

HORAV LEVI YITZCHOK

Horav Levi Yitzchak is born on 18 Nissan to Rabbi Boruch Schneur (Zalman) Schneerson and Rebbetzin Zelda Rochel, in the town of Dobryanka (also known as Podobranka) near

ת"מ

תרכ"ח

Homel. He is a fifth-generation direct descendant of the Tzemach Tzedek, and is named after his grandfather.¹

On 11 Sivan, at the suggestion of the Rebbe Rashab, Horav Levi Yitzchak marries Rebbetzin Chana,⁴ in Nikolayev. Horav Levi Yitzchak is supported by his father-in-law for a number of years, regularly studying 18 hours a day.⁵

תרכ"ב

תרכ"ט

Horav Levi Yitzchak plays a large part in the procurement of matzah for Jewish soldiers fighting in the Russo-Japanese war.⁸

תרכ"ד

Horav Levi Yitzchak is ordained by the leading Torah authorities of the time, Rabbi Chaim Soloveitchik of Brisk and Rabbi Eliyahu Chaim Meizel of Lodz.¹¹

תרכ"ו

לזכות
הרה"ת ר' גד יעקב
חזונו מרת חנה
ומשפחתם שירדיו
בלינינסקי

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Horav Levi Yitzchak is called upon to contribute to the defense of Mendel Beilis.¹⁵

תרע"ג

Horav Levi Yitzchak and Rebbetzin Chana play leading roles in the communal effort to provide aid to war refugees.¹⁶

תרע"ה

Rebbetzin Chana is born on 28 Teves to Rabbi Meir Shlomo and Rebbetzin Rochel Yanovsky in Romanovka.²

Horav Levi Yitzchak studies Torah under the tutelage of his great-uncle, Horav Yoel Chaikin, rav of Podobranka. His tremendous wisdom and genius is apparent from a young age, as the Friediker Rebbe related: "From the dawn of Horav Levi Yitzchak Schneerson's life, exceptionally great capabilities were apparent."³

The Rebbe is born on 11 Nissan⁶ and Horav Levi Yitzchak receives six telegrams from the Rebbe Rashab, with *brachos*, instructions, and guidance.

Horav Levi Yitzchak begins participating in conferences on communal matters organized by the Rebbe Rashab.⁷

Horav Levi Yitzchak's second son, Reb Dovber is born.⁹

The Rebbe Rashab forms a committee that would raise funds and implement resolutions designed to strengthen the Chabad community in Chevron as a bastion of Chassidus and Torah study. The Rebbe Rashab appoints Horav Levi Yitzchak to a crucial role on the committee.¹⁰

Horav Levi Yitzchak begins his tenure as chief rabbi of Yekaterinoslav, Ukraine, a position he holds for approximately 30 years, until his arrest and imprisonment by Communist government.¹²

תרכ"ט

The Rebbe Rashab is involved in Horav Levi Yitzchak's appointment, also encouraging him to take the position.¹³

Horav Levi Yitzchok's third son, Reb Yisroel Aryeh Leib, is born on 16 Sivan.¹⁴

When the provisional government comes to power in March 1917, Reb Chaim Ozer Grodzinski of Vilna and Horav Levi Yitzchak work with other leading rabbis to establish a united rabbinic congress to represent the Jewish people, and both travel to Moscow in the summer of that year for deliberations.¹⁷ The Russian Civil War begins, resulting in the Communists coming to power.

The Frieddiker Rebbe leaves Russia. Horav Levi Yitzchak is the only descendant of the first three Lubavitcher Rebbeim remaining in Russia, serving in a sense as the “*noss*” of the Jewish community there.²⁰

Horav Levi Yitzchak takes great risks to ensure that Yiddishkeit is kept alive in Russia, even inviting a Jewish NKVD informant to serve as the tenth man in the *minyana* for a *chasuna*.²²

At the end of the month of Kislev, Rebbetzin Chana is informed that Horav Levi Yitzchak had been tried in Moscow and sentenced to five years of exile in Central Asia.²⁶ The journey from Khar'kov to Chi'ili, Kazakhstan, takes a month.²⁷

After much effort, friends²⁸ of Horav Levi Yitzchak secure his release from Chi'ili. On 27 Nissan, he and Rebbetzin Chana arrive in Alma-Ata,²⁹ where he becomes the *rav* of the community.³⁰ After a prolonged illness, Horav Levi Yitzchak is *mistalek* on 20 Av. His sacred resting place is in Alma Ata (now called Almaty).³¹

The Rebbe Rashab is *mistalek* on 2 Nissan in Rostov¹⁸ and the Frieddiker Rebbe becomes Rebbe.¹⁹ Horav Levi Yitzchak fights to keep *Yiddishkeit* alive under the Communist regime, building *mikvaos*, making *brissim*, weddings, and much more.

While the wedding of the Rebbe and Rebbetzin is taking place in Warsaw, Horav Levi Yitzchak and Rebbetzin Chana celebrate in Russia (as they are barred from leaving the country) with a large community celebration in their city of Yekaterinoslav.²¹

The government conducts a census, and asks whether the person believes in G-d. Many *Yidden* are afraid to answer yes. Horav Levi Yitzchak publicly opposes any statement of atheism.²³

Horav Levi Yitzchak arranges (with great *mesiras nefesh*, and eventually with the permission of the Soviet government) the baking of matzah to be done at the highest level of *kashrus*.²⁴

On 9 Nissan, four NKVD agents burst into the home of Horav Levi Yitzchak at 3:00 a.m., arresting him.²⁵

תורע"ז

ת"ר"כ

ת"רפ"ח

ת"רפ"ט

ת"רצ"ה

ת"רצ"ט

ת"ש"ט

תש"ד

1. Toldos Levi Yitzchok p. 72.
2. Hayom Yom p. 43 Shalsheles Hayachas.
3. Toldos Levi Yitzchok p. 59.
4. Early Years p. 3.
5. Toldos Levi Yitzchok p. 151.
6. Ibid p. 20.
7. Kovetz Lubavitch 62.
8. Ibid.
9. Memories of Rebbetzin Chana no. 37.
10. See Igrat Kodesh p. 151.
11. Toldos Levi Yitzchok p. 60.
12. Hayom Yom p. 42 Shalsheles Hayachas.
13. Toldos Levi Yitzchok p. 151.
14. Hayom Yom p. 43 Shalsheles Hayachas.
15. Kovetz Lubavitch 62.
16. Hisvaaduyos 5745 vol. 1 p. 138.
17. Arkiyon Levi Yitzchak, pages 21-22. Toldot Levi Yitzchak Vol.
18. Hayom yom p. 17.
19. Ibid, p. 18.
20. Hisvaaduyos 5748 vol. 4, p. 158.
21. Memories of Rebbetzin Chana no. 10, p. 5-8.
22. Toldot Levi Yitzchak vol. 1, p. 167.
23. Toldot Levi Yitzchak vol. 1, p. 169.
24. Toldot Levi Yitzchak vol. 1, p. 181.
25. Toldot Levi Yitzchak vol. 2, p. 448.
26. Memoirs of Rebbetzin Chana no. 4.
27. Ibid. no. 5.
28. Ibid. no. 18; 19.
29. Ibid. no. 19.
30. Ibid.
31. Hayom Yom p. 42.