

# 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 Ki Tavo, 5783  
"Year of Hakhel"  
(Vol. 54)



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**Vaad L'hafotzas Sichos**

788 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, NY 11213  
Tel. (718) 774-7200 - Fax. (718) 774-7494

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  
 ה. נ. צ. ג. ה.

**AND IN HONOR OF**  
 Mrs. **Esther Shaindel** bas **Fraidel Chedva** שתח'ל  
**Shagalov**

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 Rabbi & Mrs. **Yosef Y.** and **Gittel Rochel** שיחי  
**Shagalov**

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**Executive Director**

Printed in the U.S.A.

## Once Upon A Chassid

27:5

לא תניף עליהם ברזל

*And there you shall build an altar to the Lord your G-d, an altar of stones: you shall not lift up an iron tool upon them*

Iron was created to shorten the life of man, and the altar was created to lengthen the life of man. It is therefore not fitting that the shortened shall be lifted upon the lengthened.

Talmud, Midos 3:4

Its [the Torah's] ways are ways of pleasantness, and all its paths are peace.

Proverbs 3:17

## *The Noseless Mirror*

Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi once received a silver snuffbox as gift. But the Rebbe did not want to put it to its intended use, and remarked: "There is one part of the body which is not constantly seeking gratification - the nose. Should I train it, too, to be a pleasure-seeker?"

## Ki Tavo / The Noseless Mirror

Instead, Rabbi Schneur Zalman found a more lofty use for the gift: he detached the snuffbox's cover and used it as a mirror to help him center the *teffilin* on his head.

This incident was once related to Rabbi Schneur Zalman's grandson, Rabbi Menachem Mendel of Lubavitch. As the one telling the anecdote described how Rabbi Schneur Zalman "broke off" the cover of the snuffbox, Rabbi Menachem Mendel remarked: "No, no, my grandfather never broke anyone or thing. He merely removed the hinge-pin which connected the upper part to the lower."

\* \* \*

Said the Lubavitcher Rebbe *shlita*:

The deeper significance of Rabbi Menachem Mendel's clarification is this: Rabbi Schneur Zalman would never have "**broken off**" the cover. True, his entire life was devoted to sublimating the ordinary and elevating the mundane. But he taught that the way to deal with the material world is not to repress or crush it, but to gently detach the upper from the lower: to extract, by harmonious and peaceful means, its lofty potentials from their lowly enmeshments.

Source:

Told by Rabbi Menachem M. Schneersohn, the Lubavitcher Rebbe *shlita*, Passover 1960.

# BESURAS HAGEULO

## The Announcement Of The Redemption

### 39

A special lesson must be derived from all of the above with respect to the Redemption which -- according to all the signs -- must come imminently and immediately... Since according to all the signs the Redemption should have come long ago, we must apply [the verse that describes the recitation that accompanied the bringing of the first fruits to the Temple] "you shall answer and say before the L-rd your G-d"<sup>1</sup> to the special supplication of "Until when"?! [In conformance with the Talmudic commentary that the recitation must be made in a "loud voice," the supplication "Until when" must also] be made in a loud voice. This request is particularly appropriate in the month of Elul when "anyone who wants has permission to greet Him and He receives them all with a gracious countenance and shows to everyone a smiling face."<sup>2</sup>... Let the Redemption occur already in actuality!

*(From the talk of Shabbos Parshas Tavo, 21 Elul 5751)*

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1. Our parsha 26:5.
  2. *Likkutei Torah, Parshas Re'eh* 32:1.

**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.**

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in health, happiness, Torah and *mitzvot*.

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OUR DEAR FRIEND AND COPY EDITOR

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Passed away on 9 Cheshvan, 5783

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The Soldier of "Tzivos Hashem" **Yosef Yitzchok שיחי Ghods**  
On the occasion of his third birthday and *Upsherenish*,  
14 Elul, 5783 - "Year of Hakhel"

". . . May G-d assist you to raise your child [and enable him] to  
attain Torah, marriage, and good deeds amidst abundant sustenance  
and peace of mind in both material and spiritual matters."

(From The Rebbe's Letter To Parents In Connection  
With The *Upsherenish* of Their Children)

**AND IN HONOR OF HIS SISTER**

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