



לעבן מיט'ן רבין

לע"נ
 מרת שרה ע"ה
 בת הרה"ח יעקב אפרים הכהן
 שם טוב
 נלב"ע ז' אלול ה'תש"ע
 ת'נצ"ב'ה'
 נדפס ע"י נכדיה
 הרה"ת ר' שלום דובער
 וזוגתו מרת פייגא ומשפחתם שיחיו
 כהן

12 TAMMUZ 5738, YOSSIMELAMED VIA JEM 131027



”מען זאל זיך זעהן נאך א מאל...”
 “May we see each other again...”

SHEVAT 5738*



This account of the week of Yud Shevat 5738* with the Rebbe is based on the *yomanim* of Rabbis Lipa Brennan, Michael Seligson and Yitzchak Meir Sossover, all *bochurim* learning in 770 at the time.

MONDAY, 8 SHEVAT

Many guests arrived from around the world to be with the Rebbe for Yud Shevat. Among the guests from Eretz Yisroel were Reb Zushe “*Partizan*” Wilimovsky and one of the *bochurim shluchim* to

Yerushalayim, Hatomim Sholom Duchman.¹ Many of the guests *bentched hagomel* during *krias haTorah* this morning.

TUESDAY, 9 SHEVAT

The guests from Eretz Yisroel waited outside for the Rebbe, who arrived to 770 at 10:15 a.m. Seeing Reb Zushe Wilimovsky, the Rebbe smiled and told Reb Zushe to start a *niggun*. Reb Zushe began to sing together with the other *orchim*, and the Rebbe encouraged the singing with his hand. As the Rebbe entered his room, the Chassidim began a joyous dance in the hallway.

As every year on Yud Shevat, the Rebbe davened at the *amud*, and Maariv took place in the shul downstairs. Certain things were different this year (as a result of the Rebbe's heart attack on Shemini Atzeres earlier this year). The Rebbe davened in a slightly lower tone than usual. In addition, the *vaad hamesader* made sure that the Rebbe would have enough air. Every other year, large bleachers were set up so people can see and hear the Rebbe. This year, no bleachers were set up at all. Those who stood close by were able to both see and hear the Rebbe's davening but those who were further away were only able to hear but could not see.

After Maariv the Rebbe smiled to Reb Zalman Jaffe from England. The *gabbai* announced that everyone should go to the dinner benefiting Machon Chana which will be held in the "Young Israel Hall."

When the Rebbe came upstairs, he said "*Bruchim haba'im*" to Reb Yisroel Duchman for his son Sholom, who just arrived from Eretz Yisroel. The Rebbe also wished him *mazal tov* for his son Yossi who just became a *chosson*. Rabbi J.J. Hecht who heads Machon Chana was waiting for the Rebbe outside *Gan Eden Hatachton*. When the Rebbe saw Rabbi Hecht, he gave him a bottle of wine and 100 one-dollar bills as participation in the dinner. Thereafter the Rebbe left for home. The *bochurim* and *shluchim* farbrenge together in the upstairs *zal* of 770 until about 3:00 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, YUD SHEVAT

The Rebbe came to 770 at 9:15 a.m. After the quiet *shemoneh esreh*, Rabbi Leibel Groner handed the Rebbe a note saying that there was a *chosson* in the shul so there was no *tachanun*. The Rebbe looked at the note and put it in the back of his

siddur. After reciting *chazaras hashatz* the Rebbe turned around and seemed uncertain if he should say *kaddish* or *tachanun*, as he didn't see the *chosson*. When they showed the Rebbe where the *chosson* was, he said *kaddish*.

After davening everyone went to the Ohel. A special room was recently built over the place where the Rebbe stands whenever he goes to the Ohel. The room has two moving doors on either side and a window facing the Ohel so the Rebbe could drop the *panim* inside.

All of the mitzvah tanks came to the Ohel, carrying the many *bochurim* who made a stop at the Ohel on their way to *mitvzoim*. The "tankistin" (those who do *mitvzoim* on the mitzvah tanks) stayed at the Ohel for a short while and headed out in the tanks to various destinations with joyous *Chassidische niggunim* blaring through the speakers. They returned to 770 in time to daven Mincha with the Rebbe.

The Rebbe came downstairs for Mincha, and noticing Dr. Ira Weiss, the Rebbe nodded to him. After Mincha Reb Zushe Wilimovsky began to sing, and the Rebbe encouraged the singing with his



THE REBBE AT THE OHEL, 29 ELUL 5738*. THE SPECIAL ROOM WAS BUILT FOLLOWING THE HEART ATTACK ON SHEMINI ATZERES OF THAT YEAR.

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hand. Once the Rebbe left the shul, they began to rearrange the tables for the farbrengen.

This afternoon we were notified that tomorrow the Rebbe will receive the guests for *yechidus* in a manner similar to the way it was held after Simchas Torah (the week after the Rebbe had a heart attack). This means that the guests will pass by the door of the Rebbe's room and each person will hand the Rebbe his *tzetel*.

During the Yud Shevat farbrengens throughout the years, shluchim would come up to the Rebbe's table during the farbrengen and give the Rebbe various gifts. We were just notified that this year all the shluchim are requested to refrain from giving their presents to the Rebbe during the farbrengen and should instead give them to (the Rebbe via) the *mazkirus*.

The Rebbe came downstairs for the farbrengen at 9:00 p.m. In the first two *sichos* he spoke about the lesson we should learn from the way the Friediker Rebbe worked to spread Yiddishkeit. The Rebbe then said a *maamar Basi Legani*, primarily based on *ois ches* of the original *maamar*. In the *sicha* following the *maamar* the Rebbe spoke about the decision that was made in Eretz Yisroel to teach Arabic in the schools. The Rebbe said that people should make a tumult against it and that this will revoke the disastrous decision. In between the *sichos* the Rebbe smiled to Doctors Weiss and Resnick and motioned to many different people to say *l'chaim*. An Israeli television station came to 770 to take a video of the farbrengen. Rabbi Simcha Elberg approached the Rebbe and spoke with the Rebbe a number of times during the farbrengen.



During the farbrengen, the Rebbe announced that he would once again be sending a group of *bochurim* and *yungeleit* to Eretz Yisroel.

At the end of the farbrengen, the Rebbe opened his *siddur* and requested that the *niggun Lechatchila Aribet* be sung. The Rebbe then asked to sing “*Utzu Etza*” and “*Hoshia es Amecha*” and sang along during the *niggunim*. As the Rebbe was about to leave, he smiled to Reb Yoel Kahan and told him to begin the *niggun* “*Ve’haharikosi Lachem Bracha*.”

On his way out of the farbrengen, Rabbi Flakser came over to speak with the Rebbe. Rabbi Flakser is the Rosh Yeshiva of the Gerrer Yeshiva in Eretz Yisroel and a member of the *beis din* of Agudas Harabbanim. The Rebbe requested of him to publish an ad in the newspapers in Eretz Yisroel opposing the new law of teaching Arabic in the schools.

A crowd of people waited at the entrance of 770 thinking that the Rebbe would leave for his home shortly after, but instead they were told that the Rebbe would spend the night in 770.

THURSDAY, YUD-ALEF SHEVAT

After Maariv, the Rebbe sat at the door of his room and the guests passed by for “*yechidus*.” Each person handed the Rebbe his *tzetel*. The Rebbe read some of the *tzetzlach* and spoke with various people who passed by. For the most part the Rebbe placed the *tzetzlach* in the box that was on the table. The Rebbe also gave a dollar to each person saying that it is “*mitzvah gelt*” for them to give to *tzedakah* in their cities.

When Rabbi Shlomo Cunin passed by, the Rebbe gave him 10 dollars and told him to do with them as he sees fit. When Rabbi Cunin got back to California he gave one dollar to each of the 10 *talmidim hashluchim* who arrived in Los Angeles a few weeks earlier.

To a number of guests, the Rebbe said, “*Men zol zich zen noch amol*—may we see each other again.” The *yechidus* lasted half an hour.

After the *yechidus* the Rebbe spoke with Reb Yankel Katz from Chicago for a half hour. Reb Yankel was by the Rebbe this past Tishrei and wanted to go in to the Rebbe for *yechidus*. At the time there was no regular *yechidus* so he could not go in, but he wrote to the Rebbe that he had two things he wanted to show the Rebbe. Now the Rebbe asked him, “Reb Yaakov, you told me that

you have two things to give me.” Reb Yankel took out a picture from his pocket and showed it to the Rebbe saying that the Rebbe knows the person in this picture very well. The Rebbe asked him who the person is and Reb Yankel answered that it is the Rogatchover. The Rebbe stood up from his place and said, “*Ich hob em gekent! Ich fleg bai em araingain un aroisgain!*—I knew him! I used to visit him frequently!” The Rebbe then added that it is apparent from this photo that his face changed considerably in his later years.

Reb Yankel then took out a tape recorder and began to play a recording of a person singing. The Rebbe said, “*Dos iz Reb Michael Dvorkin. Men zol dos mefarsem zain bepirsum hachi gadol*—This is (the voice of) Reb Michael Dvorkin. This recording should be publicized as much as possible.” The Rebbe asked Reb Yankel if he could have the picture of the Rogatchover, and Reb Yankel gave the Rebbe both the picture and the tape.

The Rebbe didn’t go home tonight either, rather staying in 770 (there was a fierce snowstorm outside).

The Rebbe stood up from his place and said, “Ich hob em gekent! Ich fleg bai em araingain un aroisgain!—I knew him! I used to visit him frequently!”

FRIDAY, 12 SHEVAT

We were just notified that the Rebbe will farbreng this Motzei Shabbos. There is also a *chasuna* taking place on Motzei Shabbos so the farbrengen was called for 6:30 p.m., earlier than the regular time. The Rebbe wrote to the *chossin* and *kallah* that they need not worry about the farbrengen taking away participants from the wedding, since the farbrengen will be a short one.

Later in the afternoon, we were notified about another surprise: the Rebbe will wash for bread and give out *kos shel bracha* at this farbrengen as well!² (Being that it was already so close to Shabbos, it was too late to order *challos* for the participants.)

The Rebbe davened *Kabbalas Shabbos* with the *minyán* of the *bochurim* in the small *zal* at 8:00 p.m. Many of the *orchim* were also present. After



davening ended, the Rebbe motioned to Reb Zushe Wilimovsky as if to say, “Nu? What are you waiting for?” at which point Reb Zushe broke into a song with the Rebbe encouraging the singing with his hand.

After davening ended, the Rebbe motioned to Reb Zushe Wilimovsky as if to say, “Nu? What are you waiting for?”

MOTZEI SHABBOS, YUD-GIMMEL SHEVAT

A rather joyous farbrengen began after Shabbos at 6:30 p.m. The *challos* were set up in front of the Rebbe’s place and the Rebbe cut and partook from one of them.

The Rebbe turned to Rabbi Mentlik and said that since Rabbi Teleshevsky who usually makes the announcements is not here, Rabbi Mentlik should announce about everyone washing their hands for bread. With a shaky voice, Rabbi Mentlik started making the announcement, but the Rebbe was unsatisfied. “*Mit’n gantzen nusach!*” the Rebbe said, “Make the announcement with the whole *nusach!*” The Rebbe then turned to Rabbi Piekarski, “You are a neighbor (of Rabbi Teleshevsky),³ so make the announcement in his stead.”

During the course of the farbrengen, the Rebbe asked Rabbi Groner to bring the bottles of *marshke* from his room to be distributed. The Rebbe gave *l’chaim* and bottles to the *menahel* of the Chabad *mosdos* in Tzfas, Reb Leibel Kaplan, and to Reb Zushe Wilimovsky as representative of Colel Chabad in Yerushalayim. The Rebbe told him that he should hold on to the bottle until the shluchim to Eretz Yisroel are chosen. The Rebbe also gave bottles to Reb Zalman Shimon Dworkin as a representative of the Kolel here in Brooklyn, to Reb Shlomo Cunin from Los Angeles and to Rabbi Gutnick from Australia, referring to him as “*Hakohen michatzi kadur hatachton mitzafon ledarom*” (—the *Kohen* covering the entire Lower Hemisphere, from north to south.)

The Rebbe also told Reb Yankel Katz to say *l’chaim* on a full cup. The Rebbe blessed Rabbi Gutnick that he should have “*Hatzlacha meruba* infinitely more than until now.” The Rebbe added, “You think that I am satisfied?! You should know

that I am *not* satisfied!” Rabbi Gutnick said that he hopes he will be able to give the Rebbe more *nachas ruach* the next time around to which the Rebbe replied, “*Halevai!*”

The farbrengen ended at 8:30 pm. The Rebbe led the *bentching* and then distributed *kos shel bracha*. This *kos shel bracha* was far more joyous than any other. The Rebbe clapped a lot to the *niggunim*, asking numerous times that people should whistle and he whistled himself as well. During the distribution, the Rebbe gave the second *challa* from the farbrengen to the above-mentioned *chossan* for his *chassuna* tonight!

The Rebbe poured a large cup for Rabbi Shusterman from Chicago to pass on to Dr. Ira Weiss. The Rebbe also gave a large cup to Rabbi Sholom Ber Hecht for a member of his shul in Queens.

Rabbi J.J. Hecht was not present at the beginning of *kos shel bracha*. The Rebbe asked where he was, and when he arrived the Rebbe called him over and spoke with him. The Rebbe poured him a full cup for the *chasuna* taking place tonight. There were a number of other people who also spoke with the Rebbe during *kos shel bracha*. One of them was Mr. Aryeh Naor, Cabinet Secretary of the Knesset.

A large number of *bochurim* didn’t go by to receive *kos shel bracha*. One of the doctors also mentioned that the Rebbe isn’t feeling so well. *Kos shel bracha* ended at 9:15.

Before leaving, the Rebbe announced about a *bracha acharona*, adding that everyone should get some rest in order to be well energized in time for the next farbrengen. Everyone realized that the Rebbe was implying that there would be a farbrengen on Chamisha Asar B’Shevat as well, and so it was.

SUNDAY, YUD-DALED SHEVAT

A member of the *hanhala* in Morristown asked Rabbi Groner if the *bochurim* should travel back to yeshiva today; Rabbi Groner replied that he can’t give a definitive answer and that it could result in a waste of *Yiddishe gelt*. From his response it was understood that there will be a farbrengen on Chamisha Asar B’shevat.

Today the Rebbe sent out a *tzetel* saying that whoever wishes can sign up to be part of the third group of shluchim to Eretz Yisroel (which the Rebbe announced on Yud Shevat). Only those

28 Iyar 5738, Yossi Melamed via JEM 12927



who are willing to go on a shlichus for two years to sit and learn studiously without any distractions should sign up. The *mazkirus* office was filled with people all day and many people signed up for this special shlichus.

MONDAY, CHAMISHA ASAR B'SHEVAT

The Rebbe went to the mikvah and then set out for the Ohel accompanied by Dr. Lev.

Rabbi Groner instructed the *vaad hamesader* to set up the tables for a farbrengen, at which point it was clear that a farbrengen will undoubtedly take place.

After Mincha, Rabbi Hodakov entered the Rebbe's room and upon exiting, he announced that Maariv will be followed by a short farbrengen. In middle of the farbrengen, the Rebbe asked that the *tankistin* come up to the *bima* and the Rebbe will give dollars to each *tankist* to distribute to the participants of the farbrengen.

Towards the end of the farbrengen the Rebbe asked for a few different *niggunim* to be sung and the Rebbe's face was very serious during the singing. The Rebbe then began to sing "*Tzama Lecha Nafshi*." After singing the words "*Kein bakodesh chazisicha*" the Rebbe said a few words which were indecipherable by the crowd. The second time around though the Rebbe sang the words the way they are written in the *possuk*. The Rebbe left the farbrengen to the *niggun* "*Ufaratzta*," encouraging the singing with much vigor. **1**

1. He was among the shluchim sent by the Rebbe to Eretz Yisroel in 5736. More about this later on in this article. For an extensive account of this special shlichus, see Derher Adar 5778, "The Historic Mission: The Shluchim to Eretz Yisroel."
2. Usually, the Rebbe gave out *kos shel bracha* only four times a year at the end of *yom tov*.
3. Or perhaps the Rebbe's intention was: since Rabbi Piekarski is sitting next to Rabbi Mentlik, he should make the announcement.



TISHREI 5738, LEVI FREIDIN VIA JEVI 21730