



Why The Bris Was On Time

This story was related by Rabbi Menachem Mendel Gluckowsky, rabbi of the Chabad community in Rechovot, Eretz Yisroel.

Written By:

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When the Rebbe sent us to Eretz Yisroel, the Rebbe wrote in a letter:

בלי נדר ישתדלו לעזור לכל אחד ואחד

— the Rebbe would try and help each of us.

I have a nice sized family, *baruch Hashem*, including seven sons. Most of them did not have their *bris* on time, on the eighth day. The reason for this is because my blood type and my wife's blood type clash in a way that results in our children being more likely to develop infant jaundice, which is caused by an excess of bilirubin. The bilirubin levels need to subside before a *bris* can take place, and therefore, we weren't able to make the *bris* on time for most of our children.

With one of my sons, the bilirubin level went up to 19.5 and the doctors told me that if it reached 20, they would have to make a blood transfusion. This would dilute the bilirubin and the antibodies from the mother's blood that cause the bilirubin buildup. *Baruch Hashem*, it peaked at 19.5, and his *bris* was three weeks late.

I had never written to the Rebbe about this problem because I said to myself, "The *bris* will be when it will be. The Rebbe has enough on his table that I don't have to bother him that I have to have the *bris* on the eighth day."

But the next son that was born was born early Shabbos morning in the Kaplan hospital in Rechovot. My wife told me — we were already experts — "He's yellow" — he has jaundice. I asked, "How much?" "Looks pretty high," she replied, so we had a blood test done. This was less than 24 hours after he was born. When I returned Sunday morning, the bilirubin was at 14. Bilirubin at 14 after less than 24 hours means it's shooting up, very high — in the "high risk" range

for potential complications.

I got nervous and said to my wife, "Okay, I never wrote to the Rebbe about it but this time I'm writing." I sat down and wrote a quick fax to the Rebbe, describing the problem and asking for a *bracha* that the *bris* should be "בעתו ובזמנו" — "on time," on the eighth day — which means that the baby should be healthy.

When I came back to the hospital Sunday night I asked my wife, "How does he look?" and she said, "It looks like it went down." They did another blood test and on Monday morning, the results showed that the bilirubin had dropped to six — in the "low risk" range. Great! We took him out of the hospital, the bilirubin stayed down, and the next Shabbos we had the *bris*.

On Sunday, the day after the *bris*, during Dollars — this was on 28 Sivan 5748* — one of the *gabbaim* of our shul was by the Rebbe. He had no idea what had taken place with the jaundice and on his own initiative asked the Rebbe for a dollar for me, mentioning me by name. The Rebbe gave him another dollar and said to him, "בעתו ובזמנו—on time."

He didn't know what the Rebbe meant so he ran out, went to a phone and called me, asking, "What did the Rebbe mean that I should give you the dollar 'on time?'"

I said to him, "Ah, I know what the Rebbe meant."

And to myself I said: Someone thought about you so that the *bris* should be on time. Somebody thought about the child, somebody had you in mind. That's why the *bris* was on time!

That was a moment of feeling how the Rebbe cared for us in a very specific, detailed, individual kind of way. ❶