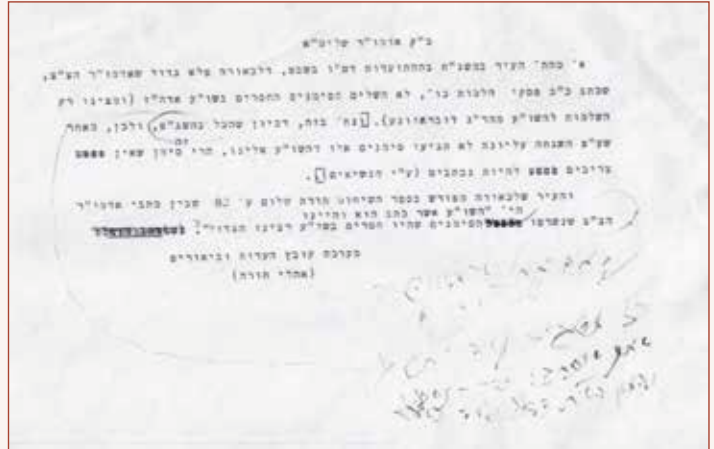




Compiled By: Rabbi Levi Greenberg (OH)

Written By: Rabbi Mendel Jacobs

The Lone Survivor



At the farbrengen of Chamisha Asar B'Shevat 5742,¹ the Rebbe quoted the ruling by Reb Nechemiah of Dubrovna in his supplementary text to the Alter Rebbe's Shulchan Aruch,² that it is customary to eat fruits on this day.

As an aside, the Rebbe pointed out that Reb Nechemiah had a special merit: as a prime *talmid* of the Alter Rebbe, he filled in various missing sections of the Alter Rebbe's Shulchan Aruch. This is something unique that we don't find in others. Even the Tzemach Tzedek, who wrote so many halachic responsa, did not supplement the Shulchan Aruch.

Since everything is by *hashgacha pratit*, it must be said that these sections of Shulchan Aruch were not supposed to be written by a *nossi*.

After the farbrengen, the Rebbe was asked by the editors of the Kovetz Haaros Ubiurim Oholei Torah:

In Sefer Hasichos—Toras Sholom,³ the Rebbe Rashab is quoted as saying that the Tzemach Tzedek actually *did* write sections of the Shulchan Aruch to supplement the parts that were missing in the Alter Rebbe's, but the manuscript was lost in a fire. Why did the Rebbe assert that the Tzemach Tzedek did not do so?

The Rebbe replied:⁴

באם את"ל שהכוונה ב[שבין כתבי אדמו"ר הצ"צ שנשרפו הי"ה
השו"ע אשר כתב הוא, היינו הסימנים שהיו חסרים בשו"ע רבינו
הגדול"] לכל הסימנים
ה"ז מדגיש עוד יותר [בהשג"פ] שאף שנכתבו כבר - נשרפו והמונ
השו"ת הוצ"צ ופס"ד נשמר

[Even] if you wish to say that [when the Rebbe Rashab says that among the manuscripts of the Tzemach Tzedek burned in fire were the supplements to Shulchan Aruch,] he means [that the Tzemach Tzedek actually filled in] all of the [missing] *simanim*;

Then this [only] emphasizes [the sense of *hashgacha pratit*] even more: Despite the fact that these [*simanim*] were already written — they [nevertheless] got burned, while the numerous responsa and halachic rulings of the Tzemach Tzedek were preserved.⁵

1. Ashreinu audio, sicha 2. Hisvaaduyos 5742 vol. 2, p. 850 (the Rebbe's response is incorporated within the text).
2. 131:8. Many sections of the Alter Rebbe's Shulchan Aruch were lost to fire and never published, and Reb Nechemiah authored and filled in some of those sections with text of his own.
3. P. 82.
4. Published in Teshura Telsner-Wilhelm 5782, p. 96.
5. I.e. this does not diminish the point that the Shulchan Aruch was not supplemented by a *nossi*, or the great *zechus* that Reb Nechemiah has as the one to actually do the task, since by *hashgacha pratit*, his was the only manuscript to reach future generations.