

# ONCE UPON A CHASSID

The Wisdom and the Whimsy  
The Fire and the Joy

Stories, Anecdotes & Sayings  
translated and adopted from the writings of the  
Rebbes and Chassidim of Chabad Lubavitch  
*Arranged in conjunction with the 54 sections of the Torah*

By Yanki Tauber

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**IN LOVING MEMORY OF**  
 Horav **Schneur Zalman Halevi** עי"ה  
 ben Horav **Yitzchok Elchonon Halevi** הי"ד  
**Shagalov**  
 Passed away on 21 Tamuz, 5766  
 Reb **Dovid Asniel** ben Reb **Eliyahu** עי"ה  
**Ekman**  
 Passed away on 5 Sivan - Erev Shavuot, 5765  
 Mrs. **Devora Rivka** bas Reb **Yosef Eliezer** עי"ה  
**Marenburg**  
 Passed away on the second day  
 of Rosh Chodesh Adar, 5766  
 Reb **Yitzchok Moshe** (Ian)  
 ben Reb **Dovid Asniel** עי"ה  
**Ekman (Santiago, Chile)**  
 Passed away on the 24th day of Shevat, 5769  
 ת. נ. צ. ג. ה.  
**AND IN HONOR OF**  
 Mrs. **Esther Shaindel** bas **Fraidel Chedva** שתחיל  
**Shagalov**  
**DEDICATED BY**  
 Rabbi & Mrs. **Yosef Y.** and **Gittel Rochel** שיחי  
**Shagalov**

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**Rabbi Yosef Y. Shagalov,**  
**Executive Director**

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14:2

והובא אל הכהן

*This is the law of one afflicted with leprosy... he shall be brought to the kohen...*

Even if the leper is himself a kohen, he must go and consult with another kohen. For “a man can see all afflictions except his own.”

Talmud, Nega'im 2:5

## *Strength in Numbers*

When Rabbi DovBer of Lubavitch was sixteen years old, his father entrusted him with the task of serving as a *mashpia* (a spiritual guide and mentor) to the young men in the Chabad community.

Rabbi DovBer strongly encouraged his pupils to gather together in informal *farbrengens* to inspire, rebuke, and consult with one another in matters concerning the refinement of their character and their service of G-d. “Look at it this way,” said Rabbi DovBer, “when two Jews get together and one tells the other what ails his heart, or if one notices a negative trait in his fellow and discusses it with him, the result is two G-dly souls taking on a single animal soul.”

## Once Upon A Chassid

Every Jew possesses both an animal and a G-dly soul<sup>1</sup>. The, *animal soul* is driven by the self-centered aspirations of physical life, and the 'G-dly soul', by the selfless quest to serve the Almighty. But the animal soul, which is utterly self-oriented, has no interest in the triumph of her fellow animal soul; not so the G-dly soul, who's only desire is that the will of her Creator be fulfilled. So when a person grapples alone with his spiritual ills, what we have is a one-on-one struggle of his two selves; but when two Jews get together, the animal soul of each is overwhelmed by a double onslaught of the Divine essence of man.

### Source:

Likkutei Dibburim (Collected Talks of Rabbi Yosef Yitzchok of Lubavitch] vol. 11,\* p. 700.

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1. See footnote 5 on page 35.

\*. Correction: Vol. 2.

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF A DEAR FREIND**  
Reb **Yosef Yisroel** ben Reb **Sholom** ע"ה **Rosner**  
Passed away on 7 Menachem-Av, 5777

ת. נ. צ. ב. ה.

\*

**DEDICATED BY HIS FRIENDS**  
Mr. & Mrs. **Gershon** and **Leah** שיחיו **Wolf**  
Rabbi & Mrs. **Yosef Y.** and **Gittel Rochel** שיחיו **Shagalov**

# BESURAS HAGEULO

## The Announcement Of The Redemption

### 57

Our generation is the last generation of exile and the first generation of Redemption, as proclaimed and announced by my sainted father-in-law, the leader of our generation, the Yosef of our generation (named after the first Yosef who proclaimed and announced that "G-d will surely remember you and bring you up from this land to the land that was sworn to Avraham, to Yitzchak and the Yaakov"1). For all our deeds and Divine service have already been completed, all appointed times have already passed, teshuvah has already been done, and all the preparations have already been finished In a manner of "great preparation," all is ready for the festive meal2 of the time to come, Livyosan, Shor Habor3 and Yayin Meshumar.4

*(From the talk of the 10th of Teves (may it be transformed into rejoicing), and Shabbos Parshas Vayechi, 14 Teves 5752)*

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1. Our Parsha 50:24.
  2. Based on the expression of our Sages, of blessed memory - Avos, chapter 3, Mishneh 16. Sanhedrin 38a and Rashi's commentary.
  3. See *Bava Basra* 75a. And *Vayikra Rabba* chapter 13:3.
  4. *Brochos* 34:b. See there for cross references.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
Reb **Elon Menachem** ben Reb **Zev** ע"ה **Kurtzman**  
Passed away on 12 Tamuz, 5778  
ת. נ. צ. ב. ה.  
\*  
DEDICATED BY  
שיחי Chabad-Lubavitch community of California

We have already mentioned many times the words of my sainted father-in-law, the leader of our generation, that aside from the fact that already "all the appointed times have passed,"<sup>1</sup> the Jewish people have already done teshuvah and already everything is completed, even including "polishing the buttons." We only need G-d to open the eyes of the Jewish people so that they should see that the true and complete Redemption already exists, and we are sitting already by the prepared table at the festive meal of Livyosan, Shor HaBor,<sup>2</sup> etc.

Therefore it's understood... in this generation and at this time, after every requirement has been accomplished (as mentioned above), one has the complete assurance in the Torah that there will certainly be "(You will remember the day of your exodus from the land of Egypt) all the days of your life... to bring about the days of Moshiach."<sup>3</sup>

There is no need for any interruption, G-d Forbid, between "all the days of your life" and "the days of Moshiach" (which has been the situation for the Jewish people in all the generations **before** our generation). Rather, "all the days of your life" for every Jew, living physically as a soul in a body, includes in the simple sense (also) "the days of Moshiach." This is without an interruption, since the Redemption is actually coming imminently and immediately at this instant and in this place (even if the condition is one of night, "coming to Egypt"). Thus the last moment of exile and the very last instant of exile become the first moment and the very first instant of Redemption.

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1. *Sanhedrin* 97b.

2. See *Bava Basra* 74b ff. *Pesachim* 119b and in other places.

3. *Brochos* 12b.

## THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE REDEMPTION

And from "the days of your life" at this time and in this place, without any interruption whatsoever, G-d Forbid, (even if he is already older than seventy years, etc.) every Jew will go immediately - totally and completely, "Reuven and Shimon descended, Reuven and Shimon arose,"<sup>4</sup> - into the continuation of "all the days of your life.," into the days of Moshiach and the eternal life that then will be.

Practically, this means that the Divine service of the Jewish people now must be "to bring about the days of Moshiach." We must reveal that the situation of "coming to Egypt" in exile is in truth a situation of the "Redemption of Israel." [This is achieved] through his preparation of himself and others for the situation of "the days of Moshiach."

The above includes (particularly in conjunction with the day of passing of the Rambam<sup>5</sup>) strengthening and increasing the study of the Rambam's *Mishneh Torah*, especially the Laws of King Moshiach,<sup>6</sup> in the last two chapters of the "Laws of Kings" which conclude the *Mishneh Torah*.

In addition to one's own study of this, one should also influence other Jews around him (men, women and children) in a manner of "raising many disciples,"<sup>7</sup> and many more will see and emulate them.

May it be G-d's Will, that through the resolution itself will come imminently and immediately the reward, the actual fulfillment of the Rambam's words at the conclusion of his work,<sup>8</sup> that after there

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4. *Vayikra Rabba*, chapter 32:5. See there for cross references.

5. [*The Rambam passed away on 20 Teves. Translator's note.*]

6. This is how it is titled in the Venice edition of 5284 and 5310.

7. *Avos*, chapter 1, *Mishneh* 1.

8. *Laws of Kings*, end of chapter 11.

## BESURAS HAGEULO

already exists "a king from the House of Dovid, expert in the Torah and involved in mitzvos like Dovid his father... and he will compel all Israel to walk in [the ways of Torah], strengthen its breeches and fight the wars of G-d" - who is the "presumed Moshiach" [b'chezkas Moshiach] - there will already be immediately the "confirmed Moshiach" [Moshiach vadai], who "does all the above and succeeds, builds the Temple in its place and gathers the dispersed of Israel... He will then improve the whole world so that it serves G-d in unity,..."

*(From the talk of Shabbos Parshas Shmos, 21 Teves 5752)*

### IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Reb **Reuvein** ben Reb **Mordechai Yaakov HaKohen** ע"ה **Caplan**

Passed away on 11 Tishrei, 5778

ת. נ. צ. ב. ה.

AND IN HONOR OF HIS WIFE - שתבלחט"א

Mrs. **Elka** bas **Raizel** שתחי' **Caplan**

May she go from strength to strength  
in health, happiness, Torah and *mitzvot*.

\* \* \*

### IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Mrs. **Chana** (Carrie) bas Reb **Meir** ע"ה **Greenberg**

Passed away on 9 Sivan, 5781

ת. נ. צ. ב. ה.

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