



לעבן מיט'ן רבי'ן

לע"ג
הרה"ח ר' אליהו ציון ע"ה
בן הרב חנני' ע"ה
גלב"ע כ"ז ניסן ה'תשע"ג

נדפס ע"י בנו
הרה"ת ר' יגאל ישראל זוזגתו מרת חי'
צירליא ומשפחתם שיחיו
ניאזוף



BIUR CHAMETZ OUTSIDE THE REBBE'S HOME,
EREV PESACH 5748.

*“Shnas Tismach
happens once in a
thousand years!”*

PESACH 5748



“The time period following Chof-Beis Shevat was very difficult for Chassidim, as the Rebbe was not in 770 throughout the week. For the first time ever, the Rebbe’s daily schedule moved to his house on President Street, and only a small group of people were able to participate in the Rebbe’s *minyan* for the *tefillos*. Although the Rebbe *farbrenge*d on the Shabbos after Chof-Beis Shevat (which was *Shabbos Mevorchim*), during the following three weeks the Rebbe did not come to 770 for Shabbos at all. The fact that there was no *farbrengen* on Purim was very painful, as we realized that many changes were afoot. However, the fact that the Rebbe spent the entire Yom Tov of Pesach in 770—as well as the special events throughout the time—elevated us all into a joyous reality we had not experienced in a long while.”

–Rabbi Osher Farkash

LEIL YUD-GIMMEL NISSAN – HILULA OF THE TZEMACH TZEDEK

(Most of the events described here through *Mincha* of Erev Pesach occurred in the Rebbe’s home.)

After davening *Maariv* as the *shliach tzibbur*, the Rebbe said a *maamar k’ein sicha* on the *possuk* “*Vayomer.. Hachodesh hazeh lachem*,” concluding with the importance of learning the Chassidus of the Tzemach Tzedek, increasing in *tzedaka* and marking the birthday of the Rambam on Erev Pesach. There was an audible pause, and then the Rebbe continued with a *sicha* on the daily Chitas and Rambam.

After the *sicha*, the Rebbe distributed dollars for close to 30 minutes.

“You are leaving too much work for Moshiach!” the Rebbe replied.

YUD-GIMMEL NISSAN – HILULA OF THE TZEMACH TZEDEK

The Rebbe went to the Ohel in the afternoon.

After *Maariv*, Rabbi Piekarski (*rosh yeshiva* of 770) entered the room adjacent to the large room



THE REBBE SIGNS THE SHTAR MECHIRAS CHOMETZ IN HIS HOME, AS RABBI PIEKARSKI LOOKS ON.

where *tefillos* were held to buy the Rebbe’s *chametz* as he did each year.

The Rebbe asked him whether we will need to celebrate the second day of Yom Tov if Moshiach comes on the first day of Yom Tov. He responded, “Moshiach will answer the question.”

“You are leaving too much work for Moshiach!” the Rebbe replied.

YUD-DALED NISSAN – EREV PESACH

After *Shacharis*, (which began at 7:45 a.m.) the Rebbe inquired if someone present was ready to make a *siyum*. A *bochur* mentioned that he was ready and someone went to the second floor to bring the Gemara. Suddenly the Rebbe started saying a *sicha*! The scene was quite unusual. The Rebbe was wearing *tallis* and *tefillin* and saying a *sicha* without a *shtender*.

The five minute *sicha* included an explanation on the *siyum* of Shas and Rambam. After ascending to the upper floor, the Rebbe sent two bottles of wine

and \$18 for the *seudas mitzvah* in connection with the *siyum*.

Several minutes later, the Rebbe went out to the porch for *biur chametz*.

After *Mincha*, the Rebbe began saying another *sicha* about the final sentence of the *Seder Korban Pesach* that is customarily recited Erev Pesach after *Mincha*. It was an *avodadike sicha* said with great emotion, and the Rebbe's eyes were closed throughout. The Rebbe announced that every shliach will receive \$1,000 for the *peulos* of Pesach and concluded the *sicha* saying the words "*bimheira b'yameinu*" three times.

Shortly afterwards, the Rebbe arrived in 770 and distributed matzos. Rabbi Avraham Shemtov received two extra matzos for Rav Efraim Yolles (*Av Beis Din* of Philadelphia), and Rabbi Moshe Herson received an extra matzah for Mr. David Chase. The Rebbe asked several people if they would arrive home in time for Yom Tov. After giving Rabbi Meir Harlig an additional matzah for his father, Rabbi Mordechai Harlig, the Rebbe added an extra small piece saying: "For your father you need more."

The members of the *kolel* received packages of matzos to be distributed to the crowd downstairs (as was customary since 5738¹).

Around this time word went out that the Rebbe would remain in 770 throughout the entire Yom Tov. This news was greeted with much joy.

Caught by surprise, the crowd rushed closer, causing quite a commotion, but after a short time the entire shul was silent.

LEIL SHABBOS – FIRST NIGHT OF PESACH

Generally, the crowd in 770 during the first days of Pesach was much smaller than any other time of the year, as many *bochurim* who lived out of town would go home for Yom Tov and very few guests would come. No one anticipated that the coming days would be filled with so many special *giluyim*...

Entering the main shul for *Kabbalas Shabbos* and *Maariv*, the Rebbe strongly encouraged the singing. After davening, the Rebbe turned to the crowd and said, "*Gut Shabbos! Gut Yom Tov!*" three times. Everyone responded, and then the Rebbe

started saying a *sicha*! Caught by surprise, the crowd rushed closer, causing quite a commotion, but after a short time the entire shul was silent. The Rebbe discussed the first and last questions of *Ma Nishtana* in fascinating terms.

After the *sicha*, the crowd erupted in a joyful singing of *V'samachta*, and the Rebbe strongly encouraged the singing as he left the shul. The dancing continued for a long while afterwards and many groups gathered around for *chazara* prior to conducting their *sedarim*. This was the third *sicha* in one day!

MOTZAEI SHABBOS – SECOND NIGHT OF PESACH

Reaching the *shtender*, the Rebbe turned towards the crowd and waved both arms energetically to encourage the singing. A second *shtender* was already prepared in case the Rebbe would say a *sicha*. After *Maariv*, the Rebbe proceeded to the second *shtender* and announced "*Gut Yom Tov!*" three times, motioning to sing *V'samachta*. The entire scene was reminiscent of Sukkos...

The *sicha* was about *Sefiras HaOmer* and the special *kvius* of this year that it begins on Motzaei Shabbos. The Rebbe spoke about the story related in the Gemara that the ceilings cracked as the Yidden sang *Halel* after eating the *Korban Pesach*, concluding that so too must be the case tonight when we announce "*Lshana Haba'a BiYerushalayim!*"

MOTZAEI YOM TOV – CHOL HAMOED PESACH

The Rebbe announced "*Gut Moed!*" three times and then said that in order to bring the joy of Yom Tov into Chol Hamoed it would be appropriate to sing *V'samachta*. The Rebbe encouraged the singing very much and then said a *sicha* focusing on the *krias haTorah* of the next day—*Kadesh li kol bechor*.

FIRST DAY OF CHOL HAMOED

Each morning of Chol Hamoed, the Rebbe distributed coins for *tzedaka* to the many children in shul before *Shacharis*. This would take considerable time and the singing intensified throughout. After placing the *siddur* on the *shtender*, the Rebbe turned towards the crowd and encouraged the singing very strongly.

During the afternoon there was the annual *kinus Torah* in the upstairs *zal*, with *pilpulim* in *nigleh* and Chassidus presented by the *bochurim*.

The Rebbe began the *sicha* following *Maariv* by saying that since this time had been utilized to “say a few words” three times already, he will do so again tonight. The Rebbe then smiled and said, “The few words will grow to much more.”

The *sicha* focused on the *krias haTorah* of the next day and the fact that 17 Nissan, which is the *gematria* of *tov*, is a proper preparation for Chai Nissan, which connects to the theme of *הוהי יתן אל לבו*—a recurring theme of the Rebbe’s *sichos* since the *histalkus* of the Rebbetzin.

The Rebbe mentioned that tonight is the 110th birthday of his father, Harav Hagaon Reb Levi Yitzchok, and in light of the recent *shturem* to organize *farbrengens* on birthdays, it would be appropriate for Chassidim to *farbrenge* that evening.

Afterwards, the *gabbai* announced that a *chassidisher farbrengen* will take place in 770, which lasted until the wee hours of the morning.

SECOND DAY OF CHOL HAMOED

Rav Efraim Yolles came to 770 after *Shacharis* accompanied by his sons and grandsons. It was his long standing custom to visit the Rebbe every year during Chol Hamoed Pesach in accordance with the *halacha* that *aliya laregel* after the *churban* is observed by visiting one’s Rebbe during Yom Tov.²

The Rebbe greeted Rav Yolles upon exiting the elevator in the main corridor and entered *Gan Eiden Hatachton* with his entire entourage. The Rebbe started the conversation by saying, “Today is my father’s 110th *yom huledes*.”

After a short while, the entourage left the room and the Rebbe spoke with Rav Yolles for close to 30



THE REBBE SEES OFF RAV YOLLES ON HIS LAST VISIT TO THE REBBE, SECOND DAY OF CHOL HAMOED PESACH 5748.

minutes. The Rebbe accompanied him to the door of 770, still wearing his *tallis* from *Shacharis*.

While waiting for his car to arrive, the Rebbe said to him “*יראה כהן בציון*” – May the *kohen* be seen in *Tziyon* [Rav Yolles was a *kohen*], and added that since it was Yom Tov the crowd should sing a *niggun*. The crowd started singing *V’samachta* and the Rebbe encouraged the singing while looking at Rav Yolles and the entire crowd with a very bright countenance.

Rav Yolles walked down the entire walkway of the entrance to 770 backwards aided by his grandsons, and the Rebbe remained at the door until the car was out of sight. (Rav Yolles was 97 at the time and this would be the last time he saw the Rebbe. –Ed.)

At 2:00 p.m. the Rebbe participated in the children’s rally, saying three *sichos* to the children after they recited the 12 *pesukim*. At the end of the final *sicha* the Rebbe discussed whether to distribute three coins corresponding to the three matzos or four coins for the four cups of wine at the *seder*. The Rebbe concluded that each participant would receive four coins.

Rabbi Yaakov Yehuda Hecht *bentched* the Rebbe on behalf of all the children and the Rebbe instructed them to sing *V’samachta* and *Nyet Nyet Nikavo*.

The Rebbe said a *sicha* after *Maariv*. (This was the only year when the Rebbe said a *sicha* every night of Pesach. –Ed.)

*The Rebbe smiled and said,
“I also did not see this
behavior by my father or my
grandfather, and I myself did
not do so before arriving in
America...”*

THIRD DAY OF CHOL HAMOED

After *Mincha* there was a *kinus Hakhel*. Rabbi Dovid Raskin shared with the crowd the Rebbe’s response to the notification of the *kinus* with the date of *Chai Nissan*: “*ויהא חי בכל הפ' [רטים] ולדרז קיום*—הרמז ניסן - ניסי ניסים כו' מתחיל מהגאולה בפשטות ממש [Drawing on the word ‘chai’ used for the date] may the gathering be ‘alive’ in all aspects, and may it hasten the fulfillment of the allusion in the word

Nissan—*nisei nisim*, wonder of wonders; beginning with the *geula* literally *mamash*.” (The Rebbe mentioned this *kinus Hakhel* during that evening’s *sicha*.)

In the *sicha* after *Maariv*, the Rebbe discussed at length the theme of the next day’s *krias haTorah* regarding Pesach Sheini, which is the lesson of “נישטא קיין פארפאלך”—it is never too late to fix. Emphasizing the need to demand the coming of Moshiach, the Rebbe described a situation where a Jew is perfectly comfortable in *galus* physically, materially, and even spiritually.

Some do not see the need to demand *Ad Mosai* and are trying to discourage others from doing so as well. This resistance is only natural, as they had never seen this type of behavior [demanding the coming of Moshiach] in previous generations.

The Rebbe smiled and said, “I also did not see this behavior by my father or my grandfather, and I myself did not do so before arriving in America... But the fact is that we need to do this and the positive effects are evident.” The tone of the *sicha* was very special.

The Rebbe concluded by mentioning that there is reason to call Pesach *zman simchaseinu* (like Sukkos), and although it is not the *halacha* it is still relevant. Although being in *galus* is reason to be pained; nevertheless, we need to rejoice in the true hope and *bitachon* that Moshiach will come immediately.

The crowd erupted in a thunderous cry of *Ad Mosai* and started dancing in the streets. The *hisorerus* was so strong that after a short while, arrangements were made with the police to close off the corner of Kingston and Montgomery, and an impromptu *simchas beis hashoeiva* (complete with live music by Rabbi Eli Lipsker’s orchestra) lasted throughout the night!

LEIL SHVI’I SHEL PESACH

The *maamar* ד”ה ונחה עליו רוח ה’ תשי”ד was edited by the Rebbe³ and published in honor of the final days of Pesach.

Many guests arrived for the final days of Pesach.

After *Maariv*, the Rebbe announced “*Gut Yom Tov!*” three times and everyone responded in unison. During the *sicha*, the Rebbe discussed a question in *nigleh* and in Chassidus, and concluded by saying תן לחכם ויחכם עוד – Give the wise man information and he’ll expound upon it on his own.

Chassidim remained awake in shul throughout the night as customary. Reb Sholom Morozov delivered a *shiur* on the Rebbe’s *michtovim kloiyim* for Pesach and Reb Yoel Kahn delivered a *shiur* on the newly published *maamar*. Reb Dovid Raskin *farbrenge*d in the small *zal* throughout the night, emphasizing the importance of going on *tahalucha*, which would take place the next day.

SHVI’I SHEL PESACH

Following *Mincha*, a great multitude of *bochurim* and *anash* lined up on the parkway in front of 770 in preparation for *tahalucha*. As the Rebbe came out to the main entrance, the *niggun* of Napoleon’s March began and the large crowd started walking towards Brooklyn Avenue as the Rebbe reviewed the entire line, periodically encouraging the singing, like a general reviewing his troops...

There was a considerably smaller crowd in shul for *Maariv*; the Rebbe said a *sicha* for 45 minutes on the various themes of Acharon Shel Pesach.

At 11:00 p.m., after all the groups had returned from *tahalucha*, everyone gathered outside 770 and the Rebbe came to the door of 770, greeted by the singing of *Zol Shoyn Zein Di Geulah*. The Rebbe’s face shone brightly during those few special minutes.

ACHARON SHEL PESACH – SEUDAS MOSHIACH

Several minutes before *shkia*, the Rebbe entered the main shul for *seudas Moshiach* and washed for *hamotzi*.

The *farbrengen* of *seudas Moshiach* was the climax of this special Yom Tov that was filled with so many *giluyim*. We clearly felt Moshiach in the air and that the Rebbe is elevating us all, taking us out of *galus*... All of the *sichos* were very *shturemdik*.

Particularly I remember during the second *sicha* the Rebbe spoke very strongly about the year of “*Tismach*.”

“A year of *Hakhel*, which comes every seven years, is very special. Now imagine how we need to react to a year of *Tismach*, which we have awaited for one thousand years and the next *shnas Tismach* will occur in another one thousand years! We are now at the *seudas Moshiach* of *shnas Tismach*, which occurs only every one thousand years! It is

THE REBBE ENCOURAGES THE SINGING AT SHACHARIS, CHOL HAMOED PESACH.





incumbent upon us to rejoice and to scream *Ad Mosai*, since one thousand years have passed since the previous *shnas Tismach!*”

The *sicha* was so strong and emotional that the crowd roared with the chant of *Ad Mosai*, which evolved into the song “*Ad Mosai*, do we have to wait. We want *Moshiach* now. We don’t want to wait!” During the first few minutes of the singing, the Rebbe sat on the edge of his chair as if to stand and Rabbi Leibel Groner started motioning to the crowd to rise. The entire crowd leaped to their feet and danced for 20 minutes as the Rebbe said *l’chaim* to many people. Suddenly, the Rebbe stood up and danced, and encouraged the singing very strongly.

These electrifying moments defy description... We all felt we were marching toward the *geulah shleimah!*

Following the next *sicha*, the crowd sang the *niggun* “*Sheyiboneh Beis Hamikdash Bimheira B’yameinu. Yiddelach Shreit Ad Mosai!*” Many were able to clearly hear the Rebbe singing “*Yidden Aleh Shreit! Ad Mosai!*”

–Rabbi Osher Farkash

These electrifying moments defy description... We all felt we were marching toward the geulah shleimah!

Among many topics, the Rebbe spoke about the custom of the Rebbeim to specifically eat *matzah shruya* on Acharon Shel Pesach and mentioned several times the importance of drinking four cups of wine during *seudas Moshiach*.

As a participation in the next day’s *kinus Torah*, the Rebbe explained at length the various Torah sources and rationale for celebrating birthdays in a public way.

After the Alter Rebbe’s *niggun*, the Rebbe *bentched* on a *kos* and davened *Maariv* as the *shliach tzibbur*. Following *Havdalah*, the Rebbe distributed *kos shel bracha* for over three hours after which the Rebbe said a *bracha acharona* and *V’yiten L’cha*, and left the shul at 3:30 a.m. (!) while singing *Ki B’simcha Seitze’u*. **1**

1. See *Moments* article in this magazine.
2. See *A Tradition of Old*, Derher Nissan 5775, for more about Rav Yolles’ Pesach visits.
3. Sefer Hamaamarim Melukat vol. 2.