

1

Rabbi Yitzchok Dovid Groner was once in *yechidus* shortly before leaving on a trip from New York to Sydney.

When flying from New York to Australia there are two routes. One is quicker and more direct, but the traveler would be crossing the dateline and losing a day. The other is longer but avoids crossing the dateline because the plane flies the other way around the world.

His flight was scheduled to leave on Erev Rosh Chodesh and because he would be crossing the international dateline he would arrive in Australia the day after Rosh Chodesh, effectively skipping the day of Rosh Chodesh completely.

When hearing of his plans, the Rebbe asked him if it would be more expensive to go the other way and avoid crossing the dateline; clearly indicating that this was not preferable.

Rabbi Groner responded that in fact his ticket was free.

“Nu,” said the Rebbe, “חס הקב”ה על ממונם של ישראל—Hashem is concerned for Yidden’s money...” (I.e. due to the incurring cost, he should not change his plans.)

Heard from Rabbi Avrohom Perlow

Did the Rebbe ever travel by plane?

The surprising answer is yes.

The one time (as far as we know) that the Rebbe went on an airplane was on a flight from New York to Paris in 5707. He made the trip to meet Rebbetzin Chana, who had recently left of Russia, and to bring her to New York.

The Rebbe ended up staying in Paris for a few months. The Chassidim there cherished this time, as the Rebbe farbrenged and uplifted them.

On Monday, 28 Sivan 5707, the Rebbe along with his mother arrived in New York by boat.

See Yemei Melech vol. 3, p. 939

eight facts TRAVELLING

In the earlier years of the Rebbe’s *nesius*, travel by airplane was still a fairly new phenomena and people were more skeptical about its usage than they are today.

We present two answers from the Rebbe on this topic:

In 5711, a woman who was traveling to Europe asked for the Rebbe’s approval regarding making the trip by airplane because a boat wasn’t available. The Rebbe responded that as long as she made certain that it was a big plane and the weather was good, it is not a problem.

Another response we find on this topic was to Reb Nissen Nemenov, who was traveling from Paris to New York. The Rebbe wrote to him that in general there is nothing to be worried when it comes to air travel as long as it’s a big airplane, meaning it has four engines. (It should be noted that in later years, as technology evolved and planes became safer, there were varying *hora’os* in this regard.)

Igros vol. 4, p. 273, Igros vol. 9, p. 293

The Rebbe rarely traveled out of the city, but from the few trips he made to Camp Gan Israel in upstate New York, we can glean some insight into the short *tefilla* of *Tefillas Haderech*.

While on the way to camp, the Rebbe asked the driver to stop the car. (In Shulchan Aruch, the Alter Rebbe rules that when possible, it is proper to stop traveling for the *tefilla*, though it’s not obligatory). The Rebbe got out, washed his hands, and then faced *mizrach* as he recited *Tefillas Haderech*.

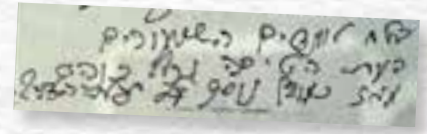
Binos Deshe, p. 84

6

Plane rides can leave you with a lot of time on your hands and wondering how to pass the time. On a number of different occasions the Rebbe stressed the need to do holy things while airborne.

In the Rebbe's words to one individual: "Certainly you will learn the *shiurim* during the flight, as has always been the custom, in addition to reciting *Tefillas Haderech*, obviously." (See *ksav yad kodesh*).

בטח לומדים
השיעורים בעת
הטיסה וכו' כנהוג
מאז כמובן נוסף על
תפלת הדרך.



One of the groups of *talmidim hashluchim* to Melbourne were told to "be active in spreading Yiddishkeit even during the trip—in an appropriate manner."

Likutei Sichos vol. 24, p. 512

5

Once, during *Kiddush Levana*, the Rebbe turned to Reb Zalmon Jaffe and told him, "It is mentioned in *sefarim* that saying *Kiddush Levana* is a *segula* before a trip."

Reb Zalmon had traveled to New York to be with the Rebbe for Shavuot and was soon traveling back home.

Right after this incident he went into *Gan Eden Hatachton* with his wife and daughter to take leave from the Rebbe.

Teshura Feldman – Sosover 5766

7

Mrs. Sarah Raskin, shlucha in Cote St. Luc, Montreal, relates:

"When I was ready to get a driver's license, I wrote to the Rebbe mentioning my plans and thoughts. The Rebbe responded that I should ask Rabbi Dvorkin. When I approached him with my question he told me, 'When you go on shlichus you can get it.'

(When asked in letters about women driving, the Rebbe often responded that it depends on the prevailing custom of *frum* women in the area. See for example *Igros Kodesh* vol. 16, p. 203.)

We have all heard of people failing their first test. Here is how the Rebbe responded when he heard that:

Rabbi Zalman Gurarie was once in *yechidus* shortly after his daughter took her first driving test. During the conversation, the Rebbe asked Reb Zalman how his daughter had fared.

"She failed," he replied.

"Nu," said the Rebbe, "This is how it should be, the first time you fail and the second time you will already be successful."

Teshura Raskin (Bar Mitzva) 5759

8

Meir Shlomo Junik would help out in the Rebbe's home on

President Street and had the unique opportunity to have many interactions with the Rebbetzin.

On one occasion he told the Rebbetzin that he was traveling to Eretz Yisrael.

"Why?" asked the Rebbetzin.

"To visit the *mekomos hakedoshim* [the holy sites]," he replied.

The Rebbetzin responded to him, "*Vus iz nisht gut mit'n tatt'n?*" (Roughly translated: Why is [the Ohel of] my father not good enough?)

Heard from Meir Shlomo Junik