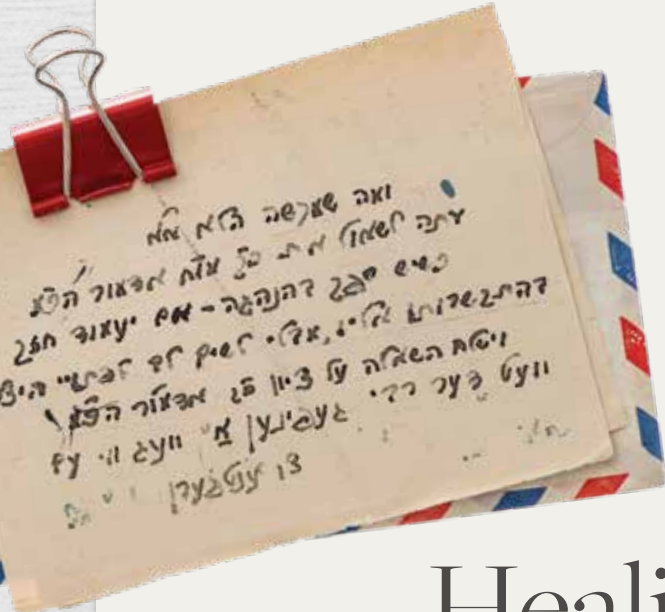




Story

לזכות
השלוחה חי' מושקא בת פערל גאלדא תחי'
לרגל יום הולדתה ד' מר-חשוון ולזכות
השלוחה מיגא עטל בת פערל גאלדא תחי'
טייכטל
לרגל יום הולדתה י"ב מר-חשוון
נדפס ע"י משפחתם שיחיו



דער רבי וועט געפינען א וועג...

WRITTEN BY: RABBI LEVI GREENBERG (TX)

Healing Matzah



AS TOLD BY
RABBI SHAMSHI JUNIK
(Brooklyn, NY)

On Wednesday, Yud Alef Nissan 5785 Zalmen* called me with an urgent request. He and his wife had been overseas for some time, working on a Shlichus, when his wife had a sudden medical emergency and ended up in the ICU. They had recently made the arduous trip to transfer her to a hospital in New York, and he asked me if by chance I had a small piece of matzah that I had received from the Rebbe for his wife to eat as a segulah for a full recovery.

In 5739 I had the great merit of becoming a *Mashbak* (*Meshameish Bakoidesh*) in the Rebbe's home through helping the Rebbetzin on various occasions and in 770 as well. Eventually, when the Rebbe and Rebbetzin would spend Shabbos and Yom Tov in the special apartment at the back of the library building next door to 770, I was instrumental in those arrangements.

Every year on Erev Pesach, the Rebbe distributed matzah to all Anash who were in town. In 5738, the Rebbe started distributing packages of matzah to the members of the Kollel, who later distributed pieces to all Anash who came to 770. However, a small group of people continued to receive matzah directly from the Rebbe's holy hand, either Erev Pesach or right after Maariv, right before the Seder, on both nights of Pesach. Since I was working in the Rebbe's home, I was included in this group.

When Zalmen asked me for some of the Rebbe's matzah, I told him I would think about it, and that he should call me back the next day. Although I had merited to receive matzah from the Rebbe for many years, I do not have much matzah left. As I thought about Zalmen's request, I figured that if his wife was back in the US, her

medical situation was getting better already, and I was reluctant to give him a piece.

On Thursday, my dear friend Yerachmiel Jacobson called me from Florida, where he was visiting his children for Yom Tov. He asked me if I had a crumb of the Rebbe's matzah for his grandson, who was very ill. I readily agreed, and he asked me to ship it to him overnight to Florida.

Later in the afternoon, when I went to prepare the piece of the Rebbe's Matzah to send to Florida, I noticed a small plastic bag of a piece of matzah with a note indicating that I received it on Erev Pesach 5751. Six months prior to that date, my son Shmuli was born with many health challenges. He was hospitalized for months on oxygen, and by Pesach, things were still very difficult. That year, the Rebbe distributed matzah to the small group before Yom Tov, because the first night of Yom Tov was on Shabbos.

When I approached the Rebbe, I asked for a bracha for a *refuah shleima* for Shmuli.

"*Amen*," the Rebbe replied, and after a brief pause added "*b'karov*"—very soon.

I decided to send a crumb of that extra special matzah, that the Rebbe gave my son a bracha for a *refuah sheleima* to Florida for Yerachmiel's grandson. As I held the matzah in my hands, Zalmen called me back. When I saw his name on my phone as I held the matzah, I didn't respond because I was busy with shipping the matzah to Florida, but I felt the Rebbe was sending me a message to give him a piece of matzah for his wife. I returned his call later and asked him to come over to my home.

When he came, I shared that I had initially decided not to share the matzah with him, but when he called me at the moment I was holding the matzah in my hand, I felt this was the Rebbe's way of directing me to give him a piece of matzah. I handed him a small piece and explained to him the significance of this matzah, which I received Erev Pesach 5751. Zalmen was overwhelmed with appreciation that I shared the matzah with him for his wife and told me that on Wednesday, Yud Alef Nissan, he was at the Ohel and wrote a letter to the Rebbe requesting a bracha for his wife's speedy recovery.

"At the end of my letter," Zalmen said, "I asked the



ITCHEL JUNIK RECEIVES MATZAH FROM THE REBBE TOGETHER WITH HIS SISTER RAISY AND HIS FATHER, EREV PESACH 5751.

Rebbe for one request: 'could you please arrange for me to get some matzah for my wife.' When I left the Ohel, I started calling anyone I could think of, searching for a piece of the Rebbe's matzah. The Rebbe led me to the right person."

The next morning, Friday, 13 Nissan, there was a funeral at the Ohel, and as a member of the Chevra Kadisha, I volunteered to participate in it. My son Shmuli was off that day from his usual program, and he joined me on the ride to the Ohel. When we arrived, I dropped him off at the entrance of the main house and spent a few minutes parking the car.

When I entered the tent, I saw Zalmen sitting at a table writing a letter. He approached me with a huge smile and said that he was writing a letter to the Rebbe, reporting the good news that he had received a piece of matzah for his wife.

"As I was writing the details of you receiving the Rebbe's matzah and the Rebbe's bracha for Shmuli, I looked up and saw Shmuli walking into the tent and now I see you!" Zalmen marveled.

We both felt this was yet another sign that the Rebbe's special healing matzah had been delivered to the proper recipient. **T**

YOUR STORY

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