

In a letter addressed to a Chossid who had recently moved to France, the Rebbe Rashab wrote at length regarding the importance of *avodah shebalev*, having set *shiurim* in Torah Ohr/Likkutei Torah and farbrenging often with the other Jews in his town.

The letter was written in quite a sharp manner. The [Frierdiker] Rebbe felt sorry for this man, since he lived in a place where the Chassidim were very simple and somewhat assimilated, so it would possibly hurt and aggravate the Chossid.

"For this reason I wrote the letter, so that it will bother him and consequently lead to positive action," the Rebbe Rashab explained.

Only days later the [Friediker] Rebbe received a letter from the Chossid in France. He described the shallowness of the community, how hard it would be to carry out the Rebbe's instructions, and how this pained him greatly. He asked the [Frierdiker] Rebbe to explain his situation to his father, the Rebbe Rashab. Once he collected his thoughts, he would write his own letter to the Rebbe too.

When the Rebbe received the

Chossid's letter he said, "A Chossid must listen, not excuse himself."

In the beginning of Tishrei, the man again wrote to the [Frierdiker] Rebbe, complaining how there had not even been a *minyan* on Rosh Hashanah and how it pains him so much to be living in such a community.

Yom Kippur came and the Chossid felt that there was a special feeling in the air amongst the congregants. They davened fervently and cried a lot.

When they left the shul, the Chossid started conversing with the congregants. Some started relating how they grew up as Chassidim in their hometowns. Later that week they met up for coffee together and told stories of their childhood as Chassidim. Some even grew up in Lubavitch and Kopust.

On Sukkos and Simchas Torah they spoke and fabrenged once again. More and more people came over saying how they were also descendants of Chassidim to a point that they decided to open a *nusach ari minyan* for all the Chassidim in a side room of the shul. They inaugurated the new shul in the

beginning of Kislev, and on Yud and Yud-Tes Kislev, big farbrengens were held in the new shul. Many of their friends from the regular shul also attended the farbrengens.

Soon, a *shiur* in Torah Ohr started. They would gather three times a week, and the Chossid would tell over a *vort* from that week's *Chassidisher parsha*. Many of them started closing their businesses on Shabbos, beginning to keep Shabbos properly.

The Chossid wrote all this in a letter to the [Friediker] Rebbe and concluded, "Baruch Hashem all the instructions in the letter I received from the Rebbe [Rashab] came true! Let us hope it will only continue and grow."

After reading the Chossid's letter, the Rebbe Rashab told the [Frierdiker] Rebbe, "MeHashem mitzadei gever konanu—Hashem leads the footsteps of man. A Yid must always make sure to know why Hashem brought him all the way from his birthplace to where he is today."

(Oitzer Sipurei Chabad pg. 281)