

"It's Chodesh Adar!"

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Based on the *yomanim* of Rabbis Meir Yechiel Hershkowitz, Mordechai Mishulovin and Hirshel Raskin, who were *bochurim* in 770 at the time.

SUNDAY, ROSH CHODESH ADAR I

Professor Avner Shaki, a member of Knesset who has been putting great effort into nullifying the decree of "*Mihu Yehudi*," came to visit the Rebbe. When the Rebbe came into shul for Mincha, Professor Shaki was waiting at the door with Rabbi Shimon Elituv. The Rebbe's face lit up and the two visitors said *"Shalom aleichem"* to the Rebbe.

After Mincha everyone was wondering if the Rebbe would exchange a few words with Professor Shaki but the Rebbe left the shul without speaking to him.

Rabbi Groner came out of the Rebbe's room and told Professor Shaki that the Rebbe had noticed that he had arrived but had resolved not to speak with him publicly lest it cause a tumult. The Rebbe asked that he be invited to the *siyum* of Sefer Mishpatim of the Rambam, which would be taking place that night in 770.

FRIDAY, 5 ADAR I

A group of about 60 *baalei batim* arrived this morning from Lyon, France. They came to meet the Rebbe and were lead by the mayor of Lyon. On the way from home to 770 that morning, Rabbi Binyomin Klein told the Rebbe that there is a group of people in 770 who would like to see him.

The Rebbe's face was shining as he came out of the car. He saluted the group as he passed them and shook hands with some of them while saying "Good morning" in French. The Rebbe then went into his room and told Rabbi Groner that he wished to give a dollar for tzedaka to each of the guests. The Rebbe stood in the hallway outside the door to *Gan Eden Hatachton*, giving a dollar to each person. The atmosphere was joyous.

The Rebbe thanked the group for their assistance to the Chabad institutions in Lyon. The Rebbe then spoke with the mayor who is currently suffering from health issues and gave him a *bracha* for *besuros tovos* and good health. One of the women told the Rebbe that she has a sister stranded behind the Iron Curtain. Her sister asked her to tell the Rebbe that it is thanks to the Rebbe that she is pulling through. The Rebbe gave her a *bracha*.

SHABBOS, 6 ADAR I

At 9:30 a.m. when the Rebbe came to 770 from the library next door, there were public school children from "Release Time" waiting outside for the Rebbe to arrive. They all wished the Rebbe "Good Shabbos" and the Rebbe replied with a "Good Shabbos" of his own. One of the children extended his hand to the Rebbe and the Rebbe shook his hand. When the other children saw this, they all went to shake the Rebbe's hand. The Rebbe's face was shining with joy.

Before entering his room the Rebbe turned to look at the *mazkirus* office. Rabbi Groner immediately came into the Rebbe's room and the Rebbe asked him to bring the *hanachos* of the *sichos* from the year 5734*. When *bochurim* in the *zal* noticed Rabbi Groner rushing to bring the *sefer* to the Rebbe, they surmised that the Rebbe will most probably farbreng this Shabbos. Before long this proved to be right, for on his way to Shacharis a few minutes later the Rebbe told the *mazkir* that there will indeed be a farbrengen.

The farbrengen was exceptionally joyous and uplifting as befitting for the joyous month of Adar. The Rebbe's face radiated *simcha* and during the farbrengen joyous *niggunim* were sung. In the closing *sicha* of the farbrengen, the Rebbe reminded everyone to make sure that the *siyumei haRambam* that were being arranged should be with twice as much *shturem* as last year's *siyum*, and that the addresses made at the *siyumim* should be transcribed and published in a book, along with added footnotes and sources.

SUNDAY 7 ADAR I

When the Rebbe arrived at 770 in the morning, he distributed nickels for about 12 minutes. A few people exchanged words with the Rebbe.

The Rebbe left his room at 8:30 p.m. and wished "*Mazal tov*" twice to a *chosson* and *kalla* who were standing in *Gan Eden Hatachton*. The Rebbe also wished "*Mazal tov*" to Dr. Weiss who had come from Chicago for the wedding.

MONDAY, 8 ADAR I

At 3:10 p.m. a *chosson* and his parents (who are not Lubavitchers) went into *Gan Eden Hatachton* to receive the Rebbe's *siddur*. Before they left, the Rebbe asked them to pass on a message to Rabbi Groner, that he should tell the people in shul that the Rebbe will not be coming out for Mincha scheduled to take place at 3:15. This was surprising as this is a change from the Rebbe's usual practice.

After Maariv, as the Rebbe made his way back to his room, the Rebbe waved to a non-Jewish man who was standing in the hallway. (He was delivering fruit to Rashag.)

TUESDAY, 9 ADAR I

When the Rebbe arrived at 770 in the morning, two Jews from the Syrian Jewish Community of Brooklyn were waiting for the Rebbe outside, together with the rabbi of their shul, Rabbi Avraham Hecht (See "Chossid, Made in the USA," Derher Adar 5778). One of the people asked the Rebbe for a *bracha*. The Rebbe smiled and spoke to him in English for a while. Rabbi Hecht was standing nearby and the Rebbe smiled to him, saying in Yiddish, "*Dos zainen daine customers*!— These are your customers!"

After Maariv, a Yid from Eretz Yisroel mentioned to the Rebbe that he is returning to Eretz Yisroel, to which the Rebbe replied with a blessing, adding that it is known that Eretz Yisroel is blessed!

WEDNESDAY, 10 ADAR I

Today, a member of *anash* asked the Rebbe for a *bracha* for children and the Rebbe replied, "שמחה" (joy breaks boundaries).

As the Rebbe made his way out of 770 after Maariv, the Chassidim weren't singing. When the Rebbe reached the entrance of 770, he turned around to the bystanders and lifted his hand in gesture, "*M'zol machriz zain az s'iz chodesh Adar*!— An announcement should be made that it is the month of Adar (which calls for increased *simcha*)!" The crowd immediately began to sing "*Didan Notzach*" as the Rebbe repeatedly encouraged the singing with his hand. The Chassidim went as far as dancing outside. The dancing continued in the upstairs *zal* as well as downstairs for many hours.

It seems that the Rebbe will be going to the Ohel tomorrow. In addition, there will be a final hearing in the court tomorrow regarding the *sefarim* case. The lawyers from both sides will summarize their points of view to the judge. We hope that it won't be too long until there is a true *didan notzach*.

The *bochurim* farbrenged tonight with great *shturem*. During the course of the farbrengen, the trial was discussed. People speculate that this might be the reason why the Rebbe stressed that people should be *b'simcha*, to bring about a *didan notzach*.

The *bochurim* in Oholei Torah also danced and farbrenged until the morning!

THURSDAY, 11 ADAR I

The Rebbe left 770 at 3:15 p.m. and went to his car to go to the Ohel. Just before entering the car the Rebbe gave tzedaka to a baby being held by his mother. The Rebbe waved his hand to the infant, then got into the car and again waved a few times to the infant. The Rebbe encouraged the singing of *"Didan Notzach"* from his car.

Rabbi Klein related that on his way to the Ohel the Rebbe read with great concentration the *kovetz* that the members of the Kolel had put out, scrutinizing every page! The result of the court proceedings today seemed to be very much in our favor, with the judge dismissing the other side's claims a number of times. We are impatiently waiting for the news that *"didan notzach*!"

When the Rebbe left for home after Maariv the Chassidim sang with all their energy and the Rebbe vigorously encouraged the singing.

SUNDAY, 14 ADAR I, PURIM KATAN

This morning, Professor Shaki stood near the Rebbe's room, as he was scheduled to travel back to Eretz Yisroel. The Rebbe spoke to him for a few minutes and gave him a handful of 26 coins for tzedaka in *Eretz Hakodesh*. The Rebbe also spoke to him about his book on *Mihu Yehudi*, reminding him to send the Rebbe a copy when he reprints it. The

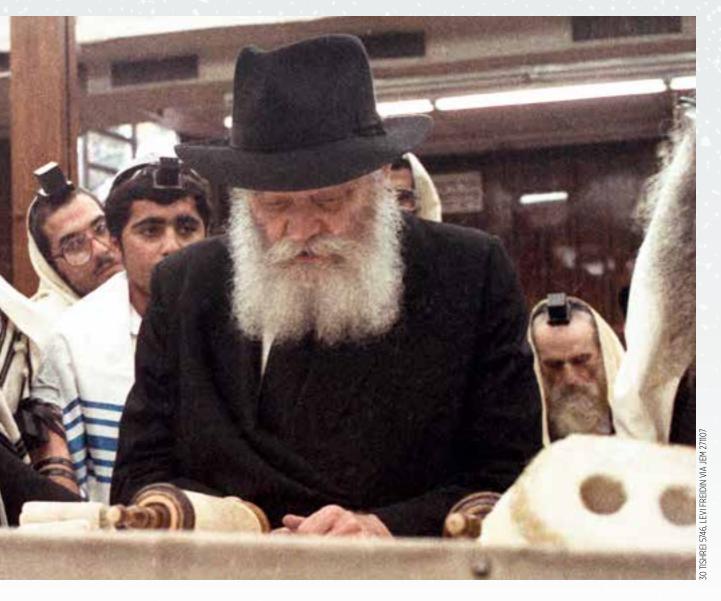


Rebbe finished off by saying: "Let us hope that by then the issue will be gone."

The Rebbe continued to distribute coins. Reb Zalman Gurary went by and asked the Rebbe if "*Kol haposhet yad, nosnim lo*"¹ is applicable today as well (as today is Purim Katan). The Rebbe smiled and said, "Why not?"

As the Rebbe exited 770 on his way to the Ohel this afternoon, a new car was brought to 770 for the Rebbe to use. The car is modern and up to date, with the interior custom-made for the Rebbe. Many *bochurim* and *anash* who heard about the new car assembled in front of 770 to witness the Rebbe using it for the very first time, and Chaim Baruch Halberstam was waiting with his camera to film the moment. The Rebbe came out of 770 and distributed tzedaka to the many children who stood nearby. As the Rebbe neared the new car, he turned to Rabbis Groner and Krinsky and asked, "What is this?" Rabbi Krinsky told the Rebbe that this new car was given to the Rebbe as a gift. The Rebbe responded, "It says '*Soneh matanos yichye*—He who despises gifts will live.' I would like to use the same car that I used yesterday," and he motioned that the new car should be moved aside.

Rabbi Krinsky ran to get the old car, which was parked nearby, while the Rebbe waited on the sidewalk. The Rebbe's face held a very serious expression and he did not signal at all to sing. When the old car arrived the Rebbe asked Rabbi Groner, "Is this the car in which I traveled yesterday?" before entering the car which drove off to the Ohel.²





People surmised and hoped that the Rebbe would farbreng tonight in honor of Purim Katan, as the last time the Rebbe farbrenged on a weekday was over two months ago, on Zos Chanukah. When Rabbi Groner came out of the Rebbe's room this evening and announced that there will indeed be a farbrengen, the Chassidim began a joyous dance outside 770, later bringing the dancing indoors.

During the course of the farbrengen, the Rebbe clapped his hands very strongly to the *niggun "Nye Zhuritzi*" for quite some time, something that we haven't seen the Rebbe do for a long while now.

WEDNESDAY, 17 ADAR I

A Yid from Kiryat Gat who was told that he will need to undergo surgery, asked the Rebbe what he should do. The Rebbe replied to him "דיוק בהנחת Be meticulous in always wearing tefillin that were checked." *Baruch Hashem*, the man was notified that he no longer needs the operation and was discharged from the hospital a day later.

This evening, Rabbi Sholom Ber Gorodetzki was waiting in *Gan Eden Hatachton* for the Rebbe to come out of his room. When the Rebbe came out at 8:25 p.m., he spoke to the Rebbe about his father, Reb Binyomin Gorodetzky, who had been rushed to the hospital yesterday. The Rebbe spoke with him for about 15 minutes.

SUNDAY, 21 ADAR I

When the Rebbe came into 770 this morning, Rabbi Yitzchak Yedidiya Frankel, the *rav* of Tel Aviv, was waiting to speak with the Rebbe. The Rebbe nodded in greeting and entered his room. Two minutes later, the Rebbe came out of his room with a handful of coins. The Rebbe turned to Rabbi Frankel and apologized that he will first distribute the coins to the children, because tzedaka is a mitzvah and one must start with a *davar shebekdusha*.

As soon as the Rebbe finished giving out the coins, he went into *Gan Eden Hatachton* followed by Rabbi Frankel, where they conversed for a few minutes. Rabbi Frankel told the Rebbe that he will be attending the grand *siyum haRambam* which will be held in the large Yad Eliyahu stadium in Tel Aviv, and that they are expecting over 10,000 people to attend! The Rebbe said that this is the way it should be, with a large crowd, reminiscent of the giving of the Torah on Har Sinai.



THE REBBE ASKS RABBI KRINSKY TO BRING THE OLD CAR, PURIM KATAN 5746*.

Today the Rebbe didn't give out nickels or go to the Ohel, although it had recently become his custom to do so every Sunday.

THURSDAY, 25 ADAR 1

This morning when the Rebbe said his and the Rebbetzin's *kapitel*, as he usually does before exiting the shul after *krias haTorah*, the Rebbe said both *kapitlach* 85 and 86 of Tehillim in connection with the Rebbetzin's birthday, which occurs today. (Although the Rebbetzin was not born in a leap year, so her birthday is technically marked in Adar II, the Rebbe began saying the new *kapitel* on 25 Adar I, and continued reciting the old *kapitel* until Yud-Alpeh Nissan).

SHABBOS PARSHAS VAYAKHEL, 27 ADAR I

On Thursday, the Chassidim noticed that the Rebbe was limping and struggling to walk on his right foot. The *matzav* became more noticeable later that evening and on Friday. Tehillim and Shacharis today took place in the small *zal* so that the Rebbe wouldn't need to take the stairs.

The Rebbe spoke in a loud tone during the farbrengen.

After the third *sicha*, Rabbi Katzman, who is a Kohen, came up to the Rebbe and *bentched* the Rebbe with "*Yevarechecha*..." The Rebbe smiled to him. When he tried to get back down to his place apparently someone pulled him and he almost fell onto the table. The Rebbe picked himself up a bit and pointed to the place where Rabbi Katzman was sitting, saying that whoever pushed him should ask his forgiveness, as he is a Kohen. Rabbi Katzman said, "I fell on my own..." The Rebbe smiled.

After the fourth *sicha* the Rebbe gave out six bottles of *mashke* for various causes and events. The Rebbe also gave some *mashke* from his *becher* to Rabbis Shmuel Butman and Moshe Herson, who then announced the details of the *siyumei haRambam* which will be taking place in Manhattan and New Jersey. As Chazzan Teleshevsky was not present at the farbrengen, the Rebbe himself began the *niggun "Sheyiboneh.*"

This morning after Tehillim, Rabbi Moshe Pinchos Katz, the *gabbai* of 770 suffered a stroke *r*"l. After the *niggun "Sheyiboneh,*" his son, Reb Zev, came up to the Rebbe to say *l'chaim*. The Rebbe poured *mashke* into his cup, presumably to give to his father. On Motzei Shabbos, in preparation for



the Rebbe's drive home, the Rebbe's car was parked at the entrance of the side door from which people pass by to receive *lekach*. This was done so the Rebbe would not have to walk more than necessary because of the foot pain.³

We are preparing to be in shul tomorrow morning for a *minyan* Tehillim at 6:00 a.m. We hope that the Rebbe will come out of this speedily and that there will be a *didan notzach*.

SUNDAY, 28 ADAR I

At 1:30 p.m. this afternoon, a grand *siyum haRambam* was held in one of the nicest hotels in Manhattan. The place was full and many *roshei yeshiva*, *rabbanim* and communal activists were in attendance. The program lasted about four and a half hours, during which the crowd was entertained by Chazzanim Teleshevsky and Baumgarten in between the speeches. The Rebbe gave dollars to the *mazkirus* for the organizers of the *siyum* to distribute to all of the participants.

TUESDAY, 30 ADAR I

The *tefillos* this week were held in *Gan Eden Hatachton* so that the Rebbe wouldn't need to walk far. The doors from *Gan Eden Hatachton* through the *zal* were left open so that more people could participate.

This afternoon, the Rebbe gave 10,000 one-dollar bills through the *mazkirus* to Rabbi Yosef Aharonov to be distributed to the participants of the *siyum haRambam* in Eretz Yisroel, which will be held in the Yad Eliyahu stadium in Tel Aviv.

^{1.} On Purim, tzedaka is given to anyone who stretches out his hand (i.e. without discrimination).

^{2.} The Rebbe later spoke at length about what had happened during the farbrengen of Shabbos Parshas Kedoshim 5746, see Hisvaaduyos 5746 vol. 3, p. 267.

^{3.} From this point on, the Rebbe no longer used the main entrance when entering and exiting 770.