



THE REBBE VIEWS A PAINTING AT REB BARUCH NACHSHON'S ART EXHIBIT ON 6 KISLEV 5739

CHAIM BARUCH HALBERSTAM VIA JEM 101700

“WHY WASN'T THERE ANY DANCING?”

KISLEV 5739

A description of Kislev, 5739 with the Rebbe. Bochurim's diaries reveal the special atmosphere surrounding the 50th anniversary of Yud Daled Kislev.

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

Thursday, First Day Of Rosh Chodesh Kislev

Today, several Shluchim who oversee educational institutions wrote to the Rebbe, seeking guidance on whether to attend a relative's wedding in New York. The Rebbe responded with the words of the Gemara, that "The Torah learning of children should not be interrupted, even for the building of the Beis Hamikdash."

Monday, Daled Kislev

After Mincha, an individual approached the Rebbe and asked if the Rebbe had received his letter.

The Rebbe asked, "From Italy?"

When the man answered that he had recently sent a letter, the Rebbe instructed him to visit *Mazkirus* for his response.

Conversing with *Mazkirus*, the man expressed his confusion as he was not from Italy. While waiting, the man recalled with astonishment that last summer, while he was in Italy, he had sent a letter to the Rebbe - an incident he had forgotten about. He found it incredible that the Rebbe knew who he was when seeing him, even though they had never met in person.

One of the issues raised in the man's letter was the intrusion of negative and confusing thoughts, distracting him from doing the right thing.

In response, the Rebbe addressed an incident from the man's past that was the source of these troubling thoughts. (Once more, the man was astonished that the Rebbe, who he had never met, knew about this event from his history although he had never shared the details.) The Rebbe advised him to don Tefillin daily and to adhere to the laws of the Shulchan Aruch.

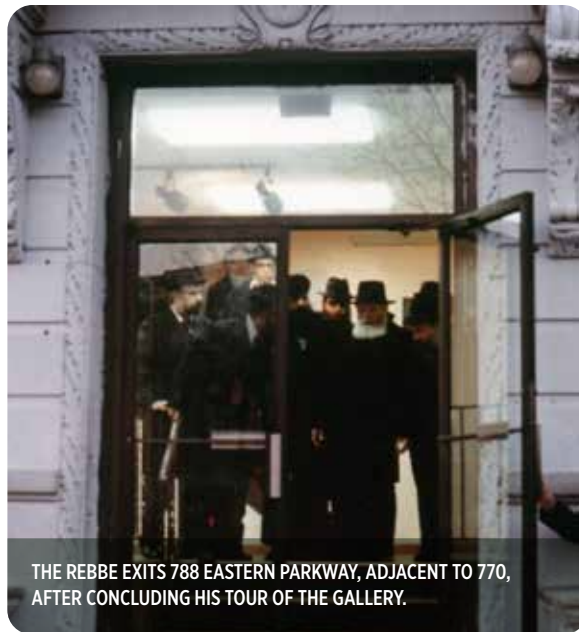
Wednesday, Vov Kislev

Today, the Rebbe visited the Art Exhibition of Reb Baruch Nachshon in the adjacent building of 788 Eastern Parkway.¹

Motzei Shabbos Tes Kislev, Parshas Vayeitzei

Maariv began at 5:20. At the conclusion of Maariv, the Rebbe recited Kaddish and Mishnayos.²

After Maariv, around 5:40, the Rebbe went home for about twenty minutes. Upon returning to 770, he engaged Mr. Yechiel Chananya Henry, who was present, in a conversation about his well-being. Mr. Henry indicated his



THE REBBE EXITS 788 EASTERN PARKWAY, ADJACENT TO 770, AFTER CONCLUDING HIS TOUR OF THE GALLERY.

discomfort, particularly with his legs. After discussing his situation further, the Rebbe instructed him to say 'L'chaim' three times at the next farbrengen and wished him a good week.

Mr. Henry replied: "With Moshiach!"

The Rebbe responded first in Yiddish and then repeated in English: "You too!"

Later in the evening, at 9:30 pm, the Rebbe came down for the Motzei Shabbos farbrengen. After the second *sicha*, the Rebbe smiled at Mr Henry, signaling for him to say l'chaim.

Wednesday, Yud Gimmel Kislev, Erev Yud Daled Kislev

Today, on the Rebbe's instructions, the manuscript of '*Drushei Chasuna*' from 5689 (*ma'amorim* said by the Friediker Rebbe during the Rebbe's Sheva Brachos) was sent to print. A booklet containing the Rebbe's *sichos* from 5729, the Rebbe's 40th anniversary, was also printed.

Furthermore, the Rebbe edited the *sicha* from Yud Gimmel Elul, 5714, where the Rebbe explained the Maamar 'L'cha Dodi' from 5689. This *sicha* was printed together with the Maamar 'L'cha Dodi' of 5714.

The dedication in the booklet reads:

"In Honor of The Rebbe and Rebbetzin, on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary, 5689 to 5739. May they have *arichus yomim* and healthy years. May they

*☎ 5729-1968, 5714-1954, 5689-1928, 5739-1978

have abundant *nachas* from their students, Chassidim and Klal Yisrael. May they lead us all very soon, in the best of health and with much *nachas*, to our holy land.”

The Rebbe arrived for Maariv at 6:45 pm. Many *yungeleit* were wearing their *kapotas* in honor of the Rebbe’s 50th wedding anniversary, and the room was filled with anticipation that perhaps there would be a *farbrengen* tonight.

After Maariv, the Rebbe asked for Rabbi Hodakov. While the Rebbe spoke with Rabbi Hodakov, bochurim excitedly waited near the door of *Gan Eden Hatachton*, hoping to hear something. Maybe there would be a *farbrengen*.

After about two minutes, Rabbi Hodakov emerged and announced that the Rebbe said that at 9:30 there will be a “short *farbrengen*.”

At the *farbrengen*, the Rebbe addressed the reason for the gathering: his 50th wedding anniversary. The Midrash states, “When one is in a place, he follows its customs” and in America, when a significant anniversary milestone is reached, close friends and relatives gather together to celebrate.

The Rebbe also expounded upon the significance of the number 50.

Later in the *farbrengen*, the Rebbe said that for those who still need a “satisfactory pretext” for holding an anniversary *farbrengen*, we will arrange *sheva brachos*. (There were a few *Chassanim* and *Kallos* present.)

“Then (at the *sheva brachos*), those who aren’t yet satisfied should drink the wine, and, as the Gemara says: ‘Those who drink wine become children.’ Children have to do what they’re told, even if it doesn’t make sense to them. When they grow older, they will understand.”

Afterwards, the Rebbe delivered the Maamar titled “*Asher Bara Sason V’simcha*.”

During the Maamar, the Rebbe mentioned all of the Rebbeim from the Baal Shem Tov.

After the Maamar, as per the Rebbe’s instructions, two *sheva brachos* ceremonies were held, with a slight break between them.

Following this, the Rebbe mentioned that in the year 5707, which marked 50 years from the Frierdiker Rebbe’s wedding, it was arranged to present the Frierdiker Rebbe with new *seforim* (that had just been printed in Shanghai) every day of the ‘*Sheva Brachos week*’ following his anniversary.

Later, the Rebbe instructed that in addition to the customary gift of a set of Shas given to a Chosson, a Tzedaka pushka should also be given.

The Rebbe discussed the importance of engaging in “*Hachnasas Kallah*” and asked that the organization

“*Nshei U’bnos Chabad*”, publish a booklet containing the laws of *taharas hamishpacha*. Committees should be organized in every locale to oversee this.

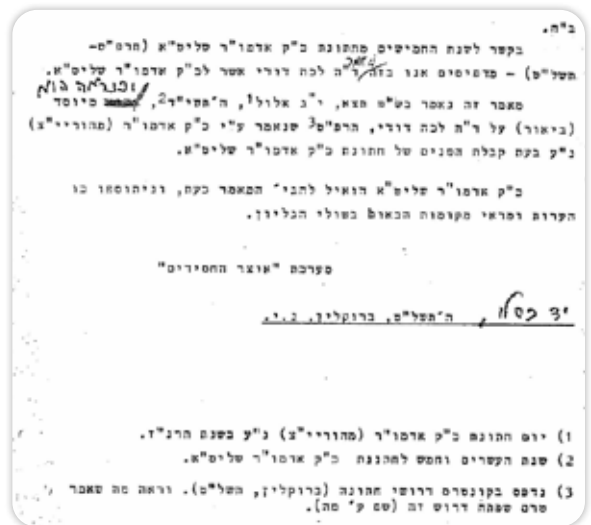
The *farbrengen* concluded at 12:17 am.

As the Rebbe left the shul, and while exiting the elevator upstairs, he enthusiastically encouraged the singing multiple times .

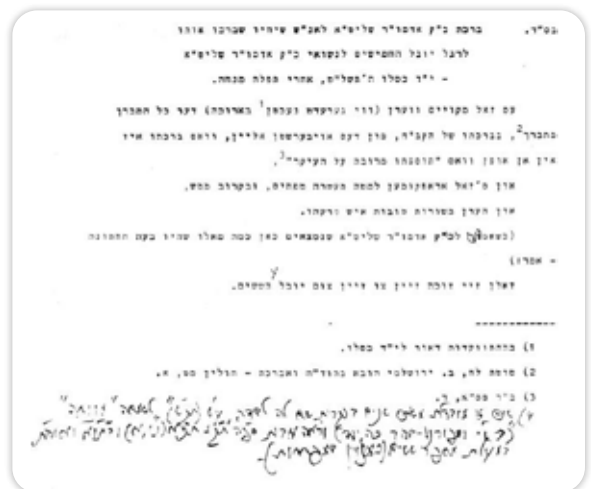
Thursday, Yud Daled Kislev

This morning during Shachris, Kriah was read from “Moshiach’s Sefer Torah.”

Later in the day, the Rebbe went to the Ohel. While



INTRODUCTION TO THE MAAMER OF 13 ELUL 5713. THE REBBE WROTE THE DATE YUD DALED KISLEV.



IN THE REBBE’S EDITS TO THE BRACHA GIVEN BY ELDER CHASSIDIM FOR THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY, HE ADDED A FOOTNOTE EXPLAINING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE UPCOMING 60TH ANNIVERSARY.

leaving 770 on his way to the mikvah, the Rebbe saluted the painter who was working on the windows of the Rebbe's office and Mazkirus

At 1:50 pm, Reb Avrohom Shemtov briefly entered *Gan Eden Hatachton* and presented the Rebbe with a letter from President Carter in honor of the Rebbe's anniversary.

Based on the way the Rebbe described the commemoration of the Frierdiker Rebbe's 50th anniversary, it was decided to present the Rebbe with a newly published book or a nearly finished one every day of the 'Sheva Brachos week'.

After Mincha, a delegation of elder Chassidim entered the Rebbe's room and wished the Rebbe a heartfelt Mazal Tov for his anniversary.

The Rebbe responded: "As was discussed previously, 'everyone who blesses is blessed with the blessing of Hashem, of which the overflow exceeds the initial blessing.' May these blessings manifest physically in this world very soon, and may we share good news with each other."

One of the Chassidim told the Rebbe that a few of the individuals present were at the Rebbe's wedding 50 years ago. In response, the Rebbe said: "May they merit to see the 60th anniversary as well."

Later in the evening, a farbrengen was held among Chassidim in honor of this special day. When Reb Dovid Raskin of Tzach sent a report to the Rebbe detailing the farbrengen, the Rebbe inquired: "Why wasn't there any dancing?"

Shabbos Parshas Vayishlach, Tes Zayin Kislev

During Shacharis, between *Kedusha* and *Shir Shel Yom*, the Rebbe was looking in the *Kuntres Drushei Chassuna*.

Sunday, Yud Zayin Kislev

Tonight, a farbrengen marking the Rebbe's *Sheva Brachos* was held in the upstairs zal. The bochurim danced and sang "*Asher Bara*". As the Rebbe was leaving 770 at 12:20 am and even after he got into his car, he continuously gestured encouragement of the singing.

Monday, Yud Ches Kislev

The Rebbe's standard response to those who sent him anniversary wishes was: "Those who give blessings are blessed with the blessing of Hashem, of which the

overflow exceeds the initial blessing."

Tonight again, as the Rebbe left 770 at 12:20 am, he waved his hands to the singing and dancing of the bochurim amidst the ongoing "*Sheva Brachos*" festivities, all the way to his car, and even after getting into the car.

Tuesday, Yud Tes Kislev

At 9:30 pm, the Rebbe entered the farbrengen in honor of Yud Tes Kislev.

The Rebbe expounded on the concept of *Pada Bishalom*, and also spoke about the imperative to settle all the territories in Eretz Yisroel at once. Once this goal is accomplished, it will be irrevocable.

The Rebbe then conducted a *Siyum* on *Masechta Kiddushin*. (The Rebbe mentioned that one of the reasons for the *Siyum* on this *Masechta* was the recent 50-year anniversary.)

Later, the Rebbe delivered the Maamer titled "*Amar Reb Oshiya*," the same *dibur hamschil* as that of the Frierdiker Rebbe on this day of *Sheva Brachos*.

The farbrengen concluded at 2:15 in the morning.

Wednesday, Chof Kislev

Tonight, the Rebbe received people for *yechidus*.

A man entered *yechidus* with his son and daughter. He shared that the Rebbe told him his son would grow up to become a Rav, and his daughter would marry a Rav.

Another individual was asked by the Rebbe, "How long are you planning on staying here?"

When the man replied that he was departing after Chanukah, the Rebbe responded with a twist on a popular Russian phrase: "There's no place better than here."³

A Belzer Chassid came for *yechidus* and told the Rebbe about an illness he was experiencing. The Rebbe repeatedly inquired, "Do you have a prescription?" Each time, the Chassid answered no, as he was unaware of one. Eventually, the Rebbe advised him to "check your pocket", and, to his astonishment, he discovered a prescription for medication in his pocket.

A delegation of chief rabbis from South American countries came to see the Rebbe. Each had their own ten-minute *yechidus* during which they discussed the needs of their communities.

The Rebbe spoke to some in learning, and instructed two of them to record their public lectures, print them, and distribute them to the Jewish communities in their respective countries

The Rebbe asked the chief rabbi of Argentina about the situation of the Jews in his country. The Rabbi responded



RABBI BEREL LEVY FARBRENGING WITH CHASSIDIM IN THE SOVIET UNION

that everything was fine. The Rebbe then remarked, “Aren't there multiple Jews who are incarcerated?” When the Rabbi explained that they were considered “terrorists,” the Rebbe emphasized, “We must take care of every single Jew,” and cited the Gemara in Yoma which highlights the importance of *pikuach nefesh*.

The chief rabbi of Colombia asked the Rebbe for permission to step down from his post. In response, the Rebbe told him, “The captain is last to abandon the ship.”

During tonight's *yechidus*'n, the Rebbe gave each person a dollar. The Rebbe also tested children in their learning.

Yechidus concluded at 1:15 am. Fifteen minutes later, as the Rebbe was leaving 770, he noticed Rabbi Mishkovsky from Kfar Chassidim (who had been in *yechidus* earlier) standing near the door. The Rebbe asked if he had a ride home, and he replied that he did.

Thursday, Chof Alef Kislev

Tonight as well there was *yechidus*.

A Baal Teshuva from France, who was looking to get married, asked the Rebbe which qualities to look out for in a wife. The Rebbe answered: “*Yiras Shamayim*.”

Rabbi Leibel Kaplan, (from Tzfas,) had a *yechidus* lasting about twenty minutes. The Rebbe instructed him to convey to the mayor of the city that he's “doing good in my ‘domain’”. (Last year, the Rebbe was presented with a key to the city of Tzfas.)

The chief rabbi of South Africa had a 30 minute

yechidus with the Rebbe. The Rebbe instructed him to ensure that every Jewish inmate had their own Chanukah Menorah. The Rebbe also mentioned that “Tzach has what to learn from your activities.”

Rabbi Berel Levy, who had just returned from the Soviet Union, described his visit to the Rebbe. He said that the Chassidim in Russia are singing “*Ata Hakeil*” (The Rebbe's kapitel niggun of that year) and wish the Rebbe well. Hearing this, the Rebbe began to cry. All told, Rabbi Levy was in *yechidus* for an hour and forty minutes.

Yechidus concluded at midnight. For the first time in many years the curtains on the windows in the Rebbe's room remained open throughout.

Motzei Shabbos Parshas Vayeishev

Tonight there was a farbrengen.

The Rebbe spoke about *Mivtza Chanukah*, emphasizing the importance of women's involvement (also in hospitals and prisons).

During the second *sicha*, the Rebbe explained the reason for holding the Shabbos Mevorchim farbrengen on Motzei Shabbos (as has been the seder for the past year⁴) instead of during the day—to bring light to the darkness.

Towards the end of the farbrengen, the Rebbe instructed everyone to sing “*Ha'aderes Viha'emuna*,” remarking, “We have individuals from France among us, and they haven't yet sung ‘*Ha'aderes Viha'emuna*!’”

Sunday, Chof Daled Kislev

Today, Mincha was in the main shul downstairs.

Following Mincha, the first candle was lit, and the Rebbe turned to face the Menorah. The Rebbe was very serious during the singing of “*Haineiros Halalu*,” and the stanza “*Al Nisecha...*” was repeated eight times.

Afterward, the Rebbe turned back to the front of the Shul for *Aleinu*.

After Davening, the Rebbe returned home.

After Maariv, Rabbi Levy, along with his wife and son went into *yechidus*. Rabbi Levy showed the Rebbe a video featuring Chassidim in Russia davening and farbrenging. The video also included scenes of the Rebbe Rashab's house and Tzion in Rostov, as well as the Tzion of the Rebbe's father. The lights in the Rebbe's room were turned off during the 20-minute film, and the Rebbe remained standing throughout.

When the video ended, Rabbi Levy's son left the room, while Rabbi Levy and his wife remained inside for an additional 40 minutes.

Following the *yechidus*, Rabbi Levy showed the film to the bochorim in zal.

Monday, Chof Hey Kislev, First Day of Chanukah

This morning, as the Rebbe walked back to his room from *krias hatorah*, he smiled at a woman standing near *Gan Eden Hatachton* and wished her a “*Gut'n Chanukah*”.

As they were lighting the Menorah, a Georgian Jew handed the Rebbe a note. During the recital of the *brachos*, the Rebbe looked at the letter, and then he placed it in the back of his Siddur.

In the evening, the Rebbe gave 200 Liro to Rabbi Shmuel Chefer (through Mazkirus), as Chanukah gelt for the girls of Bais Rivka in Kfar Chabad.

Tuesday, Chof Vov Kislev

After *Krias Hatorah*, a group of *Orchim* from Eretz Yisroel approached the Rebbe and told him that they were returning home today. The Rebbe wished them “safe travels and a *freilichen* Chanukah.”

Among the group was Reb Akiva Karniel and his 8 year old son Aharon.

The Rebbe told Aharon that he would give him Chanukah gelt, and went to his room.

Reb Leibel Groner followed the Rebbe into his room



THE REBBE WATCHES THE MENORAH LIGHTING, CHANUKAH, 5739

and promptly reemerged with a 5 lira coin for the young boy.

At 3:15, the Rebbe came out for Mincha. The Rebbe gave *tzedakah*, and then distributed coins for *tzedakah* to the children who were there. The Rebbe smiled at them and told them “thank you!”

Friday, Chof Tes Kislev

When the Menorah was lit after Mincha, the *Shamash* fell over and went out. The person who lit the Menorah panicked and attempted to relight the *shamash* from the Menorah *licht*. Everyone exclaimed 'Nu!' to signal him to stop. The Rebbe had a broad smile on his face.

The Rebbe went home at 3:30 pm to light Menorah. As he passed the office of Mazkirus, the Rebbe handed Reb Leibel Groner a few notes and responses, and spoke to him for about a minute. Then the Rebbe put *tzedakah* in the pushka and went home. **T**

1. A description of this visit and the many interesting points that the Rebbe brought up, has been published in “Art Gallery in 770” — Derher Tishrei 5774. A Recording of the Rebbe's visit is available on the Ashreinu App.

2. For the *yahrtzeit* of the Rebbe's uncle, Reb Shmuel.

3. Orig. “There's no place like Kiev.”

4. Since the heart attack on Shemini Atzeres 5738. This continued until the winter of 5740.