



לעבן מיט'ן רבי'ן

לזכות

החתן הרה"ת ר' ברוך מנחם מענדל
והכלה המהוללה מלכה שיחיו

זאיאנץ

ולזכות הוריה הרה"ת ר' מנחם מענדל
וזוגתו מרת שושנה ומשפחתם שיחיו
שיינער

נדפס ע"י זקיניה

ר' צבי וזוגתו מרת חנה שיחיו מאראנץ



CHAI ELUL 5738, YOSSEI MELAMED WA. JEM 139873

Tisha B'Av Nidche

MENACHEM-AV 5738*



We present the following description of the month of Menachem-Av 5738* in the Rebbe's presence. This account is based on diaries of several *bochurim* at the time, including Rabbis Michael Seligson and Yitzchok Meir Sassover.

FRIDAY, ROSH CHODESH MENACHEM AV

Today, the Rebbe instructed for *Hilchos Beis Habechira* to be taught on the radio throughout the Nine Days.

MOTZEI SHABBOS PARSHAS MATOS-MASEI, 2 AV

After reciting *havdalah*, the one who made the blessing began drinking from the wine. The Rebbe became serious, motioned, and instructed that a child drink the wine (because it is the Nine Days). Elchonon Marasow from Kfar Chabad drank the wine, after which the Rebbe smiled and left the shul.

Tonight, the Rebbe instructed Rabbi Hodakow that the *maamar* מצות בנין מקדש of the Tzemach

Tzedek should be printed (based on the *ksav yad kodesh*, as well as a photocopy of it as printed in Derech Mitzvosecha), and the sooner the better. Rabbi Hodakov replied that the printers don't operate at night, to which the Rebbe answered: "There are *yungeleit* who anyway work at night." Rabbi Hodakov then inquired which date should be put on the *pesach davar* (something that the Rebbe always decides), and the Rebbe answered that they should decide it themselves. The Rebbe further instructed that when he arrives the next morning, the *maamar* should already be for sale. He then gave the *bichel* of *ksav yad kodesh* to Rabbi Groner, to photocopy.

SUNDAY, 3 AV

Upon being informed that it was arranged for *Hilchos Beis Habechira* to be taught on the radio, the Rebbe responded that *siyumim* should be made. He also instructed Rabbi Groner to ask a rav whether those who heard the *siyum* over the airwaves are permitted to eat meat.

The Rebbe instructed that the "*Beis Hamikdash*" entry of Encyclopedia Talmudis should be printed, *l'ilui nishmas* its founder Rabbi Shlomo Yosef Zevin (See "*Ga'on and Chossid*," Derher Sivan 5779). Rabbi Yehoshua Hutner of Eretz Yisroel was contacted, and the pamphlet included a note that it was done with permission.

MONDAY, 4 AV

After Mincha, the Rebbe blessed Mrs. Shifra Marasow (Golombovitz) of Kfar Chabad and her son Elchonon to have a good trip home and to hear good news. The Rebbe also blessed the boy with success in his studies. Mrs. Marasow conducts programs for families of fallen soldiers, who gave their lives protecting Eretz Yisroel. Her husband was killed in battle during the War of Attrition.

The Rebbe arrived back to 770 at 7:45 p.m. partially by foot.¹ In the middle of the block, a policeman approached the Rebbe and they conversed as they walked. Upon reaching 770, they continued talking for some time.

SHABBOS PARSHAS DEVARIM, CHAZON, 9 AV (NIDCHE)

The Rebbe arrived to Shacharis during the *kaddish* following *chazaras hashatz*.²

Apparently, the Rebbe told Rabbi Groner after Shacharis that he wishes to daven Mincha before going home, and that it shouldn't be publicized. At 2:55, the Rebbe entered the shul to daven Mincha. Only about 15 people were present. Even members of *mazkirus*, including Rabbi Hodakov who has *yahrtzeit* today, were not aware of this change of plans.

The Rebbe arrived back from his house at 7:45, and at 8:55 took the elevator down to the shul, wearing non-leather shoes. During Maariv, the Rebbe sat on a low wooden stool. Rabbi Klein approached the Rebbe after Maariv with two candles, upon which the Rebbe recited "*Borei me'orei ha'eish*." The candles were then passed around for the assembled to make the *bracha*. The Rebbe gazed at the crowd throughout.

SUNDAY, 10 AV (TISHA B'AV NIDCHE)

The Rebbe entered Shacharis for *krias haTorah*. While reading the *haftara* the Rebbe cried, and it was difficult for people to hear the words. Upon reaching "רחם על ציון" in the *brachos*, the Rebbe proceeded very slowly, pausing intermittently. After *krias haTorah*, the *chazzan* began reciting Kinot, until about 12:30. The Rebbe sat throughout, but rose for "אלי ציון," and remained standing until the end of davening.

At 12:45, Reb Berel Lipsker made a *siyum* on Mesechta Moed Katan, which was aired on the Jewish radio station WEVD. Prior to the *siyum*, the Rebbe instructed that an announcement be made about the importance of giving tzedakah, based on the *possuk* ³⁴ "בצדקה ובשביה תפדה במשפט ציון" especially on Tisha B'Av.

MONDAY, 11 AV

Upon the Rebbe's arrival to 770 in the morning, two boys were standing with their fathers near *mazkirus*. One of the fathers told the Rebbe that today is his son's *upsherenish*. The Rebbe gave them a *bracha* that it be in a good and successful time, and blessed the other child that they merit to raise him *l'Torah ul'chupa u'l'maasim tovim*, and that he grow up to be a Chossid, *yirei Shamayim, v'lamdan*.

The Rebbe entered the large downstairs shul to daven Mincha together with children from local day camps. Just before ascending the *bima*, the Rebbe stopped by a child holding a large pushka from Oholei Torah Day Camp, which had a drawing of

the 10 *mitvzoim*. After inserting *tzedakah* into the container, the Rebbe handed money to the child holding it. When the child placed the money in the *pushka*, the Rebbe thanked him, and continued inspecting the *pushka* and its illustrations of the *mitvzoim*, before finally ascending the *bima*.

Following *Mincha*, the Rebbe turned to Rabbi Groner and instructed that the Twelve *Pesukim* be recited, after which he would address the crowd. The Rebbe's face shone as he recited the *pesukim* along with the children. At the conclusion, one of the children proclaimed: "*Yechi adoneinu moreinu v'rabeinu*," to which all the others responded "*yechi!*" The Rebbe smiled broadly.

The Rebbe then spoke two *sichos*. In the third, the Rebbe requested that the children sing "*Utzu Eitza V'sufar*." The Rebbe vigorously clapped along to the singing. In the middle, Rabbi Yaakov Yehuda Hecht approached the Rebbe and asked if he should stop the *niggun*, to which the Rebbe answered in the affirmative. After proceeding with another *sicha*, the Rebbe requested for "*Hoshia Es Amecha*" to be sung. At the *niggun's* end, the Rebbe instructed that the *possuk* "*Torah Tziva*" be recited again.

The camp organizers then came up to receive packs of dimes to distribute to the children. The Rebbe told them that every child should receive two dimes: one for *tzedakah*, and the other to do with it as they please. The Rebbe waited as the campers received their coins, and told Rabbi Hecht with a smile that he should take for himself too. He added that if there aren't enough coins, they should get more from *mazkirus*, and if there are extra, they should be returned.

On his way out of the rally, many children approached and shook the Rebbe's hand, as he smiled at them. Upon passing the girls and noticing that one was crying, the Rebbe stopped and handed her a coin for *tzedakah*. Needless to say, she calmed down. One boy approached the Rebbe and asked for a *bracha*. The Rebbe placed his right hand upon the child's head and blessed him with "...⁴ברכה ה' וישמרך."

TUESDAY, 12 AV

Tonight, at 10:30 p.m., the Rebbe left with Rabbi Krinsky. People initially thought that the Rebbe had gone home, but that changed when the Rebbetzin telephoned *mazkirus* asking when the Rebbe would be arriving. They went to the house to clarify, and several minutes later—at about 11:30—the Rebbe

arrived in his car. Upon exiting the vehicle, the Rebbe asked why people were standing around. Rabbi Groner explained that they were worried. The Rebbe just smiled, and entered the house. It is unknown where the Rebbe was for that hour.

THURSDAY, 14 AV

Toward evening it became known that the Rebbe would be *farbrenging* at 9:30, in honor of *Chamisha Asar B'Av*.

In one of the *sichos*, the Rebbe discussed the situation in Eretz Yisroel,⁵ stating that all the border areas must be settled by Yidden, in line with the ruling in *Shulchan Aruch* 329:6. As far as the meeting in Camp David that was scheduled to take place in the beginning of Elul, the Rebbe remarked that many different changes would probably be made, and he therefore will not discuss it. The Rebbe then requested for the "*Beinoni*" to be sung. The *farbrengen* concluded at 11:15.

SHABBOS PARSHAS VA'ESCHANAN, NACHAMU, 16 AV

At *krias haTorah* today, the Rebbe stood up before the *Aseres Hadibros*, and only sat down after the *oleh* said "*Asher nassan lanu...*"

After *Mincha*, the Rebbe recited *perek gimmel* of *Pirkei Avos*. (It was omitted the previous week due to the prohibition of learning Torah on Erev Tisha B'Av.)

SUNDAY, 17 AV

A group of 30 *bochurim* ("*kvutza*") arrived this afternoon from Eretz Yisroel. They will be learning here for the year.

The Rebbe arrived from his house at 7:15 p.m. walking part of the way.⁶ Upon entering 770, the Rebbe handed money to a child for *tzedakah*. He then turned toward *zal* and asked Reb Dovid Kratz (who is visiting from Eretz Yisroel for several weeks) if he had eaten yet today, and where he has been eating. The latter responded that he hadn't, but that a meal was being prepared in the restaurant. The Rebbe replied: "If they prepared, you must go and eat." Reb Dovid answered that he would eat later. The Rebbe then asked where he had eaten yesterday (*Shabbos*). He replied: "In yeshiva!" Upon hearing this, the Rebbe made a motion expressing his surprise.





When the Rebbe left for home, he asked Rabbi Hodakov to ride along. While the car was waiting at a stoplight, a woman approached and knocked on the window. After the Rebbe opened the window, the woman requested a *bracha* for her brother who was injured in battle in Lebanon. The Rebbe gave her a *bracha*.

TUESDAY, 19 AV

At 9:30 p.m. the Rebbe entered the large shul for Maariv and davened at the *amud* for Chof Av, the *yahrtzeit* of his father, Harav Levi Yitzchok. The “*vaad hamesader*” did not allow for bleachers to be built on the right side of the room.⁷

WEDNESDAY, CHOF AV

After Shemoneh Esreh of Shacharis, the Rebbe asked Rabbi Groner to find out if a *chosson* was present. Indeed, there was a *chosson*, and *tachanun* was not said.

At Mincha the Rebbe recited “נקדישך...” as well as “קדוש...” in the Shabbos tune.

Many guests from various places arrived throughout the day in time for tonight’s farbrengen. Camp Gan Yisroel New York arrived in the evening.

The room was packed wall to wall when the Rebbe entered the farbrengen at 9:30.

During the farbrengen, the Rebbe called for Education Day to be established, and for it to be



publicized in all the newspapers. Furthermore, the entire world would ultimately follow the example of the United States.⁸

The Rebbe made a *siyum* on Mesechta Taanis which discussed the first and second consecrations of Eretz Yisroel (כיבוש ראשון ושני).⁹ From this the Rebbe went on to talk about the importance of settling in the entirety of Eretz Hakodesh, in all the *shtachim*. In a loud voice, the Rebbe expanded on this for half an hour. The Rebbe declared that those who think that they must give up parts of Eretz Hakodesh to goyim, *rachmana litzlan*, should pack their bags and travel elsewhere! (The Rebbe repeated this several times throughout the *sicha*.)

In the last *sicha* the Rebbe called for a *magbis* to be made for Kupas Levi Yitzchok, whose objective is to strengthen *b'nei Torah*, and instructed for the cards to be given out.

Many important figures were present at tonight's farbrengen, including Mr. Perry Duryea, who is running for New York governor [as a Republican]. Mr. Duryea approached the Rebbe and they had a friendly conversation, with the Rebbe smiling throughout. Mr. Jeremiah Bloom [one of the Democratic contenders], and New York Police Commissioner Robert McGuire also came up to the Rebbe.

SHABBOS PARSHAS EIKEV, MEVARCHIM ELUL, 23 AV

Following Shacharis, the *gabbai* announced that a farbrengen would take place on Motzei Shabbos.

After Maariv, the Rebbe went home for a short 10 minutes.

During the farbrengen, the Rebbe elaborated on *chinuch*, announcing that in continuation to the Chof Av farbrengen, everyone should submit a note tomorrow detailing what they had done regarding *chinuch*. If one doesn't write, it means he did nothing.

The Rebbe also called for printing Tanyas in every country where it hasn't yet been printed, and to send in one copy (until Chai Elul morning).¹⁰ Additionally, the Rebbe recommended that the *melamdim* get a pay-raise starting from Elul.

After reciting the *bracha acharona*, the Rebbe promised that he would discuss *Beis Habechira* (in continuation to Chof Av) at the next farbrengen. "And for those who want to hear politics," the Rebbe said with a smile, "we'll speak about that in the near future."

SUNDAY, 24 AV

At 8:00 p.m. *yechidus* for guests started. The Rebbe sat at the door of his room and blessed every one to hear good news and a have a שנה טובה ומתוקה. Each of the participants received two dollar bills. The *yechidus* lasted 10 minutes.¹¹

WEDNESDAY, 27 AV

Camp Emunah came for Mincha. The Rebbe arrived in the large shul to daven with them. (They were in the large room, with a mechtiza separating them from the *minyans*.) After davening

the Rebbe asked Rabbi Yaakov Yehuda Hecht what the schedule was going to be. When Rabbi Hecht replied who would speak, the Rebbe said “I’d also like to speak.”¹² The Rebbe then instructed for the Twelve Pesukim to be recited. As the girls said the *pesukim*, the Rebbe watched them with a shining face.

This was followed by three *sichos* that stressed the great effect a girl can have in her home, with Rabbi Hecht translating after each one. When he was done translating, the Rebbe handed him a stack of *sichos* (from the 11 Av rally, translated to English,) as well as a package of dimes, to distribute to the girls (one copy of the *sicha* and two coins). Before descending from the *bima*, the Rebbe told Rabbi Hecht that all the girls should recite the *possuk* “Torah Tziva” once more. **1**

1. The Rebbe was still recovering from the heart attack on Shemini Atzeres, and he would therefore slowly increase his walking.

2. Following the heart attack, the Rebbe would only come to Shacharis on Shabbos before *krias haTorah*. This continued until Rosh Hashanah 5739*.

3. Yishayahu 1:27. See Tanya Iggeres Hakodesh ch. 4. Likkutei Sichos vol. 8 p. 352.

4. Bamidbar 6:22-27.

5. About a week earlier, the infamous Camp David meeting was planned.

6. See footnote 1.

7. This was to protect the Rebbe’s health, as he was still recovering from the heart attack.

8. For an extensive overview, see *Education Day U.S.A.: The Rebbe’s Vision for Education*, Derher Nissan 5778.

9. Rambam Hilchos Beis

Habechira 6:16.

10. For an extensive overview on this initiative, see *Tanya to the World: the Printing Tanyas Campaign*, Derher Adar II 5776.

11. This unusual format was due to the Rebbe’s health, as he was still recovering.

12. This was before the Rebbe would officially speak at these rallies.



28 Iyar 5738, Yossi Melamed via JEM 129231