





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



A YEAR OF MIRACLES

Forty Years Strong

In a packed shul filled with thousands of Chassidim who came from every corner of the globe, Maariv comes to a close and the Rebbe ascends the *bima* and approaches the *shtender* to address the crowd. Not just the local crowd, but a global audience is in attendance as well, as the Rebbe's voice will be carried by hookup to hundreds of locations around the world.

Silence prevails across the room. The Rebbe begins in a loud voice, "*Vayehi b'arbaim shana...*" It's forty years since the *hilula-histalkus* of the [Frierdiker] Rebbe...

This month, we continue the story of Shnas Nissim,—5750 reliving the special day of Yud Shevat, marking 40 years of the Rebbe's *nesius*.

COMPILED BY: RABBI YANKY BELL

WRITTEN BY: RABBI MENDEL JACOBS

JEM 236223



ON THE EVE OF YUD SHEVAT, RABBI YOSEF GUTNICK PRESENTS THE REBBE WITH AN ALBUM SHOWING CHABAD'S ACTIVITIES IN ERETZ YISROEL.

Fever-Pitch Preparations

Excitement was in the air as Yud Shevat drew nearer. Chassidim around the world busied themselves with preparations.

On the first Shabbos of the month—Shabbos Parshas Vaera, Rosh Chodesh Shevat, the Rebbe called on everyone to found new *mosdos*—institutions of Torah, Tefillah, and Tzedakah, in honor of the forty-year milestone. The Rebbe announced that anyone who would undertake to found a new *mosad* would receive a participation in the amount of forty from “*Kuppas Rabbeinu*”—thereby connecting all the new *mosdos* with the Rebbe, *Nessi Doreinu*.

During the week leading up to Yud Shevat, the Rebbe delivered several surprise *sichos* reminding everyone of the impending milestone.

On 6 Shevat, the Rebbe was given a report that the *bochurim* planned to arrange shifts of 40 hours of consecutive study in honor of Yud Shevat, beginning on Motzei Shabbos, 8 Shevat, and continuing through the morning of Yud Shevat, learning the Rebbe's Torah. The Rebbe gave an encouraging response in writing.

On the Friday before Yud Shevat, Crown Heights was packed with thousands of guests arriving from around the world to celebrate Yud Shevat with the Rebbe.

On Friday night, when the chazzan reached the words “*Arbaim shana*” (40 years) in the first paragraph of Kabbalas Shabbos, he spontaneously began singing the joyous *hakafo*s *niggun* of the Rebbe's father, and the whole crowd joined in with the Rebbe's encouragement.

On Sunday, Erev Yud Shevat, the Rebbe gave out

dollars as usual, only that this week a much larger number of visitors were in attendance. As a result, the distribution ended much later than intended, and the Rebbe did not end up going to the Ohel as the initial plan had been.

After davening Mincha with the crowd downstairs, the Rebbe came up to his room, where a delegation of Chassidim headed by Rabbi Yosef Gutnick of Melbourne and Rabbi Leibel Kaplan of Tzfas were waiting. They gave the Rebbe an album about Chabad's latest activities in Eretz Yisroel, along with a collection of letters with well-wishes from members of the Israeli government. The Rebbe received the gift and gave them a *bracha* in return for about two minutes.

Vayehi B'Arbaim Shana

At 6:15pm, the Rebbe entered the big shul for Maariv of Yud Shevat. The Rebbe led the davening at the *amud* on the ground floor, and then ascended the steps to the *bima* where he usually davened and began to say a *sicha* with the words “*Vayehi b'arbaim shana...*”—it is now forty years since the *hilula-histalkus* of the [Frierdiker] Rebbe.

The theme of the *sicha* was based on the *possuk* that he had often been quoting over the past year: “נתן ה' ללם 'וג' לב לדעת ועינים לראות ואזנים לשמע וג'”—after 40 years in the desert, Moshe Rabbeinu tells the Jewish people that Hashem has finally given them a heart to know, eyes to see, and ears to hear. The Rebbe connected it with the *avoda* of “Chabad”—working through one's intellect to affect the emotions and actions.

Interestingly, the Rebbe mentioned the *maamar*

from the Rebbe Rashab known as “*V’yadaata—Moskva*” (Moscow), pointing out the irony that a *maamar* containing the deepest concepts of *Elokus* could be associated with a non-Jewish city that oppressed its Jewish inhabitants for so many years. This demonstrates how the concealment of *Elokus* itself is also part of *Elokus*, and how all the hardships and difficulties for Yiddishkeit in Moscow would eventually come to an end. (This *sicha* was heard live in Moscow in real time!)

After the *sicha*, the Rebbe distributed dollars for about an hour.

Later in the evening, a grand farbrengen took place at 770 until the wee hours of the morning, addressed by distinguished Chassidim and guests from around the world.

On the morning of Yud Shevat, the Rebbe once again davened at the *amud*. Shortly afterwards, the Rebbe walked out of 770 to leave for the *mikvah*, while a parade of 40 mitzvah tanks was making its way down Eastern Parkway to Manhattan. Instead of going straight into the car, the Rebbe walked towards the Parkway and stopped right at the curb of the service lane, gazing intently at the tanks with a look of pleasure on his holy face.

Once all the tanks were gone, the Rebbe walked back to the car and left for the *mikvah*, and then to the Ohel, where he stayed for some five hours.

Upon returning from the Ohel, the Rebbe led Mincha, after which he returned to his regular davening place for Maariv. Then the Rebbe delivered a short *sicha*, saying that now that we have entered the period after 40 years, when we truly begin understanding the teachings of our Rebbe, it is an opportune time to study Chabad

Chassidus—beginning with the Tanya. Therefore, the Rebbe said he would distribute a Tanya, the “*Torah Shebiksav*” of Chabad Chassidus, along with a dollar for tzedakah to each and every person present.

As the distribution began, the Rebbe pointed to the people who had already received a Tanya to move on and clear the space around him, saying that he could handle the situation on his own. A few times throughout the night, whenever there was too much pushing or unnecessary noise, the Rebbe turned to Rabbi Leibel Groner and asked him to verify what the tumult was about. At one point, the Rebbe told someone to get down from a table. Overall, however, the Rebbe was in very good spirits, smiling to many of the people passing by. There were two young children sitting near the Rebbe and playing with the Tanyas they had received, and the Rebbe told Rabbi Groner, “Why are they playing with *seforim*? Give



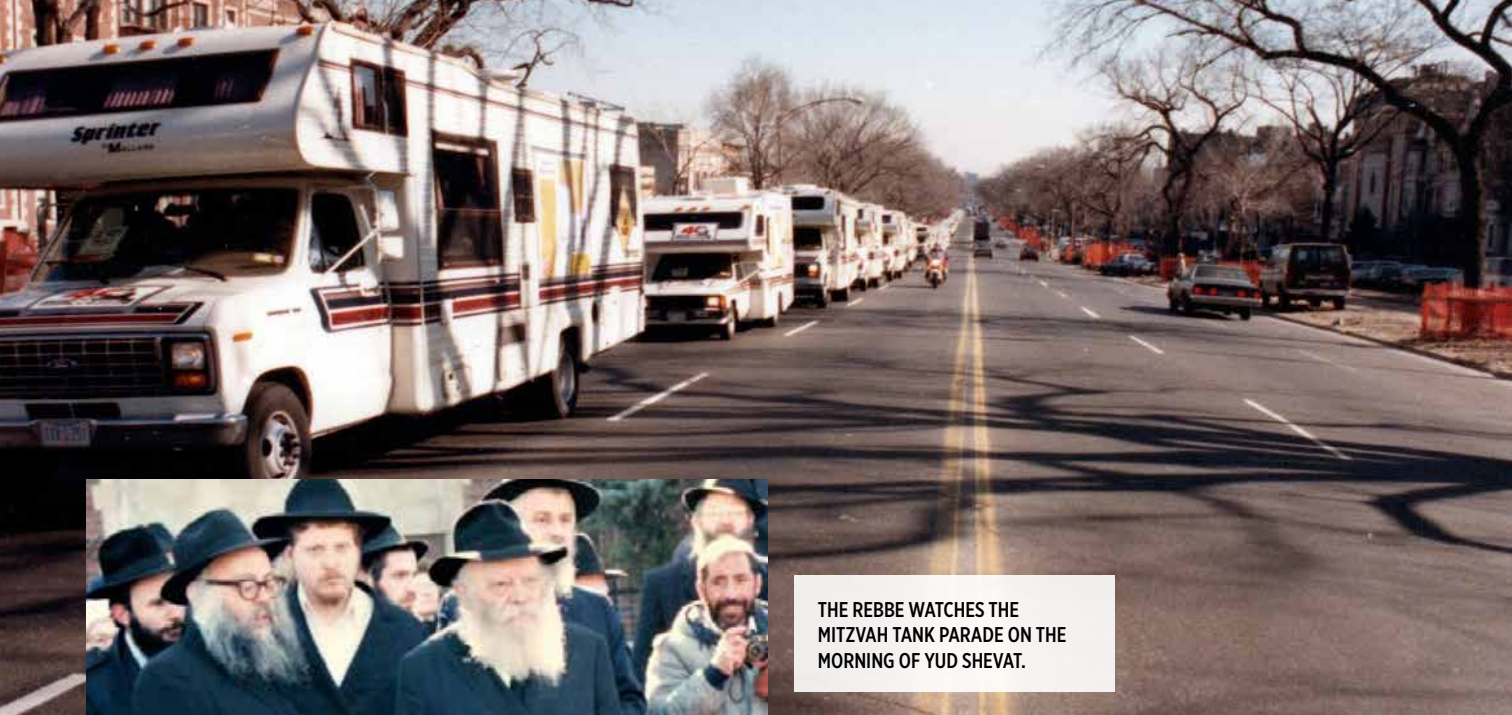
THE REBBE DISTRIBUTING DOLLARS ON THE NIGHT OF YUD SHEVAT 5750.

LEVI FREIDIN VIA JEM 235896



RABBI ADIN EVEN-YISROEL (STEINSALTZ), REB LEIBEL RASKIN AND REB NOTEH BARKAHN DANCING AT THE GRAND FARBRENGEN OF YUD SHEVAT 5750

LEVI FREIDIN VIA JEM 236062



THE REBBE WATCHES THE MITZVAH TANK PARADE ON THE MORNING OF YUD SHEVAT.

One year earlier, on the Rebbetzin's first *yahrtzeit*, members of N'shei Ubnos Chabad held a special conference in memory of the Rebbetzin, and the Rebbe asked them to publish an album about the event. This year, about three weeks before Chof-Beis Shevat, the Rebbe asked to ensure that the album would be ready in time for the *yahrtzeit*.

On Thursday, 20 Shevat, the Rebbe was given a copy of the album, and the Rebbe took it along with him to the Ohel, skimming through it during the ride there. Two days later at the Shabbos farbrengen, the Rebbe spoke about the album, and how it perpetuates the impact of the conference for a long time afterward.

On Friday, Erev Shabbos Chof-Beis Shevat, the Rebbe went to the Ohel again, returning only about half an hour before candle lighting.

That night, the Rebbe davened Kabbalas Shabbos at the *amud*, as well as Shacharis, Mussaf and Mincha of Shabbos day.

At the farbrengen on Shabbos afternoon the Rebbe spoke about the Rebbetzin, drawing lessons in *avodas Hashem* from both her names—"Chaya" and "Mushka." The Rebbe also spoke about the special qualities of Jewish women and their ability to positively influence their surroundings with a gentle, feminine approach.

At the end, the Rebbe called on everyone to increase in giving *tzedakah* in honor of the *yahrtzeit* by contributing in amounts equivalent to the *gematria* of the Rebbetzin's name—470.

The next day, on Sunday afternoon, the Rebbe went

them a toy instead!"

The distribution continued past midnight, during which the Rebbe handed out more than 10,000 Tanyas. Finally at 12:20 a.m. the Rebbe was ready to leave, and he asked Rabbi Groner to announce that whoever hadn't yet received a Tanya should come by. Some latecomers indeed took advantage of the announcement and were able to receive Tanyas before the Rebbe went back upstairs.

As the Rebbe left the shul, he saw Dr. Ira Weiss in the crowd and, with a smile, showed the doctor his pulse. When the Rebbe went back into his room, Dr. Weiss came with him and spent some time there with the Rebbe.

Chof-Beis Shevat

This month also has another *yahrtzeit*—the second *yahrtzeit* of Rebbetzin Chaya Mushka.

to the Ohel, and upon his return, the Rebbe announced that all *mosdos* are able to apply for a grant from the special fund set up in memory of the Rebbetzin — “Keren HaChomesh.” The Rebbe added, however, that only those *mosdos* which are worthy of being called a true “*mosad*” will be included.

The Rebbe then asked Rabbi Groner to announce where people could turn if they would like to receive the funds. Rabbi Groner announced that they should call Rabbi Yehuda Krinsky. Later, the Rebbe asked him to announce that in order to receive a grant, the administrator of each *mosad* should bring a written approbation from their local *rabbanim* or from the Rebbe’s *Mazkirus*.

Farbrengens

This month was unique in the fact that it contained 5 Shabbos farbrengens! The first one took place on Shabbos Parshas Va’era, 1 Shevat, and the fifth one on the second to the last day of the month, Shabbos Parshas Mishpatim, 29 Shevat.

The farbrengens were filled with words of encouragement to prepare for the upcoming big day of Yud Shevat, and deep explanations on the *possuk* “נתן ה' לכם לב לדעת” “וְיַעֲזִיבוּ לְרֵאוֹת וְאֲזַנִּים לְשִׁמְעַע וְגו'.”

On Shabbos Parshas Bo, two days before Yud Shevat, the Rebbe used his explanation on this *possuk* to address a question on many people’s minds. The Rebbe said:

“Many people have asked: What is the special *avoda*

incumbent upon each and every individual now that we have reached the forty-year mark?”

By analyzing the *possuk*, the Rebbe said that the message is clear: Every person must recreate themselves into a new being, a “*metzius chadasha*.” In simple words: the person who you were yesterday becomes a completely new individual today! Doing so, not only will we be able to live differently and on a higher level after the forty-year mark, we will actually be able to elevate all of the past forty years and bring them up to our new, higher level as well.

Towards the end of the farbrengen, the Rebbe reiterated this message, adding that in addition to making of oneself a new being, each person should also create a new *mosad* (as he had already mentioned in the previous week) in honor of the forty-year milestone.

The following Shabbos was Chamisha Asar B’Shevat, and the Rebbe’s table was filled with four platters of fruit in honor of the special day. The Rebbe ate a very small portion of the fruit (one grape and one fig), and told Rabbi Groner to distribute the rest to people in the crowd.

The Rebbe spoke two *sichos* about the lessons in *avodas Hashem* that we can learn from each of the seven fruit of Eretz Yisroel, discussing each one in detail. Then the Rebbe turned to a group of guests, saying, “There are many guests here; several ‘*minyanim*’ of guests from Montreal. They should say *l’chaim* together with their leader.” Then the Rebbe smiled, “There are many other guests too; they should also say *l’chaim*!”



AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE TANYAS THE REBBE EXITS THE SHUL, TAKING A TANYA WITH HIM. DOCTOR IRA WEISS CAN BE SEEN STANDING RIGHT BEHIND THE REBBE.

LEVI FREIDIN VIA JEM 238244



CHAIM BARUCH HALBERSTAM VIA JEM 38785

THE CHOZER REB YOEL KAHN RECEIVING A DOLLAR FROM THE REBBE ON 2 SHEVAT.



LEVI FREIDIN VIA JEM 235593

MAYOR OF NEW YORK, MR. DAVID DINKINS, ACCOMPANIED BY MR. ROBERT ABRAMS, VISITS THE REBBE DURING THE DOLLARS DISTRIBUTION ON 9 SHEVAT.

The final farbrengen of the month, on Shabbos Parshas Mishpatim, Erev Rosh Chodesh Adar, was remembered as one of the most joyous farbrengens of the entire year. Between the *sichos*, the Rebbe encouraged the singing vigorously. The look on the Rebbe's face was very intense—like he was pushing very hard to exude *simcha* (similar to the look during *hakafos* on Simchas Torah).

Dollars

On each Sunday this month, the Rebbe distributed dollars as usual. Only this month the number of visitors was significantly higher due to the guests who came for Yud Shevat.

On Sunday, 2 Shevat, a woman came to the Rebbe and said, "My only request from Hashem is that the Rebbe should be well and have long, healthy years!" The Rebbe smiled and said, "You are the first person I've seen who only has one request. May Hashem help you to have good news."

The *chozer*, Reb Yoel Kahn, came to the Rebbe, and Rabbi Groner told the Rebbe that he is leaving for London to participate in the Siyum HaRambam there. The Rebbe gave Reb Yoel an extra dollar and said, "Give this to tzedakah in England, may [your trip] be with much success."

Then the Rebbe gave him a third dollar, saying, "Presumably, at the farbrengens that take place during the week there will be a tzedakah box on the table. Put this in the tzedakah box on my behalf."

An individual asked the Rebbe for a *bracha* for good health, and the Rebbe said: "You are already healthy; you just need to be even healthier, and then you'll be able to do even more." When this person asked for a *bracha* for a shidduch, the Rebbe said, "When you get a shidduch,

you become healthier."

Another person told the Rebbe that he hopes to get many *brachos* for success, and the Rebbe said, "You have all the *brachos* already. You just need to cash them in!"

The NYC Police Commissioner, Mr. Lee Brown, came to the Rebbe, and the Rebbe told him, "When it comes to healing, the best approach is to seek preventive measures, thereby avoiding getting sick to begin with. The same is true for other areas of life [i.e. crime]." Mr. Brown said, "Yes, that's my philosophy too," and the Rebbe responded, "It shouldn't be just a philosophy; it must be translated into action."

On Sunday, 9 Shevat, the dollars distribution lasted a very long time, with many prominent visitors coming to see the Rebbe.

The Mayor of New York, Mr. David Dinkins came to see the Rebbe and wish him well in honor of 40 years of his leadership. He told the Rebbe that he was grateful for the Rebbe's prayers and blessings, which had been very helpful until that point. The Rebbe wished Mr. Dinkins "another 40 years as Mayor," and he replied, "I'll be happy with four." The Rebbe said, "That will be a good beginning..."

Attorney General Robert Abrams (who had a long-standing relationship with the Rebbe) was with the Mayor, and presented a proclamation on behalf of New York State in honor of the Rebbe's leadership. The Rebbe gave him *brachos* for his work, as well as Mrs. Abrams, who was present as well.

Rabbi Chaim Gutnick of Australia came by and gave the Rebbe a proclamation on behalf of the Prime Minister of Australia. "We know that in the end, the Rebbe's leadership will extend over the whole world," he said. "For now,



CHAIM BARUCH HALBERSTAM VIA JEW 39203

RABBI CHAIM GUTNICK AND RABBI LEVI SHEMTOV PRESENTING THE REBBE WITH A PROCLAMATION ON BEHALF OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA.

we know that ‘the fifth continent’ [Australia] is already under the Rebbe’s jurisdiction.” The Rebbe thanked Rabbi Gutnick and asked if this was his doing. Rabbi Gutnick pointed to Levi Shemtov [still a *bochur* at the time] and said that he was the one who had arranged it. Levi Shemtov asked the Rebbe for a *bracha* that we should always be able to fulfill the Rebbe’s wishes, and the Rebbe responded, “My most important wish is that Moshiach should come. You most probably heard me speak about that.”

On Sunday, 16 Shevat, the Rebbe was visited by an individual from South Africa who was a bit worried by the unrest in the country. The Rebbe told him to convey that no one should be afraid in that country because Moshiach is coming soon. Until Moshiach comes, it will be good [in South Africa], and after Moshiach comes, it will be even better.

On Sunday, 30 Shevat (Rosh Chodesh Adar), an individual asked the Rebbe for a *bracha*, and the Rebbe said, “You already have a *bracha*. It says that when Adar comes, we must increase in joy. If you fulfill this, Hashem will make sure that you have even more to be happy about.”

Levaya

On Tuesday, 4 Shevat, the Rebbe participated in the funeral procession of Reb Yitzchok Aizik Kleinberg, a cousin of the Rebbe and Rebbetzin (his wife’s maiden name is Schneerson). The Rebbe saw the female members of the family and asked Rabbi Groner, “Are they joining?” to which he answered that they were not. The Rebbe said that they should join the procession from the side. A

question arose about when to perform *kriah* (tearing the clothes), since some of the children would not be at the burial in Yerushalayim, and it was decided that they should do it now. The Rebbe gazed intently as they performed *kriah*, then followed the *aron* across Kingston Avenue. After all the cars of the procession were out of sight, the Rebbe returned to 770.

Maanos

Some of the Rebbe’s written responses this month:

On 18 Shevat, Rabbi Gelbstein from Yerushalayim asked the Rebbe if he should return to Eretz Yisroel with his original ticket on Air Panama, since a terrorist group had announced that they planned an attack on an American airline. The Rebbe responded:

בכגון דא שב ואל תעשה עדיף, אזכיר עה"צ

In such instances, it's better to stay put and not do anything. I will mention this at the Ohel.

Rabbi Sholom D. Wolpe wrote to the Rebbe that the manuscript of his *sefer*, “*Yedaber Sholom*” vol. II, was ready, but that he didn’t have the peace of mind necessary to prepare it for publishing. The Rebbe replied:

כבר ניתן לו מזמור רב וכמש"נ מאויבי (דחב"ד) תכחמי – שאין להם מנוחה וק"ל.

You have already been given [the peace of mind to get it done] long ago, as the *possuk* says, “From my enemies (the enemies of Chabad) I grow wiser — just like they [the enemies of Chabad] don’t rest [in their quarrels with us, so too you must remain steadfast in your activities]. This is easy to understand.

Rabbi Wolpe asked the Rebbe for advice about what to do with the great responsibility of the organizations he heads, and the Rebbe wrote:

להמשיך בהוספה מתאים למש"נ : נתן'ה לכם כו'

Continue your work and add to it, in accordance with the *possuk* [about the 40 years milestone]: Hashem has [now] given you [a heart to know] etc.

He asked for a *bracha* to be able to return to Eretz Yisroel and continue his holy work with joy and peace of mind. The Rebbe circled “holy work” and added

בהוספה

With an increase.

He asked the Rebbe how to deal with a certain complicated situation regarding a major donor, underscoring that he was asking for a clear response from the Rebbe. The Rebbe circled “clear response” and wrote:

בהתייעצות בידידים מבינים, בסגנון זהו אופן ברור.

Seek the counsel of wise friends. As far as I am concerned, that is a clear response. **T**