

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** שתח'ל
Shagalov

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

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32:9

יעקב חבל נחלתו

Jacob is the rope of His inheritance

The relationship between a Jew and his G-d is like a rope: the more the Jew pulls away, the taunter the bond grows; finally, the mounting pressure causes him to rebound with an even greater force of attraction than before...

Zvi Yair

The Wayward Horse

Near Lubavitch there lived a chassid who had married off his daughter to an extremely talented Torah scholar. The proud father-in-law promised to provide for the newlyweds so that the young man could devote himself entirely to his studies.

But after a while, the promising prodigy fell into bad company, neglected his studies, and began to veer off to decidedly unsavory pursuits. After much effort, the distraught father-in-law managed to persuade the young man to see Rabbi Menachem Mendel of Lubavitch.

Once Upon A Chassid

“Tell me,” said the Rebbe to the young genius, whose new-found interests included horse racing, “what’s so great about a swift horse? Say that it can gallop twenty *versts* in the time it takes the average horse to go four; but should it take a wrong turn, it will carry its rider further and further from his goal - at five times the speed!”

“You have a point,” agreed the young man. “In such a case the swiftness of the horse has become a disadvantage.”

The Rebbe’s next words penetrated the young man’s heart: “But remember, as soon as the horse realizes that it has gone astray, it can regain the right path that much faster than his weaker brother...”

Source:

Shmu'os V'sipurim ["Sayings and Stories"] by
Rabbi Raphael Nachman Kahan, vol. 11*, p. 48.

*. Correction: Vol. 2.

BESURAS HAGEULO

The Announcement Of The Redemption

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The most essential matter is: the true and complete Redemption, truly immediately!

Several signs indicate the imminence of the Redemption, primarily the statement of our Sages¹ many generations ago that: "All the deadlines have passed, and the matter depends solely on Teshuvah [repentance, return]." My sainted father-in-law, the leader of our generation clarified that Teshuvah had already been achieved, and that we "all stand ready,"² and we have been ready for quite some time.

*(The blessing of the Rebbe Shlita, after the Annulment of the Vows,
Erev Rosh Hashanah, 5752)*

1. *Sanhedrin* 97:2.

2. The expression of my Sainted father-in-law in his letter of 26 Adar I 5698 - [published in] his *Igros Kodesh* vol. 4, p. 279. And see *HaYom Yom* 15 Teves.

The most essential matter is that "so shall it be for us, in actuality." Moreover, indeed, it has already been, in the past tense. In particular, our Rebbes and leaders have revealed to us that the publication of the coming of Moshiach is in the newspapers.¹ This has actually occurred in recent times, as several newspapers throughout the world have publicized (and we should increase the publicity) that "**Behold, he (Melech HaMoshiach) is coming.**"² Immediately and literally speaking, **he should have already come**, below ten handbreadths³ and in a manner that is manifest for the entire world to see, and especially "for the eyes of all of Israel."⁴ And may this occur in actuality, immediately!

(from the talk of Shabbos Parshas Netzavim 5751, Second day of Rosh Hashanah, and Shabbos Parshas Vayelech, 6 Tishrei, 5752)

1. See *Sefer HaSichos Toras Shalom*, p. 12: "The Rebbe (the Alter Rebbe) has said that Moshiach will appear in the gazettin (newspapers) ... all the Jews will be ready for the coming of Moshiach as if the newspapers reported that he is coming..."

2. *Shir HaShirim* 2:8. And in *Shir HaShirim Rabba* on the verse.

3. [*An expression frequently used by the Rebbe to denote that what will occur is not just a metaphor or even a spiritual reality, but that it will be so in the domain that we inhabit, within the confines of the physical world. Translator's note.*]

4. End of Parshas *Brocha*.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Mrs. Ronete Mona Mina bas Reb Zev ע"ה Kurtzman
Passed away on 9 Cheshvan, 5783

ת. נ. צ. ב. ה.

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Chabad-Lubavitch community of California שיחי

IN LOVING MEMORY OF A DEAR FREIND
Reb Pesach Betzalel ben Reb Leib ע"ה Fleischman
Passed away on 3 Elul, 5784

ת. נ. צ. ב. ה.

*

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