

# 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

Reprinted for Parshat Tetzave, 5783  
"Year of Hakhel"  
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5759 ♦ 1999

**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** שתח'ל  
**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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## Once Upon A Chassid

28:30

ונשא אהרן את משפט בני ישראל על לבו  
*And Aaron shall bear the judgement of  
the children of Israel upon his heart*

Aaron the High Priest was the heart of the Jewish nation: just as the heart feels the pain of every limb of the body, so did Aaron bear the judgements and tribulations visited upon his people.

Be'er Mayim Chaim

Excuses may be helpful in absolving one from responsibility and culpability. But the best excuse in the world cannot undo a negative occurrence or recreate a missed opportunity.

Chassidic saying

## *So What?*

In 5670<sup>1</sup> the czarist government convened a “rabbinical conference.” The aim: to force changes in Jewish religious life. Prior to the meeting, the participants were privately shown a list of 1 or 2 Jewish communities where the government promised to .1 arrange” pogroms should the conference fail to endorse its position.

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1. 1910.

## **T'tzaveh / So What?**

To Rabbi Sholom DovBer of Lubavitch the issue was a matter of spiritual life and death. Throughout the conference, he fought against the government's plans. When he rose to speak, he publicly exposed the ministers who had threatened pogroms. He then announced:

“True, we live under the dominion of the Russian government. But their jurisdiction over us extends only to material matters. In all that concerns our faith, no sovereign or regime on earth has the authority to dictate to the us.”

So deeply did the Rebbe feel for the matter that at the end of his impassioned speech he fainted.

He was immediately placed under house arrest for his words. Later one of the leading rabbis of the time came to see him. The visitor found the Rebbe weeping. “Lubavitcher Rebbe!,” exclaimed the rabbi, “why are you so distressed? You have done everything you possibly can!”

The Rebbe utterly failed to see his point. “So what?” he said. “The tragic decree has been enacted.”

### **Source:**

Told by Rabbi Menachem M. Schneersohn, the Lubavitcher Rebbe shlita, July 17, 1951.

# BESURAS HAGEULO

## The Announcement Of The Redemption

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Further, and this is essential, to cry to G-d about the length of the exile, "Until when"... and to beseech and entreat and do everything possible so that the true and complete Redemption through our righteous Moshiach will come imminently and immediately.

The Jewish people find themselves in exile already **more than nineteen hundred years** and our righteous Moshiach has still not come!... All the Divine service of exile has already been completed, and we have already done everything in every way possible (including in particular the rejoicing of the month of Adar for sixty days). It's unknown what else is to be done. Nevertheless, **another week, another day, another moment** has passed, and still the true and complete Redemption has not yet come in actual reality!

*(From the talk of Tuesday, the eve of Shabbos Kodesh, Shabbos Kodesh Parshas Titzaveh, the 7th, 10th and 11th of Adar Rishon, 5752)*

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF A DEAR FRIEND**  
**Horav Avrohom Aharon ben Reb Yitzchok ע"ה**  
**Plotkin**

Passed away on Shabbat Parshat Nasso, 14 Sivan, 5780

**ת. נ. צ. ב. ה.**

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Los Angeles, California

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**ת. נ. צ. ב. ה.**

(מנוסח המצבה)

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**נדפס ע"י משפחתו שיחיו**

**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. Roneete Mona Mina bas Reb Zev ע"ה Kurtzman**  
Passed away on 9 Cheshvan, 5783

ת. נ. צ. ב. ה.

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