



לעבן מיט'ן רבי'ן



<p>ע"י בנם ר' יקותיאל יהודה וזוגתו מרת פעסל לאה ומשפחתם שיחיו רוהר</p>	<p>טור 'לעבן מיט'ן 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 ת'נ'צ'ב'ה'</p>
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# "I Am Also After My Bar Mitzvah"

AV 5742\*



Presented here are selected entries from the diary of Aharon Kurant, who recorded his observations of what transpired throughout this month in 770, including the siyum of the third sefer Torah haklali.

## WEDNESDAY - ROSH CHODESH MENACHEM AV

While distributing coins for tzedakah on his way into *krias haTorah*, the Rebbe noticed a little girl in a carriage by the entrance of 770. He approached the stroller and pressed a coin into her hand.

## THURSDAY - 2 MENACHEM AV

After *krias haTorah*, the Rebbe waved to a little girl. When he left 770 on the way home, the Rebbe gave tzedakah; upon entering the car, he began to peruse a newspaper that he was carrying. When the Rebbe returned to 770, Rabbi Berel Levy was standing at the entrance to *Gan Eden Hatachton* and informed the Rebbe that he had a photo of the *kever* of the Rebbe Maharash. Rabbi Levy then went into *Gan Eden Hatachton* and spoke to the Rebbe for about 10 minutes.

## EREV SHABBOS - 3 MENACHEM AV

The Rebbe came in to 770 after speaking with Rabbi Binyomin Klein in the car. Later, the Rebbe went to the library holding what looked like a copy of “The Jewish Press.”

## SHABBOS PARSHAS DEVARIM - CHAZON

On his way into Shacharis, the Rebbe notified that he plans to farbreng in the afternoon.

In the first *sicha* at the farbrengen, the Rebbe discussed the famous teaching of Reb Levi Yitzchok of Berditchev that on this Shabbos everyone is shown a vision of the third Beis Hamikdash. The Rebbe explained that although we don't personally see it, our *mazal* (*neshamah*) sees it. We see this from the story of Chananya, Mishael, and Azarya, who were *tzaddikim*, but still did not merit to see this vision – yet they nonetheless trembled, as their *neshamah* experienced it.

In the second *sicha*, the Rebbe mentioned that this week (5 Av) is the *jahrzeit* of the Arizal, who was the first to reveal the innermost secrets of the Torah.

Later in the farbrengen the Rebbe discussed this week's *Pirkei Avos*. One of the lessons explained was that our ideal *avodah* is to submit ourselves completely and ensure that our entire day is full of Torah and mitzvos. Similarly, when we encourage others to grow in Yiddishkeit, our objective is that



LIBRARY OF AGUDAS CHASSIDEI CHABAD

THE KEVORIM OF THE TZEMACH TZEDEK (LEFT) AND THE REBBE MAHARASH (RIGHT) AS THEY WERE DISCOVERED IN THE 5740S\*, DAMAGED AND UNDER LAYERS OF OVERGROWTH.

they adopt a lifestyle full of Torah and mitzvos, not compromising on anything. Of course, we begin by asking: Did you lay tefillin today? Do you wear a tallis katan? Do you have kosher food? Start with one mitzvah, then the ten *mitvzoim*, until they finally keep all 613 mitzvos.

In a *sicha* about *Hilchos Beis Habechira*, the Rebbe discussed the shape of the menorah. He said that although some *sefarim* describe the shape of the menorah to be a semi-circle, and they even bring a proof from the Rambam, that is only because they did not see the original manuscript of the Rambam, which was only recently discovered. There, the Rambam illustrates the menorah with straight, diagonal branches.

Towards the end of the farbrengen, the Rebbe explained how the *kedushah* of the Beis Hamikdash is eternal. Nowadays, this is expressed in all shuls and *batei midrash*, which will be replanted in Eretz Yisroel when Moshiach comes. This does not only refer to the congregation and occupants of each shul – but even the physical ceiling, walls, and floor of the shul and its materials—wood, bricks, and dirt, will all be replanted in Yerushalayim. This is especially the case regarding the shul in which the Frierdiker Rebbe learned and davened for many years, which indeed has an eternal holiness. Thus these walls and bricks will soon be attached to the *Beis Hamikdash* in Yerushalayim, including the *ezras nashim*, which will be attached to the *ezras nashim* of the *Beis Hamikdash*. Similarly, all the *hachlatos* made here in this shul will have a greater effect and a special long-lasting power.

When it was announced that the third *sefer Torah haklali* would be completed on Chamisha-Asar b'Av, the Rebbe instructed the person who had



made the announcement, as well as the *sofer*, Rabbi Zirkind, and Rashag, to say *l'chaim*, and then began singing the *hakafos niggun*.

The Rebbe gave Rabbi Mentlik a bottle of *mashke* to distribute to those around him and told him that he should have *hatzlacha* with *hafatzas haTorah*.

After Havdalah, a child under bar mitzvah drank the wine. The Rebbe smiled as the child finished *rov kos*.

## SUNDAY - 5 MENACHEM AV

In the afternoon, the Rebbe went to the Ohel. Before the Rebbe went to *mikveh*, he gave some letters to Rabbi Binyomin Klein. After he returned from the *mikveh*, he distributed tzedakah. A little girl took a coin and ran right out. The Rebbe called out after her "*leigt arein in pushka*" (put it in the *pushka*). The Rebbe waited until the girl returned to the lobby, smiled, and entered his room.

## MONDAY - 6 MENACHEM AV

Tonight, the basketball coach<sup>1</sup> was present during Maariv, and the Rebbe smiled at him.

## WEDNESDAY - 8 MENACHEM AV, EREV TISHA B'AV

When the Rebbe arrived to 770 this morning, he reprimanded all those who were standing and

waiting for him in the corridor: "*In der tzeit voss m'vart do, ken men besser lernen Torah, Hilchos Beis Habechirah, un helfen tzum binyan Beis Hamikdash*" (Instead of loitering here, you can utilize the time productively to learn Torah, *Hilchos Beis Habechirah*, and help rebuild the *Beis Hamikdash*). As the Rebbe headed towards his room, he repeated again in a lower tone, "*Voss vart men do!*" (Why are they lingering here?!)

The Rebbe came down for Maariv with his siddur and *kinos*. He sat at the edge of a wooden crate coated in plastic. During Eicha, the Rebbe read along with the *baal koreh*. He sat on the crate with his head slightly inclined and his arm resting on his thigh. After Eicha and *kinos*, the Rebbe went home with a *sefer* in his hand. (Usually, the Rebbe would take home letters or the like.) The Rebbe walked out rather slowly, and the car's back seat was covered with a board of plywood.

## THURSDAY - TISHA B'AV

During Shacharis, the Rebbe had a siddur and an Or Hatorah open on his *shtender*. Throughout davening, the Rebbe read from the Or Hatorah and would periodically turn the pages of his siddur to wherever the *minyan* was up to. When the *chazzan* said Shema, the Rebbe covered his eyes, and during the first half of *chazaras hashatz*, the Rebbe continued to look in the Or Hatorah. When the



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THE REBBE RETURNS TO 770 AFTER RECITING KIDDUSH LEVANA.

*minyan* began *shemoneh esreh*, the Rebbe moved his crate to the side as if he was about to take three steps back, but he didn't step back.

On his way out of Mincha, the Rebbe noticed a tefillin bag on top of a siddur and moved it aside.

Right after Maariv, the Rebbe replaced the bookmark of his siddur to *kiddush levanah*, and as he made his exit, Rabbi Groner told the Rebbe that there was a moon visible. The Rebbe went outside to do *kiddush levanah*, and before facing *mizrach* he glanced at the moon. After *Aleinu*, the Rebbe put his siddur under his arm and shook two strands of his *tzitzis* three or four times. Before departing, the Rebbe wished a *gut chodesh* to those standing near him.

## SUNDAY - 12 MENACHEM AV

As the Rebbe entered 770, he waved to those standing on either side of the path. In *Gan Eden Hatachton*, the Rebbe turned towards the children in the corridor and began singing *Sheyibaneh*, encouraging them to sing along.

## MONDAY - 13 MENACHEM AV

The Rebbe left his room to go to Mincha, and upon seeing a *chosson* waiting in *Gan Eden Hatachton*, went back into his room to get the siddur. As he gave his siddur to the *chosson*, he told him "*Zolst oisbetten alle bakoshos*," (ask for all your requests successfully).

## TUESDAY - 14 MENACHEM AV

Today there was a *farbrengen* in honor of Chamisha-Asar b'Av. At this farbrengen, the Rebbe once again told the *sofer*, Rabbi Zirkind, and Rashag to say *l'chaim*, and told them “*Hatzlacha rabba, l'chaim velivracha.*” The Rebbe then once again instructed that someone announce where the *siyum sefer Torah* will take place. Later during the farbrengen, the *hakafos niggun* was sung.

## WEDNESDAY - 15 MENACHEM AV

Today the *siyum sefer Torah* took place. It is the third *sefer Torah haklali* written under the auspices of Tomchei Temimim.<sup>2</sup>

The procession took place in the wide service lane right outside the yeshiva on 855 Eastern Parkway (Chovevei Torah). On his way to the Ohel, the Rebbe drove past the *siyum sefer Torah*, and the car slowed for the Rebbe to observe what was going on. After that, the Torah was brought to 770.

At Mincha, the Rebbe handed a coin to a child on his father's shoulders. The Rebbe motioned to the child to put the coin into the *pushka*, and he dropped it into the top hole. The Rebbe then gave the child another coin and signaled that he should put this one into the lower hole.

## THURSDAY - 16 MENACHEM AV

For *kriah* this morning, the new Sefer Torah was used. After *Yehalelu*, the *sofer* began singing “*Sisu v'simchu*”, and the Rebbe tapped on the *shtender* to encourage the singing. Even after the Torah was returned to the *aron*, the Rebbe continued to encourage the singing for a short while. During all of this, the Rebbe was facing the *aron*.

## FRIDAY - 17 MENACHEM AV

The Rebbe went to the library carrying a newspaper with him. As he exited 770, the door was opened by someone coming in from outside. The Rebbe made an about-face and went back to his room for a moment. He was also seen holding a new *likkut* (*sicha*).

The Rebbe noticed a boy and gave him a coin for *tzedakah*. The boy, who had just become Bar Mitzvah but wasn't wearing a hat and jacket, told the Rebbe, “I'm already after my Bar Mitzvah!” as the Rebbe generally gave coins to children. The Rebbe responded, “Even after Bar Mitzvah, one



THE SIYUM SEFER TORAH THAT TOOK PLACE OUTSIDE OF 'CHOVEVEI TORAH.'

may still perform the *mitzvah* of *tzedakah*.” The Rebbe added with a smile, “I am also after my Bar Mitzvah.”

## SHABBOS PARSHAS EKEV - 18 MENACHEM AV

On his way out to Mincha, someone informed the Rebbe that his daughter was born today. The Rebbe responded, “*Mazal tov, shetizkeh lgadlah l'Torah, l'chuppa, u'lemaasim tovim.*” Afterward, the Rebbe inquired if he had already discussed the name with his spouse.

## THURSDAY - 23 MENACHEM AV

When the Rebbe returned to his place after *Krias haTorah*, he smiled and remarked to Rabbi Herszberg from Mexico, “From our *parsha* we can answer some questions on the Yerushalmi.”<sup>3</sup> Rabbi Herszberg related afterwards, that around 40 years prior the Friediker Rebbe had sent him to the Rebbe and they had spent a full night discussing a particular Yerushalmi.

Later in the afternoon, a group of children from a nearby Camp Gan Yisroel had arrived. After Mincha, the Rebbe looked at the children and waited for a moment. Someone began to sing “*Sheyibane beis hamikdash*” and the Rebbe waved to encourage the singing. **1**

1. See Derher Weekly Newsletter, issue 12-13.
2. See *600,000 Souls - The Sefer Torah Haklali*, Derher Iyar 5780.
3. Others recall that the Rebbe had told him “A *parshah* [*sugya*] in Yerushalmi.”