

מבית הגזית TREASURES FROM THE REBBE'S LIBRARY

“MY SON-IN-LAW ENCOURAGED ME...”

SELECTIONS OF THE FRIEDIKER REBBE'S DIARY—5705

In the winter of 5705, the Frierdiker Rebbe suffered terrible heart pain and was advised by his doctors to rest. Nevertheless, the Frierdiker Rebbe kept at his holy work as much as possible, continuing to write *maamarim* and letters, and receiving people for *yechidus*.

“Over the past week I was instructed by the doctors to rest from my work and not to meet personally with people, because I have heart pains that require total rest,” the Frierdiker Rebbe writes in a letter. “But is it possible for me to rest when there is so much work to do in spreading Torah, *yiras Shamayim*, and Torah-true education; ten-fold or more than what I’m doing now?”¹

On 26 Cheshvan, the Frierdiker Rebbe had a heart attack and was bedridden for three weeks, after which he slowly began to return to his previous responsibilities.

Throughout this period, from the end of Tishrei until 25 Cheshvan, then again from 7 Teves until 26 Teves, the Frierdiker Rebbe kept a detailed diary.

Presented here from MiBeis Hagnazim² are a few fascinating selections:³

MOTZEI SHABBOS BEREISHIS, 27 TISHREI

7:00 PM

Last night I ate the Shabbos meal in the dining room with my son-in-law Harav M.M.S.⁴ and my dear friend Harav S.L.⁵ from 9:30 until 10:00 p.m.

It was my intention to eat the [daytime] Shabbos meal [again] in the dining room with my son-in-law Harav M.M.S. and my dear friend Harav S.L., but due to an external factor which caused me great heartache, I suddenly felt pain in my heart and I was unable to fulfill my wish. Instead, I ate [alone] in the *yechidus* room...

MOTZEI SHABBOS PARSHAS LECH, 11 MAR-CHESHVAN

11:00 PM

Last night, after Kabbalas Shabbos and Maariv, I was engaged in learning.

In the evening [on Motzei Shabbos], from 8:30 until 9:30 p.m. I was visited by my son-in-law, Harav Hagaon M.M.S. Shlita, and my dear friend Reb Nissan Mindel. I related to them a synopsis of the stories of communal activism—specifically in the area of helping Yidden with livelihood—of my great-great-grandfather the Mitteler Rebbe, my great-grandfather the Tzemach Tzedek, my grandfather the Rebbe Maharash, and my father [the Rebbe Rashab], up until the year 5661.

WRITTEN BY:

RABBI MENDEL JACOBS

I tell the stories in an undertone—due to my weak health, may Hashem strengthen me materially and spiritually—and in turn, my son-in-law, Harav Hagaon M.M.S. Shlita, conveys it to my dear friend Mr. Mindel—because he is hard of hearing, may Hashem send him healing—and he writes notes for himself. Their plan is to compile a booklet about the stories of communal activism, of the Rebbes of Chabad throughout the generations, especially in the area of providing means of *parnasah*, and to publish it in English.⁶

Today I was visited by Dr. Wilder and he found that, *baruch Hashem*, my health is getting better. May Hashem send me healing and give me strength that I be able to continue my work, and grant me success materially and spiritually.

SUNDAY, 12 MAR-CHESHVAN

11:00 PM

Last night I slept very little. In the morning I was visited by Dr. Wilder who found that my health has improved but warned me not to receive people for meetings and not to work too hard. He was very adamant about this.

Throughout the day, I finished [writing] the *maamar* Bereishis, and I wrote responses to letters and notes from #825 to #856.⁷

From 7:30 until 8:30 in the evening, I again told stories to my son-in-law *Harav Hagaon*, M.M.S. *Shlita*, and my dear friend Reb Nissan Mindel about the communal activism of the Rabbeim, specifically in the realm of assisting with *parnasah*, from the year 5662 and onward.

I then spent time sorting through my personal accounts.

MONDAY, 13 MAR-CHESHVAN

Throughout the day I wrote out the first chapter of the *maamar*, *Elieh Toldos Noach*, and I responded to letters #857 to #865.

I read through the material to be published in Kovetz Lubavitch and was very pleased.

I saw the essay about the visits with Jewish farmers on behalf of Machne Yisroel,⁸ written by Mrs. Hodakov, and it made a deep impression on me.

THURSDAY, 16 MAR-CHESHVAN

12:00 AM

...My son-in-law, Harav M.M.S. Shlita has been encouraging me to print the *sichos* I have delivered since arriving in this country on 9 Adar II, 5700. I would have to edit them because they are all oral transcriptions that require thorough editing and style improvement. I plan to dedicate around five hours per week towards this endeavor, one



hour each day. May Hashem assist me.

It is noteworthy to mention the great pleasure I received by reading the letter of my friend, the *talmid*, Mr. Tzvi Yehuda Fogelman, conveying good news about his instruction and education of the students at Achei Temimim Lubavitch of Buffalo...

TUESDAY, 17 TEVES

11:00 PM

At the insistence of my son-in-law Harav M.M.S., I began examining the transcriptions of *sichos* of the year 5700, from when we arrived safely in this country, in order to prepare them for publishing, ה"א... ①

1. Igros Kodesh RaYatz vol. 13, pg. 395.
2. Article 19, p. 47 and further.
3. Our Rebbe wrote on top of these pages, "Yoman 5705."
4. The Rebbe.
5. Reb Shmuel Levitin.
6. It seems that this material was eventually published in Hebrew in Chabad Lubavitch—*Askanus Tziburis*. See Yemei Melech vol. 3, p. 1230.
7. The Frierdiker Rebbe numbered each letter he received and placed them into binders ("journals" as he referred to them), after which he would write down answers in the order of the letters for his secretary to type out.
8. The "Farmer's Division" of Machne Yisroel sent shlichim to strengthen Yiddishkeit among Jewish farmers in rural areas of the country.