



לעבן מיטן רבי'ן



טור 'לעבן מיטן רבי'ן' הוקדש לזכרון ולעילוי נשמת
 ר' שמואל ב"ר יהושע אליהו ז"ל
 ואשתו מרת שרה ע"ה בת ר' יקותיאל ומרת לאה הי"ד
 תנ"צ'ה' ע"י בנם
 ר' יקותיאל יהודה
 וזוגתו מרת פעסל לאה ומשפחתם שיחיו
 זוהר

Speaking Flames

CHANUKAH 5752



Presented here is an account of Chanukah 5752* in the Rebbe's presence. The following is based on the Beis Chayenu newsletter of that week. A special highlight is, of course, the Chanukah Live program of which we'll bring some short excerpts. To properly experience this momentous and unique event, we encourage our readers to watch the full video.

SUNDAY, 24 KISLEV

Today, Shacharis was upstairs due to the preparations taking place in the big shul. After Shacharis, the *gabbai* announced that the Rebbe

is going to arrive to Mincha today at 2:50 for Chanukah Live.

Among other preparations, the Rebbe's platform was doubled in size for the event taking place tonight, and numerous screens were set up throughout the big shul in 770, in order for people inside to be able to follow the program. For the crowd standing outside (770 was reserved for children) a giant screen was set up on a special truck, so that they too could take part in this unique satellite hook-up.

Finally, the moment that everyone had been waiting for arrived. At 2:50 p.m., amidst the music and singing of "Al nisecha" the Rebbe walked in

to shul, encouraging the rejoicing while walking to his place. After the Rebbe ascended the stairs to the *bimah*, he turned around and continued encouraging the singing even further.

After Mincha ended, the Rebbe took his *siddur* and went to stand by the *shtender* that was set up facing the crowd. The Rebbe studied the room, looking around at the children seated, the women's section on top, and even at the camera men.

As part of the schedule, the Twelve Pesukim were recited with different children leading the recitation from around the world via satellite.

For the *possuk* of "Shema Yisroel," the screens shifted to Yerushalayim, where Rabbi Naftoli Roth called up a young boy who had recently emigrated from Chernobyl. The Rebbe concentrated intently on the video screen, which was arranged right in front of his *bimah*. In a moving display of gratitude, the boy, in a mixture of Hebrew and Russian, thanked the Rebbe for all the efforts made in order to save him and hundreds of other girls and boys from the terrible conditions in their region and bringing them to Eretz Yisroel. When the boy started to recite the *possuk*, the Rebbe answered along with everyone, word after word.

At the conclusion of the Twelve Pesukim, the assembled in 770 burst into a vibrant "We Want Moshiach Now" while the Rebbe turned in all directions to encourage the singing with both hands. The Rebbe even moved away from the *shtender* a bit to encourage the children who were situated right near the *bimah*. When the singing quieted down, the emcee, Rabbi Shimon Hecht, thanked all the children who recited the *pesukim* so beautifully, giving them a round of applause. The Rebbe joined in, clapping strongly for quite a while!

As part of the program, menorah lightings were shown on the screens from all over the world.

In Eretz Yisroel, the Sephardi chief rabbi, Rav Mordechai Eliyahu, was honored with lighting a menorah right next to the Kosel, after which a *chazzan*—along with the Tzivos Hashem choir—led the packed plaza in the singing of "*Sheyibaneh Beis Hamikdash*." With much intensity, the Rebbe encouraged the singing, swinging his hand in all directions, turning around to the Chassidim standing behind and even towards one of the camera men! These were truly special moments.

Afterwards, Rav Eliyahu was invited to deliver a few words and the Rebbe listened attentively as he spoke.



In France, an immense crowd of 20,000 people were gathered at the Eiffel Tower for the program. As the cameras turned to Paris, the chief rabbi had just finished addressing the crowd and Rabbi Shmuel Azimov took the microphone. The Rebbe had just dedicated a full *sicha* to France at the farbrengen last Shabbos, thereby creating an added interest as to what was happening there. After saying *l'chaim*, Rabbi Azimov started to sing the *niggun* "*Hoaderes v'haemuna*" to the tune of the French national anthem. The crowd at 770 joined in as well, when all of a sudden, the Rebbe started encouraging the singing, first banging on the *shtender* and then lifting his hands in the air, exhibiting tremendous *simcha*.

After the menorah was lit in 770, Eli Lipsker's orchestra started to play "*Haneiros Halalu*." As soon as he reached the first words of the song (which are usually sung slowly), the Rebbe began encouraging in a fast manner with brisk motions, looking in all directions.



The Rebbe said two *sichos*, with Rabbi Sholom Ber Hecht translating them into English, in between.

The *sichos* the Rebbe spoke tonight were truly wondrous. The Rebbe went into great detail about how one can use the satellite (a word the Rebbe repeated a number of times throughout the *sicha*) to spread Yiddishkeit. The Rebbe then went on to individually name each country that took part in this global hook-up.

In general, tonight one was able to see openly that the Rebbe had great satisfaction from the whole program. Despite all the technical complications that can crop up when directing such a production, the program was truly an astounding success.

After the Rebbe started to sing “*Nyet Nyet Nikavo*,” he turned and walked to his *shtender* for Maariv. The Rebbe washed his hands with a *kvort* and bowl that was prepared beforehand.

As the Rebbe was drying his hands, while still holding the towel in one hand, the Rebbe turned towards the Chassidim and with the other hand

encouraged the singing very strongly, again and again; quite a sight to behold.

Following Maariv, the Rebbe distributed a dollar and a dime as *Chanukah gelt* to the assembled.

MONDAY, 25 KISLEV, DAY 1 OF CHANUKAH

Today in the morning, a group from Tzfas and other places in Eretz Yisroel arrived in 770. The visit was arranged by Rabbi Aharon Leizer Ceitlin, shliach of the Rebbe in Tzfas.

Upon entering the shul for Shacharis, the Rebbe, as usual, encouraged the singing of “*Al Nisecha*” all the way up to his place. Once there, the Rebbe turned around and continued to encourage the Chassidim. A loud “*Shehecheyanu*” was made by the guests who had just seen the Rebbe for the first time.

TUESDAY, 26 KISLEV, DAY 2

Today, a Chanukah gathering for the members of “Kollel Tiferes Zekeinim Levi Yitzchak” took place in 770. Hundreds of elderly Yidden streamed into



THE REBBE'S HAGAOS ON THE SICHA SAID DURING THE CHANUKAH LIVE PROGRAM, 5752*.

the shul downstairs, seating themselves upon the benches that filled the shul.

At the set time, the Rebbe joined the *zekeinim* for Mincha, after which the menorah was lit. The Rebbe spoke a special *sicha* for this occasion.

When speaking about Moshiach, the Rebbe declared that “He is already on his way... and all of the sudden the door will open and Moshiach will enter!” The Rebbe also spoke about Eretz Yisroel, *benching* the Yidden living there that they should have peace without any war, and that in general no unpleasant incidents should occur.

Regarding the recent developments in Eretz Yisroel (after a drought it had just started to rain again), the Rebbe bestowed his *brachos* upon the land saying that the rain should continue, eventually being able to grow all of the *shivas haminim*.

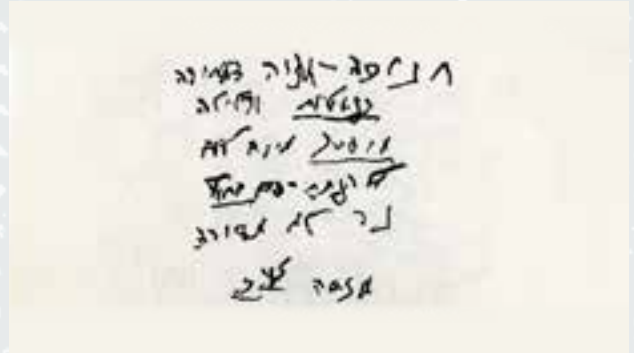
WEDNESDAY, 27 KISLEV, DAY 3

Today at about 3:50 p.m. the Rebbe came out to “*Gan Eden Hatachton*” where Rabbi Leibel Zajac and Rabbi Zalman Chanin presented him with 26 Tanyas that they had printed throughout Russia.

The Rebbe spoke with them for a few minutes. “The Rambam rules that on Chanukah one must be joyous,” the Rebbe said. “This is the greatest Chanukah gelt that one can receive.”

After this encounter, the Rebbe left to the Ohel holding in his hand one of the small blue Tanyas that he had just received. (Rumor has it that this Tanya was printed in the Beis Chabad in the city

...After a drought it had just started to rain again; the Rebbe bestowed his brachos upon the land.



NOTES IN THE REBBE'S HOLY HANDWRITING OF THE IDEAS TO BE SPOKEN AT THE CHANUKAH LIVE PROGRAM.

of Lubavitch, which is personally owned by the Rebbe.)

During the lighting of the menorah this evening, the Rebbe positioned himself to the side of the *shtender*. Throughout the singing of “*Haneiros Halalu*” the Rebbe shifted his gaze between his *siddur* and the Chassidim. The last part of the *niggun* with the words “*al nisecha*” was sung again and again, the Rebbe counting on his fingers. When it reached the seventh time, the Rebbe turned around to face the wall. When the singing quieted down, the Rebbe immediately began to encourage with his hand to continue singing, until the end of the eighth round.

It is a special sight to see the Rebbe's face during the lighting of the menorah and the singing of “*Haneiros Halalu*.” The Rebbe stares at the flickering flames with deep concentration, almost as though he is listening to “what the candles are telling...”

FRIDAY, 29 KISLEV, DAY 5

When the Rebbe came upstairs after Shacharis this morning, Rabbi Lazerson, deputy director of the Center for Independent Education (“*chinuch azma'i*”) in Eretz Yisroel, was standing next to *Gan Eden Hatachton*. Rabbi Groner introduced him to the Rebbe, after which the Rebbe shook his hand and wished him “*A freilichen Chanukah*.” The Rebbe added that he should have “good news in his communal affairs, as well as in his personal ones.” When Rabbi Lazerson asked for a *bracha*, the Rebbe responded, “Your name [Leizerson] has a connection with Eliezer, this is the simple meaning...”

Today was the *levaya* of the sister of Harav Boruch Shimon Schneerson, a distant relative of the Rebbe. The Rebbe went out on to the street to follow the car with the *aron*, and watched as all the cars

passed. The Rebbe also gazed at the family of the *nifteres* as they passed by.

SHABBOS CHANUKAH, PARSHAS MIKEITZ, DAY 6

As the Rebbe was leaving the shul after Shacharis today, a little child stuck out his hand. At first the Rebbe waved to him, but then the Rebbe stuck out his hand in return to shake the little child's hand.

The time remaining till the Rebbe's farbrengen is used to quickly make *kiddush* and grab a seat for the farbrengen. Though the area reserved for guests is usually on the west side of shul, today, due to the relatively large groups that came for Shabbos, the guests took up quite a large portion of the room.

In the first *sicha*, the Rebbe drew a connection between Chanukah and Yud-Tes Kislev, and then went on to explain why the learning of Chassidim is so vital, being revealed to us mainly in recent generations.

Further in the *sicha* the Rebbe touched upon a peculiar thing: We find that Yaakov Avinu says about himself that his years were "short and unsatisfactory." How is this possible?

The Rebbe explained that according to Yaakov's expectations of himself, his years were not as rich as his forefather's years were. The lesson being that every day of our lives must be used out to the fullest.

After the first *sicha*, the Chassidim sang "*Al nisecha*," repeating it many times with the

strong and rapid encouragement of the Rebbe's hands.

Following the second *sicha*, in which the Rebbe touched upon the special *kvius* of this year, the niggun "*Shuva*" was sung with much *chayus* and with the Rebbe's encouragement. When it came to the last stanza of the *niggun*, the Rebbe signaled to repeat it over and over.

In the third *sicha* the Rebbe arrived at the general lesson to be learned from today's farbrengen: To add in every which way possible in the *peulos* of spreading the message of Chanukah. Through this we will merit to celebrate the dedication ("*chanukah*") of the third *Beis Hamikdash*, *teikef umiyad mammash!*

Since the Rebbe had mentioned the *possuk* "*Ach tzaddikim*" during the *sicha*, the Chassidim started singing the *niggun* "*Ki Elokim Yoshia Tzion*." In the middle of the singing, the Rebbe suddenly started waving both of his hands, encouraging the Chassidim faster and faster...



THE CHANUKAH GELT THE REBBE DISTRIBUTED ON SUNDAY, ROSH CHODESH TEVES 5752*, THE SEVENTH DAY OF CHANUKAH.



“Your name [Leizeron] has a connection with Eliezer, this is the simple meaning...”

One can imagine the tremendous excitement in the air as the Chassidim joyfully responded to the Rebbe’s show of *simcha*.

During the fourth *sicha*, the Rebbe spoke about increasing in all the above mentioned *inyanim*, and—particularly relevant to us in our time—to “make a special effort to transform the day of Asara B’Teves into a great Yom Tov.”

All those who had given in bottles of *mashke* before Shabbos came up to the Rebbe’s *farbrengen bimah*, where one of the *mazkirim* had lined up 29 bottles of *mashke*. The Rebbe poured out from his *becher* into each bottle as usual, and then distributed the bottles to the people who were organizing *farbrengens* in the upcoming days.

After concluding the distribution, the Rebbe started to sing his father’s *hakafos niggun* and encouraged the *olam* with strong motions. The guests, to whom the Rebbe showed much attention throughout the *farbrengen*, and who had said *lchaim* to the Rebbe many times, were by now practically dancing in their seats!

Maariv tonight took place at 5:20 in the big shul downstairs¹, due to the lighting of the menorah.

There was an extra large crowd, as no one wanted to pass up a chance to be in the presence of the Rebbe while the menorah is lit.

Like every year, many “tanks” as well as cars with menorahs on top drove through Manhattan on a giant “*mitvza pirsumei nissa*.”

SUNDAY, 1 TEVES, DAY 7

Today the Rebbe gave out special bags with coins for Chanukah gelt instead of the usual Sunday dollars. The plan was that the Rebbe would take a break for Mincha and then come back up to continue the *chalukah*.

At 3:00, 10 minutes before Mincha, Chassidim were treated to an announcement of a pleasant surprise: The Rebbe would be saying a *sicha* after Mincha!

After the last *kaddish* of Mincha, the Rebbe spoke for approximately 25 minutes. Afterwards, the Rebbe notified Rabbi Leibel Groner that the distribution of Chanukah gelt—which had begun upstairs—will continue downstairs.

The Rebbe descended from the *bimah*, and upon reaching the *shtender* where he would distribute the coins, the Rebbe suddenly started to speak another

The gabbai announced that the Chanukah gelt is only for those who haven't received yet. The Rebbe interjected, saying, "For whoever wants..."

sicha, explaining why the distribution is taking place specifically here in shul.

After the Rebbe concluded speaking, the *gabbai* announced that the *Chanukah gelt* is only for those who haven't received yet. The Rebbe interjected, saying, "For whoever wants..."

Despite the pushing that went on at first, the Rebbe was in an especially exalted mood, displaying a joyous and shining countenance.

Toward the end of the *chalukah*, Rabbi Aharon Leizer Ceitlin presented before the Rebbe a group of women who had come from Eretz Yisroel to receive a *bracha* for having children. When he asked for a *bracha* on their behalf, the Rebbe responded, "Amen, [it should happen] soon." The Rebbe gave *Chanukah gelt* to each of the ladies, saying "Hatzlacha rabba" as they passed by. To many

of them, the Rebbe added the word "*b'karov*" [It should happen soon].

MONDAY, 2 TEVES, DAY 8

Upon his return from the Ohel this evening, the Rebbe came downstairs for Mincha and Maariv.

The good news had already spread that after Maariv the Rebbe would once again be handing out *Chanukah gelt*!

During the last *kadeishim* of Mincha, the Rebbe turned around to face the *olam*, staring at the menorah for a long time, perhaps as a way of parting with it... until the *chazzan* started "*Vehu rachum*" for Maariv.

After Maariv ended, the Rebbe gave one last look at the menorah before going down to distribute the *Chanukah gelt*. During this distribution, the Rebbe smiled to many of the people as they passed by, especially to the children.

This concluded a memorable Chanukah in the Rebbe's presence.

1. Usually Maariv on Motzei Shabbos took place in the small *zal* upstairs.

