



THE REBBE BURNS THE CHAMETZ
ON EREV PESACH 5750.

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"נ צ"ב ה'



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



A YEAR OF MIRACLES

The Month of Redemption

The month of Nissan—the month of *Geulah*—
is a very special time in the Rebbe's presence,
where the light of *Geulah* shines throughout the
whole year. We turn to the month of Nissan—in
the year of Nissim—with the Rebbe—5750.

COMPILED BY: RABBI YANKY BELL

WRITTEN BY: RABBI MENDEL JACOBS

CHAIM BARUCH HALBERSTAM, A. JEW. 4263

The Apple of His Eye

On the first Shabbos of the month, Shabbos Parshas Vayikra, the Rebbe held a memorable farbrengen. Just a few days earlier, a well-known rabbi in Eretz Yisroel had given a widely publicized address in which he spoke ill of many Jewish people in our generation. The Rebbe responded fiercely, decrying the fact that a person could speak so freely about Hashem's precious children. The Haftarah of the week begins with the words "*Am zu yatzarti lee, tehilasee yesapeiru*—I have formed this nation for Me, they shall speak My praises..." No matter their standing in Torah observance, the Rebbe explained, Hashem still refers to them as "My nation."

Furthermore: Every Jew, by mere existence, speaks the praises of Hashem. "Especially in this generation," the Rebbe continued, "after so many of our people were wiped out [in the Holocaust], every Jew that is left in the world, carrying on as the Jewish progeny, is a living miracle. Just by being alive in the world, they automatically speak the praises of Hashem..."

The Rebbe pointed out that it makes no difference what the speaker had in mind with his address. The only thing that matters is how his listeners hear and

understand it. Instead of speaking ill of huge sections of the Jewish people, this person should spend time bringing them closer to Yiddishkeit. But he doesn't have time; he spends his days eating, drinking, and sleeping, and the remainder of his hours are spent spreading the opposite of *ahavas Yisroel*.

This person is so busy establishing his authority and ensuring that everyone follows only him, that he forgot to look inside the Shulchan Aruch and inside the Siddur and see what a person is supposed to say every day before davening: That we accept upon ourselves the mitzvah to love your fellow as yourself.

In fact, this idea goes back all the way to *Torah Shebiksav*: Zecharya Hanavi says that "whoever lays a hand on you [the Jewish people] is touching the apple of His eye."

Yeshayahu, one of the greatest of all the *nevi'im*, spoke in a derogatory manner about the Jewish people, and he was punished for it. After that, the vast majority of his words speak only positively about the Jewish people. In this way he shows us that even if someone accidentally speaks inappropriately about the Jews, he can always do *teshuva*.

The Rebbe continued on this subject for more than an hour, speaking with fire and passion, even lifting himself slightly from his chair every so often. Upon the



ROSH CHODESH NISSAN 5750.



conclusion of this *sicha*, a joyous *niggun* was sung, and the Rebbe stood up and danced at his place, clapping and waving his hands in all directions for a long while.

Several hours after Shabbos ended, the Rebbe edited a short synopsis of what he spoke about at the farbrengen, to be disseminated around the world, including in the Israeli newspapers.¹

Preparations

This month is unique; its first half is filled with preparation for the Rebbe's birthday on Yud-Aleph Nissan, and the Yom Tov of Pesach that follows closely afterward.

On the evening following Rosh Chodesh, the Rebbe came outside to the front of 770 to draw water for matzah baking—"mayim shelanu." The Rebbe filled a small glass cup with water from the designated faucet and poured it into a large glass jug, while Chassidim sang *Keili Ata* in the background.

Soon after, the Rebbe returned to his room. He then re-emerged and began distributing dollars for a while, at the place where he usually gives out dollars on Sundays.

On the night following Beis Nissan, *yahrtzeit* of the Rebbe Rashab, a farbrengen took place at 770 led by the *mashpi'im* of Tomchei Tmimim. The refreshments at this farbrengen included a special treat: Oranges sent by the Rebbe as his personal participation.

Matzah Distribution

On Thursday, 3 Nissan, the Rebbe distributed boxes of matzah to various representatives who would bring them to locations around the world in time for Pesach.

Seven cases of matzos arrived near the Rebbe's room. First, the Rebbe separated "challah," breaking off some matzah from the cases. Then the Rebbe gave packets of matzah to each of the representatives, including those traveling to Australia, London, Manchester, Brazil, Nepal,



THE REBBE DRAWING WATER FOR MAYIM SHELANU ON ROSH CHODESH NISSAN 5750.

CHAIM BARUCH HALBERSTAM VIA JEM 43651



CHAIM BARUCH HALBERSTAM VIA JEM 44039

THE REBBE DELIVERS A SURPRISE SICHÄ BEFORE THE DOLLARS DISTRIBUTION, 13 NISSAN 5750.



THE REBBE DISTRIBUTING THE KUNTRES ON 11 NISSAN 5750.

France, and Russia. To the one going to Manchester, the Rebbe gave an additional packet specifically for Reb Zalmon Jaffe. Each packet was accompanied by a copy of the Rebbe's recent *michtav kloli* and a dollar for tzedakah.

Reb Yosef Aharonov took 6 boxes of matzah for Eretz Yisroel, and the Rebbe gave him six *michtavim kloiyim*, instructing him to give them to the members of the committee who would deal with the matzah distribution. "Most probably they will give you one of the copies," the Rebbe said. But then the Rebbe took another copy and said, "I'll give you one on my own. *Hatzlacha rabba* with the trip for Tzeirei Agudas Chabad, and a *kosher un freilichen Pesach* for Tzeirei Agudas Chabad. *Besuros tovov*."

On his way out to the Ohel, the Rebbe saw Reb Yekusiel ("Kuty") Rapp, who arranges the shipment of the matzos with the El-Al airline. The Rebbe gave him a coin for tzedakah and said, "You probably took care of all the necessary arrangements."

After Maariv on Monday, 7 Nissan, the Rebbe went to his home on President Street and remained there until Shabbos.

Yud-Aleph Nissan

On Thursday, 10 Nissan, there was an event in Washington D.C. in honor of the Rebbe's birthday, hosted by American Friends of Lubavitch and attended by members of Congress and shluchim from around the world. After the event, many of the shluchim traveled to New

York to be with the Rebbe for Yud-Aleph Nissan.

In the morning, the Rebbe notified that he would distribute the most recently published *maamar*—Kuntres Yud-Aleph Nissan 5750—that evening, and requested that a special run of this booklet be printed for that purpose. The Rebbe spent the day at the Ohel, and upon his return, he came out to Mincha and Maariv on the first floor of his home.

After Maariv, Reb Zalman Gurary offered the Rebbe a bracha on behalf of all Chassidim in honor the Rebbe's 88th birthday. At the conclusion of his words, Reb Zalman mentioned that if the Rebbe would answer "*Amen, kein yehi ratzon*" to the bracha, it would certainly be fulfilled.

The Rebbe began his *sicha* in response to the bracha with a big smile, saying, "First of all: *Amen kein yehi ratzon...*" and continued speaking for about 7 minutes.

A long line formed outside the Rebbe's home, as he distributed the blue-covered booklet to thousands of men, women, and children. While the Rebbe distributed the *kuntreisim*, many people gave the Rebbe gifts in honor of his birthday; mostly *seforim* and *kovtzim* published for the occasion. Reb Dovid Nachshon gave the Rebbe keys to the recently rebuilt Ohalim in the town of Lubavitch.

At around 11:50 pm, the Rebbe concluded the distribution, but not before ensuring that everyone had already received their copy of the *maamar*.

The Rebbe spent most of the day on Friday, Yud-Aleph Nissan, at the Ohel.



KOS SHEL BRACHA, MOTZEI ACHARON SHEL PESACH 5750.

Shabbos Hagadol

On Shabbos Hagadol, 12 Nissan, the Rebbe held a farbrengen as usual. After the second sicha, Reb Yosef Neymotkin approached the Rebbe and asked for a piece of cake. Then he pointed at the crowd and said, “Rebbe, your children are asking you to say a *maamar Chassidus* tomorrow night.” (One year earlier, on the night of Erev Pesach, the Rebbe had delivered a *maamar* for the first time in more than three years.) The Rebbe smiled and said ‘Lchaim’ to Reb Yosef.

Towards the end of the farbrengen, the Rebbe gave a bottle of *mashke* to Wisconsin shluchim Rabbi Yisroel Shmotkin and Rabbi Yosef Samuels, for the dedication of a new Chabad house in Milwaukee. Rabbi Samuels announced that the celebration would take place at 8:00 in the morning on Erev Pesach, and the Rebbe asked, “Will there be enough time to finish the meal before it’s time to get rid of the *chametz*?” Rabbi Samuels answered that yes, the celebration will begin early and finish in time. The Rebbe responded, “So announce that it will be a *chametz* meal, this way people won’t think that they have to bring fruits or the like!” Rabbi Samuels announced that the celebration will have a *chametz* meal, and the Rebbe interjected, “With all the special qualities that *chametz* has...”

When Rabbi Samuels finished his announcement, the Rebbe delivered a short *sicha* about the *korban toda*, which included some breads that were specifically made of *chametz*.

Right before concluding the farbrengen, the Rebbe mentioned that tonight, 13 Nissan, is the *yahrtzeit* of the Tzemach Tzedek, and everyone should study selections of his Torah at least three times over the 24-hour period.

The farbrengen concluded at 3:55, followed by Mincha. After Mincha, the Rebbe sat down to recite selections of the Haggadah, as is customary, from large copies printed specially for the occasion.

On Sunday morning, 13 Nissan, the Rebbe approached the table in the lobby of 770 ready to distribute dollars, as he would on every Sunday. But instead of beginning with the distribution right away, he delivered a *sicha*. The Rebbe thanked everyone for all the good wishes they sent in honor of his birthday, and spoke for about 20 minutes, then went on to distribute dollars.

Erev Pesach

On the night of Erev Pesach, the Rebbe came out to the front of 770 again to draw water for *mayim shelanu*.

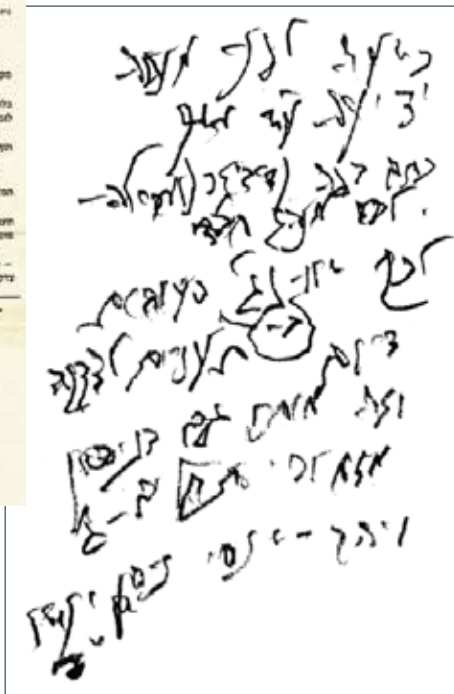
After Shacharis, the Rebbe went down to the boiler room to burn the *chametz* with a paper bag in hand.

In the late afternoon, the Rebbe distributed matzos for public *sedarim* in the United States and Canada, and then to members of the Kollel, who would distribute the matzos to *anash* in Crown Heights.

That night, the Rebbe conducted his seder alone in his room. At around 12:15 a.m., the Rebbe came out from the side door to recite *Shefoch Chamascha*.



THE REBBE'S EDITS ON THE "KOL KOREH" THAT WAS RELEASED AFTER THE SICHA.



THE REBBE'S NOTES OF THE SICHA ON 28 NISSAN 5750, ABOUT SPIRITUAL STEPS TO STRENGTHEN SECURITY:

כשעה לפני מנחה
ידיעה ע"ד אש"ף
כחם בפה (דיבור) ואכילה -
לבד מנהג חב"ד
לכך שוויי ב-ג' סעודות
דיום תענית לצדקה
וזה מותר גם בניסן
מזמורי תהילים - ג'
ויה"ר - שנסכי ניסים יעשו

ABOUT AN HOUR BEFORE MINCHA [WE RECEIVED] NOTIFICATION ABOUT THE PLO [THE JEWISH] STRENGTH IS IN THEIR MOUTHS (SPEECH [I.E. DAVENING] (AND EATING [I.E. FASTING]. [THIS IS] NOT IN LINE WITH CHABAD CUSTOM [WHICH DISCOURAGES FASTING]. THEREFORE [INSTEAD PEOPLE SHOULD GIVE] THE VALUE OF 2-3 MEALS OF [WHAT WOULD HAVE BEEN] A FAST DAY TO TZEDAKAH. THIS IS PERMISSIBLE EVEN IN NISSAN [WHEN WE ARE NOT ALLOWED TO FAST]. CHAPTERS OF TEHILLIM—3. MAY THERE BE WONDROUS MIRACLES.

Shvi'i and Acharon Shel Pesach

Late afternoon on Shvi'i Shel Pesach, the Rebbe came out to the front of 770 to see off the Chassidim leaving for *Tahalucha*, to bring the joy of Yom Tov and speak in various shuls across the New York Metropolitan area. The Rebbe stood there for 20 minutes, slightly encouraging the singing. Late at night, after all the groups returned from *Tahalucha*, the Rebbe once again came out to greet them, encouraging the singing for about 2 minutes.

The next day, on Acharon Shel Pesach after Mussaf, Rabbi Hodakov went into the Rebbe's room to give a report about the *Tahalucha*. Some 120 shuls were visited, and copies of the Rebbe's most recent *nichtav kloli* were distributed. The Rebbe seemed satisfied, and responded, "May we hear good news."

Close to the end of Yom Tov, the Rebbe entered the shul for a farbrengen. After the third *sicha*, the Rebbe instructed Rabbi Leibel Groner to ensure that the administration of Tomchei Tmimim distributes 4 cups of wine to all participants, as is customary. With that, the Rebbe motioned to Reb Berel Junik to refill his cup with wine, several times, until the Rebbe himself also had four cups.

Then the Rebbe instructed that the *niggunim* of all the Rabbeim should be sung, adding that the names of each Rebbe should be mentioned as well. While the *niggunim*

were sung, the Rebbe's face was extremely serious, even while encouraging the singing.

At the end of the farbrengen the Rebbe bentched over a cup of wine, and after Havdalah the Rebbe distributed *kos shel bracha* till about 1:45 in the morning. One of the people who came by the Rebbe was Mr. Hans, the tailor who sews the Rebbe's *kapotas*, and the Rebbe smiled broadly at him, pointing at his *kapota*.

The Real Security

On 28 Nissan, the Rebbe's *mazkir*, Rabbi Binyomin Klein, received a phone call from the office of Israel's Prime Minister, Mr. Yitzchok Shamir. Intelligence had indicated that the terrorist organization, PLO, was planning several attacks on Jewish targets around the world, and Mr. Shamir was asking for the Rebbe's *bracha* that no harm should befall anyone, *chas v'shalom*. Rabbi Klein delivered the message to the Rebbe, and after Mincha, the Rebbe addressed the matter publicly.

"About an hour before Mincha," the Rebbe said, "we received word that the PLO is planning to attack the 'enemies of the Jews.'" The Rebbe went on to state that the most important thing to do is trust in Hashem that everything would be alright, as our Rabbeim taught us: "*Tracht gut vet zein gut*"—think good and it will be good. It's also of utmost importance not to use this opportunity to scare or frighten anyone. At the same time, however, we as Jews



ARTIST MICHEL SCHWARTZ PRESENTS THE REBBE WITH A UNIQUELY DESIGNED KOSHEL ELIYAHU. UNTIL GIMMEL TAMMUZ, THE CUP REMAINED IN THE REBBE'S ROOM ON THE ROUND TABLE BUILT BY THE REBBE MAHARASH.

know that our strength lies in prayer. The Rebbe suggested that everyone should increase in prayer by reciting at least three extra *kapitelach* of Tehillim, and by increasing in giving tzedakah. "In truth, this sort of situation would call for a fast day," the Rebbe explained. "But since the Chabad approach is not to go about fasting, we should all give money to tzedakah in at least the amount of the cost of three meals, thereby exchanging the need to fast."

Later in the evening, a "*Kol Koreh*" from the Rebbe was published, based on that afternoon's *sicha*, calling on everyone to increase in Torah, Tefillah, and Tzedakah, in order to thwart the plans of the enemies of the Jews.²

The Rebbe's words were widely publicized in the Israeli media. The Rebbe instructed that the *Kol Koreh* should also be translated into English and publicized.

Dollars

On each Sunday of this month, as he did every month, the Rebbe greeted thousands of people, giving out dollars for tzedakah along with *brachos* and advice.

The following is a small sampling of conversations the Rebbe had with visitors during dollars:

On Sunday, 6 Nissan, a man came to the Rebbe with his young daughter, saying that some time ago the girl had developed an internal growth, and the doctors had given up hope on her ever recovering. But the Rebbe gave her a *bracha* and now she was completely healed.

"The doctors don't know how to explain it," the man said with excitement.

"You don't need their explanations," the Rebbe replied, "You will have a Kosher and happy Pesach, and you will continue the joy throughout the whole year."

On Sunday, 13 Nissan, a father with his son of about eight years old came to the Rebbe. The boy kept calling out, "Rebbe, Rebbe!" and the Rebbe asked his father, "Will he ask the four questions?" The father replied that the boy was not well and could not speak.

The Rebbe said, "But he spoke just now!" The Rebbe turned to the boy and said, "You should ask the four questions," and then turned to the father and said, "And you must study and have a good answer for him!"

On Sunday, 27 Nissan, a woman who works at NPR (National Public Radio) came to the Rebbe, and the Rebbe told her:

"May G-d Al-mighty bless you to have a lot of *hatzla-cha*, and to go from strength to strength to spread only good news about Jews and all their activities, and to do so for long, happy years. When Moshiach will come, he will relieve you from your duties, but until then, you have it on your shoulders. May G-d Al-mighty bless you." **1**

1. The synopsis was later published in Hisvaaduyos 5750 vol. 2, p. 478.

2. Published in Hisvaaduyos 5750 vol. 3, p. 100.