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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
תנ"צ'בה'



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

A Month of Chassidus

We continue the wondrous story of the
“Year of Wonders”—Cheshvan 5751.

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The Women's Part

Each Shabbos, the Rebbe held an afternoon farbrengen, sharing words of Torah and important lessons for the week ahead.

On Shabbos Parshas Noach, 1 Cheshvan, the Rebbe addressed Jewish women and girls, explaining that they too must be involved in spreading Yiddishkeit and Chassidus. “The way they approach the role of transforming the world is different than that of men,” the Rebbe added. While men are primarily the ones who go out into the world with force, based on the *possuk* of “*V’chivshuha*” (conquer the world) which applies primarily to men, women’s role in transforming the world is done with a more inward approach. This is not to say that women are any less effective. On the contrary; from within her own home, a woman has the power to inspire and transform for the better.

Tangentially, the Rebbe mentioned that there may be a halachic problem for women to ride in a male-driven taxi (due to issues of *tznius*, *yichud*, and the like). Since today, many women have driver’s licenses, they should wait until they can get a taxi driven by a fellow woman.

[After Shabbos, the Rebbe was asked how should women actually go about this issue, and the Rebbe replied: “פסקי דינים שייך לרבנים פוסקי דינים, ואני באתי רק לעורר שיש מקום לשאלת רב פוסק דינים.”]

“Halachic rulings are the domain of *rabbanim* who regularly offer halachic rulings. My intent was only to point out that this is a question that must be addressed by a *rav* who regularly offers halachic rulings.”]

Towards the end of the farbrengen the Rebbe distributed bottles of *mashke* to people hosting events in the coming week. Some 27 individuals approached, and the Rebbe poured from each of the bottles into his own cup, then back into the bottles, before giving out each of the bottles.

Siyum HaRambam

The farbrengen of Shabbos Parshas Lech Lecha, 8 Cheshvan, was dedicated almost entirely to the seventh Siyum HaRambam, which occurred on that day. The Rebbe explained that the *siyum* is a time for immense joy, both for those who completed the entire Rambam, and for others as well. The Rebbe also delivered a deep *hadran* on Rambam, connecting the conclusion of the Rambam’s Mishneh Torah with the number seven—the current concluding cycle—and the number eight—the cycle which would immediately begin.

Towards the end of the farbrengen, just before distributing the *mashke*, the Rebbe called upon everyone to get involved in the *Mivtzoim*.

“You know of a Yid who is in his office on Sunday,” the Rebbe said. “You have off on Sunday; go over there and talk to him about putting on tefillin!”

You may prefer to stay home, the Rebbe said, where you can learn Torah, even *pnimiyus haTorah*, with a *geshmak*, with a *niggun*, and out loud. But you need to go out there and help this fellow Yid! He’s in a spiritually dangerous situation, and it’s up to you to go there and put tefillin on with him.

On Shabbos Parshas Vayera, 15 Cheshvan, the Rebbe dedicated much of the *sichos* to discussing the upcoming 130th birthday of the Rebbe Rashab. The Rebbe spoke about the Chassidus of the Rebbe Rashab as a source of practical inspiration. The Rebbe Rashab is known as the Rambam of Chassidus—much like the Rambam’s *sefer* is written with practical takeaways in mind.

The Rebbe concluded with the hope that we see the fulfillment of the Rebbe Rashab’s request when he was a young child, “Why doesn’t Hashem reveal Himself to me?” with the coming of Moshiach. Then we will see Elokus, and we’ll see the holy faces of our Rabbeim as they deliver Chassidus. And we will prepare ourselves, with the help of our Rabbeim, to hear Chassidus from each of our Rabbeim this coming Thursday, Chof Mar-Cheshvan!

New Chassidus

On Thursday, Chof Cheshvan, everyone found out that the Rebbe was going to distribute a special edition of the Rebbe Rashab’s “*Kuntres Eitz Hachaim*” later that evening.

At 1:25 p.m., the Rebbe left for the Ohel holding a copy of the recently discovered handwritten *maamar* from the Rebbe Rashab, “*Anochi Magen Lach—5678*.”

Upon the Rebbe’s return from the Ohel at 5:50 p.m., the shul at 770 was full beyond capacity with people who had heard about the pleasant surprise. After davening Mincha and Maariv, the Rebbe began distributing the *kuntres* to men, women, and children.

This new edition of *Kuntres Eitz Hachaim* bore a bright yellow cover, with the words “Special edition—Chof Mar-Cheshvan 5751” added at the bottom.

After about an hour, the first shipment of *kuntreisim* was all given out, and the second shipment was still on its way from the printer in New Jersey. The Rebbe stood and waited for about three minutes, his eyes fixed on the window of the women’s section where the boxes would be delivered, until the new boxes arrived, and the



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THE REBBE DISTRIBUTES THE MAAMAR “ANOCHI MAGEN LACH—5678.”

distribution continued on for another two hours.

On his way out of shul, the Rebbe continued distributing to several latecomers who had managed to make it at the last minute, then returned to his room.

Already while the Rebbe was still distributing the *kuntres*, groups of Chassidim formed to immediately begin studying the new Chassidus they had received from the Rebbe. Later that evening a large farbrengen was held at 770, where the elder Chassidim and *mashpi'im* discussed how privileged we are to have received this *kuntres* from the Rebbe's holy hand, and they encouraged everyone to study it diligently.

More Chassidus

On the following Shabbos, 22 Cheshvan, the Rebbe delivered a *maamar* *ke'in sicha* on the *possuk* “*Vayihyu Chayei Sara,*” quite an unusual occurrence for this period.

Speaking again about the Rebbe Rashab, the Rebbe mentioned the *Kuntres Eitz Hachaim* which he had distributed to everyone two days prior (see above). The purpose of the distribution, the Rebbe said, was obviously that people should learn from the *kuntres* and fulfill what it says.

Then the Rebbe divulged a very exciting thing to come:

Being that a never-before-seen *maamar* from the Rebbe Rashab was recently discovered, he was going to distribute a copy of this *maamar* to everyone at the beginning of the next week!

On Monday, 24 Cheshvan, it was announced that the Rebbe would distribute the second *kuntres* that evening.



THE TWO KUNTREISIM DISTRIBUTED BY THE REBBE IN CONNECTION WITH 20 CHESHVAN 5751.

This time, due to the advance notice that the Rebbe had given on Shabbos, an even larger crowd gathered to receive the *kuntres* from the Rebbe. The distribution lasted more than three hours, as the Rebbe handed out more than seven thousand *kuntreisim* to men, women, and children.

Kinus Hashluchim

A special occurrence this month in the Rebbe's presence is the annual Kinus Hashluchim, which coincides with Shabbos Mevorchim Kislev. Close to 800 shluchim from all around the world participated this year, the biggest turnout yet for a Kinus.

On Thursday, 27 Cheshvan, when the Rebbe entered the shul for Mincha and Maariv, his holy face radiated a special joy at seeing the many shluchim present.

Shabbos was special and uplifting. When the Rebbe entered the farbrengen on Shabbos afternoon, the shul was overly crowded. But the Rebbe's voice was heard throughout the room as everyone listened attentively.

The Rebbe spoke about the Kinus Hashluchim "Ha'olami," which, as its name suggests, impacts the entire world. Detailing the various levels and aspects of shlichus, the Rebbe drew pertinent lessons for everyone in how to further our shlichus here in this world and finally bring Moshiach.

Toward the end of farbrengen, the Rebbe spoke about publishing a "Sefer Hashluchim" which would contain photographs of all the families of shluchim around the world, even the very young children. "When a child sees their photograph in the *sefer*," the Rebbe explained, "they will remember that they, too, are a shliach, and this will encourage them to follow in the footsteps of

their parents..."

In an attempt to speed up the process, the Rebbe said that the publishers should not worry about funding the project, since all the money will be taken care of right here (i.e. from the Rebbe's office).

After this *sicha*, the crowd sang a joyous Simchas Torah *niggun*, and the Rebbe waved his hands so vigorously in all directions that the crowd went wild!

At the end of the farbrengen the Rebbe distributed bottles of *mashke* as usual, only that this time there were 50(!) bottles due to the high volume of shluchim and guests. The last one to receive a bottle was Reb Meir Harlig, who then proceeded to invite everyone to the grand Rosh Chodesh Kislev celebration at 770, marking 13 years since the Rebbe's miraculous recovery from a heart attack.

On Motzei Shabbos, Leil Rosh Chodesh Kislev, the Rebbe davened Maariv in the big shul (instead of the small *zal*) due to the large crowd. After Havdala, one of the shluchim called out loud, "*Yechi adoneinu moreinu v'rabeinu*," and everyone responded Yechi with a whole heart. The crowd spontaneously broke out singing the Rosh Chodesh Kislev *niggun*, and the Rebbe encouraged the singing as he left the shul, while scores of Chassidim remained behind, singing and dancing with great joy.

Later that night, Reb Meir Harlig's grand farbrengen took place at 770, joined by Chassidim and shluchim and lasting into the wee hours of the morning.

Dollars

Each Sunday, a growing crowd of people visits 770 to meet the Rebbe and receive his *bracha* and a dollar for *tzedakah*.



MOMENTS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL KINUS HASHLUCHIM 5751.



LIBRARY OF AGUDAS CHASSIDEI CHABAD

In fact, due to the large number of people, it was decided to install an additional door in the small *zal* at 770, so that the crowds of visitors wouldn't disturb the *bochurim's* learning. At the beginning of Cheshvan, construction of this door was completed.

Senator of Love

On Sunday, 2 Cheshvan, the Rebbe was visited by Senator Alfonse D'Amato, who represented the state of New York in the US Senate.

The Rebbe told him, "You certainly know that 'Amato' means that you are permeated with love [in Italian], and the same is true about 'Lubavitch' which also means love." The Senator thanked the Rebbe for the strength and the great wisdom that he disseminates. "I hate to think what this area would look like without your great movement and without the strength that you give," he said.

The Rebbe corrected him: "Don't think about such tragic things!"

The Senator responded: "Then let me say that we are fortunate to have you."

The Rebbe agreed: "That is a better context."

The Senator expressed his wish to continue working with the Rebbe for the greater good, and the Rebbe added that this must not only continue, but go from strength to strength, "permeated with love for all the people around you!"

The Senator then presented one of his assistants, whom he introduced as "a good Jew." The Rebbe said, "I am not afraid to meet with non-Jews as well. From time to time, I meet with them, and I have no problem."

A woman came by with her daughter and told the Rebbe that her daughter was unable to speak. The Rebbe said, "Hashem should bless you to be able to speak and say the *bracha* on the candles. Does she light Shabbos candles?" The mother said that she does, but she doesn't say the *bracha*. "Next week," the Rebbe said, "you should light first, say the *bracha*, and try to have her repeat after you."

On Sunday, 9 Cheshvan, the Rebbe was visited by a doctor, and the Rebbe gave him an extra dollar for all his patients. Then the Rebbe added with a smile, "I'm not trying to compete with you. On the contrary, I'm giving you this dollar so you can give it to *tzedakah* on their behalf."

Why Make Conditions?

On Sunday, 16 Cheshvan, a woman came to the Rebbe saying that she had traveled from Eretz Yisroel specifically to ask for the Rebbe's *bracha* for children. The Rebbe gave her an additional dollar for her husband, then another, "to give to *tzedakah* when the child is born."

The woman then asked for an additional *bracha*, stating a specific time frame for its fulfillment, and the Rebbe said, "Why



THE NEW EXIT INSTALLED IN THE SMALL ZAL AT 770.



A LARGE CROWD WAITS TO SEE THE REBBE DURING SUNDAY DOLLARS, 9 CHESHVAN 5751.



THE REBBE ENTERS THE SHUL FOR SHACHARIS, CHESHVAN 5751.



THE REBBE MEETS WITH SENATOR ALFONSE D'AMATO, 2 CHESHVAN.

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must you make conditions with Hashem? Let it happen earlier than that!”

The woman said, “May it happen soon!” and the Rebbe replied, “Indeed, ‘soon’ is better.”

The Rebbe asked a *bochur* who had recently returned from Eretz Yisroel if he had any news about a shidduch. The *bochur* replied that he’ll write a letter to the Rebbe about it, and the Rebbe said, “I don’t mean that you should write me letters. I want you to send me a wedding invitation!”

Jewish Survival

On Sunday, 23 Cheshvan, an individual came to the Rebbe saying that his wife was very ill; she’d already undergone several operations, and she needs a big *bracha*.

The Rebbe replied: “Give this [dollar] to tzedakah for her. This [additional dollar] is for you to check the mezuzah of her room. Is she at home or in the hospital?” The man responded that she was in the hospital.

The Rebbe: “Bring her a mezuzah and place it in her night table. The doctors allow this.”

Professor Yirmiya Branover introduced a couple from Switzerland to the Rebbe, saying that they publish a newspaper called “Shalom” in French and German. The Rebbe said, “May Hashem bless you to be successful in [your publishing in] French, English, and Russian.”

The couple looked confused for a moment, and the

professor explained, “Yes, we were in middle of discussing a Russian edition as well.” The Rebbe agreed and gave them an additional dollar “for the success of the journal.”

The man then asked the Rebbe, “Will there be a split within the Jewish people due to the Reform movement?” The Rebbe replied: “No. The Jewish people survived 1900 years of exile, and they will also survive the Reform.”

We Shouldn’t Go There

Several other notable events occurred throughout the month.

Outside the Rebbe’s room on Thursday morning, 13 Cheshvan, the Rebbe met with Reb Dovid Nachshon and Reb Avi Taub, who came to give the Rebbe the keys to two newly renovated *Ohalim* in Russia: at the resting places of the Baal Shem Tov and Reb Boruch, the Alter Rebbe’s father.

The Rebbe told them:

“A big *yasher koach!* This is a tremendous *zechus* and a great thing. Very soon we will greet Moshiach, and there will be ‘*Hakitzu v’ranenu shochnei afar*’ (*techiyas ham-eisim*), then we won’t need to go there anymore. *Yasher koach*. Have safe travels, good news, and much success.”

Siyum Sefer Torah

On Wednesday, 19 Cheshvan, the Kotlarsky family dedicated a new Sefer Torah in memory of Mrs. Golda

Kotlarsky, donated to the Rebbe's shul at 770. The procession paraded through the streets of Crown Heights to 770, where the Sefer Torah was placed in its new home.

When the Rebbe came downstairs for Mincha, a special joy radiated from his holy face, and he encouraged the singing with much enthusiasm.

A *seudas mitzvah* was later held at the home of Mrs. Kotlarsky's son, Reb Moshe Kotlarsky.

The next morning, the new Sefer Torah was used in the Rebbe's *minyán* for *krias haTorah*. After the reading, as the new Sefer was being placed in the *aron kodesh*, the crowd sang "*Sisu V'simchu B'simchas Torah*," and the Rebbe encouraged the singing while looking at members of the Kotlarsky family, especially the father, Reb Tzvi Yosef.

Chassanim

On Tuesday, 25 Cheshvan, two *chassanim* came to receive the siddur from the Rebbe before their weddings.

At first, the Rebbe asked them which wedding would take place earlier, but they said that both weddings were scheduled for the same day.

The Rebbe asked: "At the same time of day?" but they weren't sure what to answer.

The Rebbe continued: "Is either one of you a Kohen or a Levi?" But neither of them was.

The Rebbe asked: "What are your names?" and one of them responded with his last name. "I mean your first name," the Rebbe said. The first *chassan* said his name is Shmuel, and the other said "Chaim Shaul."

The Rebbe responded, "Chaim Shaul!" handing him the siddur [the letter Ches comes before Shin in alphabetical order].

Then the Rebbe blessed each of the *chassanim*: "May you successfully request all good things. May it be in a good and auspicious hour," while handing them each a nickel for tzedakah.

Your Answer is Right There!

Some of the written responses given by the Rebbe this month:

Rabbi Yaakov Shmuelewitz of Chabad Beit Shaan wrote to the Rebbe about the difficult financial situation of his Chabad house, ending his letter with "מאיין יבא עזרי—from where will my help come?"

The Rebbe replied:

א. נענה בתהלים על אתר. ב. בדיקת התפליון והמזוזות אזכיר עה"צ.



MR. MICHAEL SCHARF AND HIS TWO SONS WITH THE REBBE.

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1. You were already answered in Tehillim in that very *possuk* [i.e. my help will come from Hashem].
2. Check your tefillin and *mezuzos*. I will mention this at the Ohel.



On Sunday, 9 Cheshvan, Mr. Moshe Yaakov (Michael) Scharf came to the Rebbe at dollars with his two sons, who gave the Rebbe tzedakah pushkas filled with coins.

Two days later, the Rebbe wrote to Mr. Scharf:

נרשמתי במיוחד מהרגש דיו"ח שיחיו שה' ניכר על פניהם בעת שמסרו לי הניקלס והדיימס דצדקה. אזכיר עה"צ.

I was especially touched by the affection noticeable on the faces of your children, *sheyichyu*, when they gave me the nickels and dimes for tzedakah. I will mention this at the Ohel.



An individual wrote to the Rebbe asking for a bracha for success in his business, and the Rebbe replied:

פתיחת החנות בשבת ויו"ט מהרסת את ההכנסה כמפורסם. אזכיר עה"צ.

Having a store open on Shabbos and Yom Tov **destroys** any profit, **as is well known**. I will mention this at the Ohel.



An individual wrote to the Rebbe that this month marks 40 years since the first time he saw the Rebbe, and the Rebbe replied:

מנהגי יום הולדת. אזעה"צ.

[Observe] the customary conduct for a birthday. I will mention this at the Ohel.¹ 1

1. See Hayom Yom 30 Shevat: Many Chassidim considered the day they first came to Lubavitch as their birthday.