quick and not a time for conversations, this time the Rebbe spoke to a few individuals:

Harav Pinchas Hirschprung of Montreal, who had spoken at the Siyum HaRambam in Manhattan approached the Rebbe, and reported about how successful the event had been, and what a Kiddush Hashem and Kiddush Lubavitch it was. The Rebbe said [that although he already heard reports] it was something else to hear it from one of the "*baalei simcha*" themselves.

Mr. David Chase, who was scheduled to address the Kinus Hashluchim later that evening, approached the Rebbe. The Rebbe held his hand warmly and spoke with him for a while, wishing him success with his speech. Mr. Chase told the Rebbe that he thinks about the Rebbe every day, and that when he does, it reminds him to always strive to do more and better.

When Rabbi Shlomo Cunin approached, the Rebbe waved his hand in encouragement; then after he walked a few steps away the Rebbe looked back at him and waved his hand several more times.

Thus concluded a special month in the Rebbe's presence in the year of "Shnas Nissim." **1**