

*a* **CALL** *to*  
**ACTION**

20TH OF AV

PRACTICAL INSTRUCTION  
FROM THE TEACHINGS OF THE REBBE  
5748-5752

A PROJECT OF  
**HaMaaseh Hu HaIkar**

# Foreword

We are pleased to bring you this newly published edition of *a CALL to ACTION* the 20<sup>th</sup> of Menachem-Av. Translated from its Hebrew counterpart, *HaMaaseh Hu Halkar*, this presentation is a collection of practical instruction from the Rebbe's *sichos* pertaining to our divine service surrounding the Yahrzeit of Reb Levi Yitzchak Schneerson.

*HaMaaseh Hu Halkar* is a compilation of *hora'os* culled from the Rebbe's talks in the years 5748 to 5752 (1988-1992), from both edited and unedited sources (*muga* and *bilti muga*). Great effort has been extended to remain faithful to the Rebbe's calculated and instructive nuance. This English translation was (mainly) rendered by Rabbi Yaakov Paley.

At this time, when Moshiach's arrival is imminent, the Rebbe, *Melech HaMoshiach*, has emphasized the primacy of action. We are now beginning to experience the era when we will fully appreciate 'the superiority of deed' above scholarship. May it happen now, completely and speedily!

Editorial Office of  
*HaMaaseh Hu Halkar*  
15 Menachem-Av, 5767

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# 20<sup>th</sup> of Menachem-Av

Yahrtzeit of the Rebbe's Father

## BREIF HISTORY & INTRODUCTION

*The famed scholar, pious Rav and Kabbalist, Reb Levi Yitzchak Schneerson, the Rebbe's father,<sup>1</sup> passed away on the 20<sup>th</sup> of Av 5704 (1944). He passed away in the remote city of Alma Ata, Kazakhstar<sup>2</sup> – where he was sent as a punishment for defying the Communist regime (at the risk of his life) in order to bolster and spread Torah and Yiddishkeit. He died of his sufferings and was buried in Alma Ata; his wife (the Rebbe's mother) risked her own life to smuggle some of his handwritten Torah-thoughts out of the country.*

*The 20<sup>th</sup> of Av is also significant for being forty days before Rosh Hashanah – a fact which bears similar conceptual meaning to the forty days that it takes for the human fetus to form (Adam Harishon, the first man, was 'born' on Rosh Hashanah).<sup>3</sup>*

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### 1. From the House of King David

“Additionally, Reb Levi Yitzchak is a descendant from the House of King David, as is well known, for he is a direct seventh generation descendant of the Alter Rebbe who in turn was a direct seventh generation descendant from the Maharal of Prague; the Maharal was himself a direct descendant of King David. [“See Sefer Hasichos Toras Shalom p.176 and p.235. It also states there, ‘Who chose David and his offspring after him, just as He chose the tribe of *Levi*.’” - footnote 68] There is also a connection found in the Gemarah, where it is stated that on the 20<sup>th</sup> of Av a family from the descendants of *David* offered the wood offering in the Beis Hamikdash.” (Parshas Ekev 5749 – Hisvaduyos p.169)

2. 20<sup>th</sup> of Av, 5750, in the first footnote – Hisvaduyos p.146.

3. Parshas Ekev 5750, p.153, footnote 90 (there, the reader is referred to Likutei Sichos Vol.19, p.391, footnote 3).

### Forty Days Of Rosh Hashanah

“Note that on the 20<sup>th</sup> of Av, forty days before Rosh Hashanah, *we begin the preparations for Rosh Hashanah*. Hence the custom observed by the ancient Kel Yekabetz congregation in Jerusalem, as it is printed in the intro. to Divrei Shalom 64 (see there for further sources), “On the 20<sup>th</sup> day of the month of Av we make the Annulment of Vows, for it is forty days before Rosh Hashanah. Note that Rosh

## SPREAD TORAH WITH SELF-SACRIFICE

- Reb Levi Yitzchak performed his divine service of disseminating Torah and Judaism with literal self-sacrifice. On each anniversary of his passing, we should derive a lesson and instruction<sup>4</sup> to likewise disseminate Judaism, Torah-study and Mitvah-performance. Moreover, we should even do so in a spirit of self-sacrifice similar to that of Reb Levi Yitzchak.<sup>5</sup>

## EDUCATE THE CHILDREN – BY EXAMPLE

- The main lesson and instruction concerns education: we should educate our children while they are yet extremely young to have self-sacrifice for Torah and Judaism. We accomplish this by displaying such self-sacrifice in our conduct at home; seeing a living example – who displays true enthusiasm – will have the desired affect on our children.<sup>6</sup>

## ‘LEVI’ AND ‘YITZCHAK’

- There is a lesson for each and every person in the name of Reb Levi Yitzchak:

**Levi** alludes to an additional strength in the service between

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Chodesh Elul is the beginning of the forty days of repentance [comprised of the entire month of Elul plus the subsequent ten Days of Repentance] that conclude with Yom Kippur – for Yom Kippur is likewise referred to as ‘Rosh Hashanah’.” (ibid)

4. **He watches and hopes that you spread Torah on his Yahrtzeit**

“All of this is further emphasized on the anniversary of his passing, when Reb Levi Yitzchak sees – from his current location – how all who learn of the unique quality of this day then utilize it by accepting upon themselves the mission to spread Torah and Judaism in the manner of Reb Levi Yitzchak (for he truly desired and yearned to spread Judaism amongst the Jewish men, women and children – beginning with his personal congregation) and to do so with self-sacrifice similar to Reb Levi Yitzchak’s.” (Wednesday, Parshas Ekev 5751 – Hisvaduyos p.155)

5. **The Name “Levi”**

“Similar to the tribe of Levi who had self-sacrifice for their service in the Mishkan.” (ibid, 5751)

6. **Seeing is believing**

“When one expresses matters that come from the heart, they enter the hearts of the listeners and achieve their desired effect. How much more so here, where we are discussing more than mere words – but rather a living example!” (ibid. p.155-156)

ourselves and Hashem.<sup>7</sup> This is reflected in the meaning given in the Torah for the name Levi: “My Husband will *attach* Himself (Yiloveh) to me.” (On a deeper level, the verse means that Hashem will attach himself to the Jewish people.)

**Yitzchak** alludes to our divine service to positively affect our surroundings. This is reflected in the meaning that the Torah gives for the name Yitzchak: “All who *hear* will rejoice [Yitzchak] for me.”<sup>8</sup>

### HAKAFOS NIGGUN

- On the 20<sup>th</sup> of Av 5750, the Rebbe addressed children who had traveled from summer camps to be present at that gathering, and said: The children from the camps along with their counselors who are attending this gathering, should be honored with saying L’chaim and should sing the Hakafos Niggun for Simchas Torah (i.e., Reb Levi Yitzchak’s tune<sup>9</sup> for the Hakafos and the Simchas Torah dancing).<sup>10</sup>

### BLESSINGS FOR STUDYING HIS TEACHINGS

- [The soul of the deceased rises to ever-higher heavenly realms on each anniversary of its departure from this world.] Blessings and success caused by the lofty ‘elevations’ of Reb

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7. **Doing whatever He wants**

“...Including being scrupulous with minor commandments as with major ones.” (Parshas Ekev 5749 - Hisvaduyos p.170)

8. **A Jew is not a brick wall**

“This entails influencing those who hear you even though they may still be holding at the level of mere ‘listening’ as opposed to ‘seeing’ [i.e., understanding], since the name Yitzchak comes from the phrase, “*All* who hear [will rejoice],” and therefore includes even the category of listener who puts *no* effort into attempting to listen what is being said – the words merely enter his ears by default... Even such a person will eventually be affected with the concept of Yitzchak, “rejoicing,” and “gladness,” and even to an unlimited degree!” (ibid. 5749)

9. **Alter Rebbe’s Hakafos**

“This Niggun (Chassidic melody) is in Sefer Haniggunim Vol.2, p.185.” (ibid, subnote to footnote 140 – Hisvaduyos p.157)

“Reb Levi Yitzchak stated that he received a tradition that this very Niggun was sung by the Hakafos of the *Alter Rebbe*.” (ibid)

10. Ibid, footnote 140 – Hisvaduyos p.157.

Levi Yitzchak's soul will be drawn down upon those who merited to study his teachings and to follow in his ways.<sup>11</sup>

### TRACKING HIS LOST NOTES

• [Reb Levi Yitzchak composed copious handwritten documents and hundreds of pamphlets containing innovative Torah teachings – most of which are somewhere in the former USSR and have not yet reached our hands. Concerning these writings, the Rebbe stated:]

It is certain that (eventually) the rest of his documents will also be brought to light and we will thus merit an additional quantity of innovative concepts from the inner dimension of Torah. Simply by resolving to study these new teachings whenever they reach our hands, we in fact hasten the time when we will be able to overtly seek these writings (even) within the former USSR – and to discover their whereabouts.<sup>12</sup>

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#### 11. **Extraordinary outreach**

“...Which includes taking a lesson from his dissemination of Judaism – even while in exile; his efforts were so very successful that they bore many ‘fruits’ and had a continual effect that is yet currently visible – all this, from his influence back in those days...” (Night of Menachem-Av 20 5740 – Hisvaduyos p.179)

#### 12. **His teachings are in exile**

“What a very great waste it is, that the rest of his handwritten notes have not yet reached our hands! Why, there were *many* more manuscripts in addition to the books that my mother [i.e., the Rebbe's mother, Reb Levi Yitzchak's wife, Rebbetzin Chana] personally risked her life to bring to Moscow – those writings were sent here over the course of time via embassies and the like. Until this very day, it is not known what happened to tens, perhaps even hundreds, of marginal notes containing innovative Torah-thoughts of [Reb Levi Yitzchak], which exist, someplace in the former USSR.

#### **Torah in exile**

May it be Hashem's will that eventually the prophecy, “those who are lost in the land of Ashur and those who are oppressed in the land of Egypt shall come,” will be fulfilled – and certainly regarding innovative Torah-thoughts and specifically those written under great oppression (a truly great oppression in the physical sense).

#### **Great significance of his works**

Why, these Torah-thoughts contain both the revealed and inner aspects of Torah; moreover, they concern inner dimensions of Torah that are already prepared for dissemination – we can understand what the rest of these manuscripts (that we have not yet received) are like, by examining those thoughts that we have already

## STUDY HIS TORAH AND GIVE TZEDAKAH FOR HIM

- Regarding the 20<sup>th</sup> of Av in the year 5744 (1984) the Rebbe wrote:<sup>13</sup>

This 20<sup>th</sup> of Av is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Yahrtzeit and Hillulah of my master, father, teacher and Rav, Reb Levi Yitzchak son of the Rav, Reb Boruch Shneur; it is my obligation and great merit to propose and request etc., that we study his teachings during the farbrengen and that Tzedakah be given today in his memory.

מוקדש  
 לב"ק אדמו"ר מלך המשיח  
 ✧  
 לזכות  
 הרה"ח הרה"ת ר' צבי מרדכי בן שרה  
 וזוגתו שלומית בת שושנה  
 בניהם ובנותיהם:  
 יוסף יצחק, משה, מנחם מענדל, חנה וחי' מושקא  
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*Translated in the memory of Yitzchok Yosef ben Yaakov Mordechai.*

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printed, which are based on the marginal notes that *have* reached our hands.

### **Physical oppression releases inner secrets of Torah**

Further, concerning words of Torah, there is an advantage regarding, "He who keeps the Torah amidst (physical) poverty" and "from the (physical) straits I called out to Hashem," which is particularly relevant to the inner dimensions of Torah. (The particular name of Hashem, Yud and Hei, used in the above verse, "from the straits," indicate an *inner* aspect.)" (Motze Vov Tishrei 5750 – Hisvaduyos p.64-65)

13. Letter: Night following the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av 5744, printed in Likutei Sichos Vol.39, p.231.

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