



A Month of Wonders

SHEVAT 5751

In this year of wonders—*Arenu Niflaos*—it was truly a month of wonders.

With the Jewish people of Eretz Yisroel caught in the crosshairs of a war they had nothing to do with, some were fearful; others panicked. On 2 Shevat, the first SCUD missiles from Iraq were fired on Tel-Aviv, and they continued to rain down through 9 Adar.

We now know that the 39 missiles caused no direct casualties. Hashem was watching over His people, just as the Rebbe had repeatedly assured.

The Rebbe spoke on this subject at almost every public occasion throughout the month, as well as in conversations and correspondence with scores of individuals, as we will now explore.

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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 ת'נ'צ'ב'ה'

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

לזכות הת' מרדכי דובער שיחי' מרקוביץ לרגל הגיעו לעול מצוות כ"ב שבט ה'תשפ"ו

נדפס ע"י משפחתו שיחיו

Have a Joyous Shabbos!

On Thursday, 2 Shevat, the first SCUD missiles were fired at Eretz Yisroel.

On Friday morning, the Rebbe sent a message to all the Jews in Eretz Yisroel:

“Have a peaceful and blessed Shabbos. The Torah gives a halachic ruling that [the words] ‘the days of your rejoicing’ refer to Shabbos. Halacha always uses the clearest terms: this joy must be open and evident.”

A group of women who were scheduled to participate in the N’shei Chabad convention in Minnesota was deliberating whether to still travel due to the tension around the world. The Rebbe told Rabbi Leibel Groner to convey to them:

“This non-Jew across the world is doing [these destructive] actions only because he believes in his false god. All the more so must we Jews, who believe in Hashem, do everything we can to demonstrate our trust in Him. *Chas v’shalom* to consider doing something that shows a weakness in our *bitachon*! Whoever was planning to travel must continue with their plans, and they should

see to it that additional women join them too!”

The Rebbe then gave dollars to be distributed to all the women who were traveling.

No One Will Touch Them

On Shabbos afternoon, the Rebbe held his usual farbrengen, dedicating much of his talk to the current situation in Eretz Yisroel.

“Eretz Yisroel is the safest place in the world for the Jewish people,” the Rebbe declared. “It cannot be that any harm should befall the Jews in their land. If anyone was indeed hit, they will have an immediate *refua sheleima*!”

The Rebbe continued elaborating how every Jew is so precious in the eyes of Hashem, and He would certainly not allow anything to touch them.

This theme was repeated several times throughout the farbrengen, as the Rebbe spoke passionately about strengthening our *bitachon* in Hashem and anticipating His immediate deliverance.

Another subject the Rebbe spoke about was the upcoming *yom hilula* of Yud Shevat, calling on everyone to make proper preparations and to arrange Chassidische farbrengens to draw down all the energy from the Frieddiker Rebbe’s life and *avoda*.



SCENES FROM ERETZ YISROEL DURING THE SCUD MISSILE ATTACKS.

Yud Shevat

On Thursday, 9 Shevat, the Rebbe went to the Ohel and returned at 6:15 p.m. Shortly afterward, the Rebbe came into the big shul for Mincha and Maariv.

The shul was packed. Many guests had come from all over the world to be with the Rebbe for Yud Shevat and to hear as he davened Maariv at the *amud* this evening.



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THE REBBE LEADS THE TEFILLOS ON YUD SHEVAT.



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Additionally, a rumor circulated that the Rebbe would distribute a special *kuntres* in honor of Yud Shevat, and many people came hoping to receive one.

The Rebbe davened Mincha on his regular platform, then descended to the *amud* to daven Maariv.

Miracles Today

After Maariv, an announcement was made that in a few minutes, the Rebbe would distribute a special *kuntres* along with two dollars for tzedakah to each person, at the place where he usually distributes dollars on Sunday (in the lobby of 770).

At 6:55 p.m., the Rebbe came out of his room and began distributing the *kuntres*, continuing to greet thousands of people for several hours, until 10:20.

The green-colored *kuntres* contained a *maamar* from the Rebbe Rashab titled “*Boruch She’asa Nissim—5664*,” which was transcribed by the Frierdiker Rebbe and included some of his notations.

The *maamar* discusses miracles and the various levels of miracles, those concealed within nature vs. those that clearly transcend it.

The last line of the *maamar* is: “This is the meaning of ‘He made miracles for our ancestors’, and we ask [Hashem] that they occur at this time as well...”



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THE REBBE DISTRIBUTES THE KUNTRES TITLED "MAAMAR BORUCH SHE'ASA NISSIM—5664".



THE REBBE LEAVES FOR HIS HOME, BEFORE CHOF-BEIS SHEVAT.

The connection with current events is obvious. On the morning of Yud Shevat, the Rebbe once again davened at the *amud*. The Rebbe went to the *mikvah* and then to the Ohel, returning at 4:15 p.m., shortly before Shabbos candle lighting. After lighting candles in his room, the Rebbe came downstairs once more to daven Mincha at the *amud*.

Miracles Before Our Eyes

On Shabbos morning, 11 Shevat, the Rebbe entered the shul for Shacharis with the newly distributed *kuntres* in the back of his siddur. The afternoon farbrengen was a continuation of the *yom hilula* of Yud Shevat. The Rebbe spoke about the Frieddiker Rebbe and his life's work of spreading Chassidus everywhere in the world and translating it into different languages—making Chassidus available to all. With Chamisha Asar B'Shevat right around the corner, the Rebbe spoke about the importance of properly marking this holiday. "In days bygone," the Rebbe said, "there used to be a custom that the *balleboste* of each home would prepare platters of fruit in honor of this day.

The seven fruits of Eretz Yisroel were included, as well as carobs, as is the *minhag Yisroel*. We should reinstate this practice.”

The Rebbe pointed out that carobs were the staple of Rabbi Chanina Ben Dosa, who, the Gemara says, was accustomed to seeing miracles in his everyday life.

“Today as well, we can see open miracles,” the Rebbe continued. “In fact, we don’t even need to open a newspaper to read how one non-Jew [from Iraq] directed missiles at Eretz Yisroel, and another non-Jew, who is from the pious among the nations [the United States], blew them out of the sky. Instead, we can see open miracles in our own day-to-day lives!”

Towards the end of the farbrengen, the Rebbe called on everyone to learn from the *kuntres* that he had distributed two days prior, and see what lessons they could derive from it.

On Shabbos Parshas Yisro, 18 Shevat, the Rebbe again mentioned the ongoing global conflict, saying: “The Jewish people will suffer no harm from this war. These

are foreign powers that are fighting with one another, and this has nothing to do with the Jewish people. On the contrary, Hashem is telling the Jewish people (in the words of the Midrash) not to be afraid and not to be worried, for Moshiach is standing on the roof of the Beis Hamikdash and announcing the *geulah*...”



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THE REBBE LEADS THE DAVENING ON THE MORNING OF CHOF-BEIS SHEVAT.



THE REBBE ENCOURAGES THE SINGING AFTER DISTRIBUTING DOLLARS AT HIS HOME, 22 SHEVAT.

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The Rebbetzin's Yahrtzeit

On Tuesday afternoon, 21 Shevat, the Rebbe was driven to his home on President Street, where he would remain for the *yahrtzeit* of Chof-Beis Shevat.

The Rebbe led all the *tefillos* of the day at the *amud* in his home, with a hookup transmitting the davening to the shul at 770.

On Wednesday, Chof-Beis Shevat, the Rebbe went to the Ohel, returning to his home toward evening for Mincha and Maariv.

After Maariv, the Rebbe distributed two dollars to everyone, including many of the shluchos from around the world who had come to participate in the first International Kinus Hashluchos.

The Rebbe remained in his home until Friday afternoon, when he returned to his room at 770.

International Kinus Hashluchos

The Kinus took place from Wednesday to Sunday.

On Motzei Shabbos, Rabbi Yehuda Krinsky reported to the Rebbe in writing about the success of the Kinus and asked if the organizers had inadvertently done something wrong, since the Rebbe didn't mention the Kinus during the Shabbos farbrengen. The Rebbe replied:

"[I didn't mention it] because it was **in middle** of the Kinus. I already participated in the beginning [of the Kinus, and I will participate], *bli neder*, in its conclusion (by giving them a shlichus [dollars] for tzedakah—in a double measure)."

The next day, the Rebbe addressed the shluchos specifically.

At 12:00 p.m., all the shluchos gathered in the big shul at 770, and the Rebbe came in, went up to his platform, and delivered a *sicha* for about 25 minutes.

This time of year is connected with joy, the Rebbe explained, as we approach Purim, when the greatest joy manifests itself in the most physical and mundane ways.

The Rebbe concluded by saying that he would now give each of the shluchos a "*shlichus mitzvah*"—two dollars for tzedakah, bringing a double portion of Hashem's blessings to each of them. "Each of you shluchos has a part in the work that is done by all the other shluchos, even in the farthest corners of the world," the Rebbe said, "and you all partake in the reward given by Hashem for

Mitzvah of the Week

On the final Shabbos of the month, Parshas Mishpatim, the Rebbe spoke about the importance of tzedakah. It was Parshas Shekalim, which reminds us of the mitzvah of tzedakah, and the Parsha also discusses the mitzvah of lending to a fellow Jew in need. The Rebbe also mentioned the Melaveh Malka taking place that evening to benefit the Gemach Shomrei Shabbos free loan fund.

The administrator of the Gemach, Reb Shimon Goldman, donned a shtreimel and spoke about the upcoming event, sharing a chassidische story as well. The Rebbe listened to his words with a smile on his face, then told Reb Shimon to say *l'chaim*.



THE SHLUCHOS GROUP PHOTO, 5751.

these good deeds, including the good deeds done by those whom your fellow shluchos have influenced.”

The Rebbe also gave a special *bracha* that all the requests written in their *pidyonos* that were brought to the Ohel should be fulfilled.

After the *sicha*, each of the shluchos passed by the Rebbe to receive the two dollars. Once all the shluchos passed by, the Rebbe continued with his usual Sunday dollars distribution right there in the big shul, lasting another several hours.

It's Safe to Go

Every Sunday throughout the month, the Rebbe was visited by thousands of people seeking his blessing and advice. A recurring theme this month was individuals asking whether to travel to Eretz Yisroel, and the Rebbe reassuring them that Hashem was watching over His people and that no harm would befall them.

On Sunday, 5 Shevat, a woman asked the Rebbe, “Is it safe to go to Israel now?”

The Rebbe replied: “Certainly. It’s safer than the United States.”

An individual told the Rebbe that he was planning to go to Eretz Yisroel for a grandson’s bris, but with the current situation, he was deliberating whether he should go ahead with it. The Rebbe told him that he *must* go; in fact, he should influence an additional member of the family who wasn’t planning on going to join them now!

On Sunday, 12 Shevat, a woman told the Rebbe that she was traveling to Eretz Yisroel. The Rebbe said, “Don’t be afraid of the situation there.” When she responded



SHLUCHOS AT THE OHEL NEAR THE KEVER OF REBBETZIN CHAYA MUSHKA ON HER YAHRTZEIT, THE FIRST DAY OF THE KINUS.



WHILE DISTRIBUTING DOLLARS TO THE SHLUCHOS, THE REBBE RECEIVES A NEWLY RELEASED BOOK ABOUT THE WORK OF SHLUCHIM AROUND THE WORLD. THE REBBE KEPT THIS BOOK ON TOP OF THE PILE THROUGHOUT THE DISTRIBUTION.



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REB YOSEF LAINE PRESENTS THE REBBE WITH THE NEWLY PRINTED RUSSIAN SIDDUR BY BRIS AVROHOM, ALONG WITH RABBI MORDECHAI KANELSKI.



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RABBI YOSEF MINKOWITZ SHOWS THE REBBE AN ALBUM OF BEIS RIVKA—MONTREAL.



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REB SHEYA MENDLOWITZ (CENTER) IN CONVERSATION WITH THE REBBE AT 'DOLLARS', 26 SHEVAT.

that she was a little bit afraid, the Rebbe said, “A little is also too much!”

A Jew from Be'er Sheva told the Rebbe that his brother, who lived in Bnei Brak, wanted to join him in the south, where he'd be safer from the missiles. The Rebbe said:

“He certainly knows about what he read in the Haggadah, that Bnei Brak had very great people there, and they didn't run away because of the non-Jews. He, too, should stay in Bnei Brak!”

Heal Every Patient

A doctor from Los Angeles asked the Rebbe how he could help the Jewish people in Eretz Yisroel, and the Rebbe said: “By healing as many Jews as possible, who will eventually go to Eretz Yisroel. This is the best help and the best news you can send to Eretz Yisroel.”

After the doctor walked through the door, the Rebbe called him back and said:

“According to Shulchan Aruch, you need to do all you can to heal non-Jewish patients as well. Especially since, as a doctor, you took an oath to help whoever you can, which also has a basis in Jewish law. The main thing is that all your patients should be healthy, and your livelihood should come only from offering preventative medicines.”

Delicious Fruits

A teacher from Detroit who had come with her students for Yud Shevat passed by the Rebbe before returning home, and the Rebbe blessed them and began giving each student a dollar. After a moment, the Rebbe asked that the teacher be called back, and told her: “Your visit falls out a few days before Chamisha Asar B’Shevat, the new year for trees. See to make a farbrengen for your whole class on that day, give them good fruits, and tell them good stories!”

Thank Hashem

Rabbi Mordechai Kanelsky from Bris Avrohom came to the Rebbe and said that they recently celebrated the 2900th bris performed on Russian Jewish immigrants.

He then presented the Rebbe with a special edition of the Russian Siddur printed in honor of the occasion, along with the sponsors of the Siddur, Reb Yosef and Rivka Laine.

The Rebbe gave a dollar to Reb Yosef as his participation in the siddurim, then said to Mrs. Laine: “This is for your part in the siddurim. A siddur begins with ‘*Modeh Ani*’—you should always be thankful to Hashem for all the good things...”

It’ll Make More Money

Rabbi Yosef Minkowitz presented the Rebbe with an album of the girls’ school in Montreal. The Rebbe asked him, “Is this for me, or do you need this for fundraising?”

Rabbi Minkowitz said that it’s for the Rebbe.

“So you will make money this way,” the Rebbe said, “through it [the photo album] being by me.”

Sell More. Print More.

On Sunday, 26 Shevat, Reb Sheya Mendlowitz came to the Rebbe and said that he was putting on a concert with Mordechai Ben David in only three weeks, and that there were still 500 tickets left to sell.

The Rebbe smiled and said, “If you sell all those tickets today, what will you do tomorrow?”

S.M.: I’m asking for the Rebbe’s bracha to sell all the tickets before the concert.

Rebbe: You’ll sell them all much earlier than that. Can you print more tickets?

S.M.: Yes!

Rebbe: Then you should print at least another Chai times Chai (324). May the concert be with much success. This [dollar] is for the singer [MBD].

Fortunate Is Your Lot

Throughout the month, the Rebbe gave out many reassuring answers in writing about the situation in Eretz Yisroel.

An individual wrote to the Rebbe that “everyone here in Eretz Yisroel is full of worry,” and the Rebbe replied:

“You are assuming guilt upon **many, many** innocent people who are filled with trust in Hashem. Perhaps you should check your own tefillin and *mezuzos*.”

A group of participants in a Torah class from Migdal Haemek wrote to the Rebbe that they continue their studies even while the sirens blare, and the Rebbe replied:

“Fortunate is their lot. Check the tefillin and *mezuzos* of all those mentioned in the letter. I will mention this at the Ohel.”

A soldier from the IDF wrote to the Rebbe that the army was forcing him to shave off his beard. The Rebbe replied:

“There are many, many individuals in the IDF who wear a beard, as is well known.”

In response to the question as to whether or not *anash* in Eretz Yisroel should seal their rooms and prepare gas masks in case of an Iraqi attack, the Rebbe wrote:

“The Shulchan Aruch rules that one should not separate himself from the greater community, especially when there are *rabbanim* who are instructing to do this.

“Take note from what Yaakov Avinu instructed [his sons]: ‘*Lama tisra’u*’ [Why must you show that you are different from everyone else, that you have food when they all don’t].

“All of the above is only regarding how to act. When it comes to how to feel, I already stated many times [that you should not be afraid]. The timing is appropriate: Shabbos (the week of) Shira [song and joy].

“Especially given the fact that at all times, the **Torah of Light** says, ‘One who trusts in Hashem will be surrounded by kindness.’ ❶