



A Story for the Shabbos Table

סיפורי הבעל שם טוב

The Miracle Sefer Torah

On Thursday was the 150th birthday of the Rebbe Rashab

One year, in connection with his birthday on Chof Cheshvan, the Rebbe Rashab travelled around to different cities to visit the Kvarim of the Rabbeim and Tzadikim, and also to have meetings to discuss communal matters.

On the Sunday, 26 Cheshvan, at 12:00 in the afternoon, he came to Mezhibuzh where the Ohel of the Heilige Baal Shem Tov is. Although it was already after davening, he made his first stop at the Baal Shem Tov's Shul.

At that time, The Baal Shem Tov's shul needed a lot of repairs, and the people who davened there – who were mainly old people and poor people, could not afford the repairs, and the rich people in the city did not pay attention to it. The elders in the Shul were bothered by this, especially because they had a tradition that as long as the Shul is standing, there will be peace in the city. But if the Shul will be destroyed, ה"ו, the whole city will be destroyed. They had a meeting and decided that from time to time, they will take out the special "Miracle Sefer Torah" for leining, offer the rich people to get aliya in that Sefer Torah, and in return they should donate money to the repairs of the Shul. The rich people will definitely want to have the zechus of having an Aliya in this Sefer Torah and so they will be able to raise the money.

When the Rebbe Rashab came to the shul, most people had already left, but one old man "Reb Tuvya Leib the Shamash," was still wrapped in his Talis and Tefillin, and he was talking to some people about the Baal Shem Tov.

Reb Tuvia was talking about the holiness of that special Sefer Torah, and that many Tzadikim from the previous generation, would come to Mezhibuzh specifically to have the zechus of having an Aliya in this special Sefer Torah. "Never," cried Reb Tuvya Leib the Shamash, "Did we sell the Kedusha of this Sefer Torah for money. Already for many years, we don't even dare to take it out of the Aron HaKodesh, except for Hoshana Rabo for Hoshanos, and Shmini Atzeres and Simchas Torah for Hakafos.

The Rebbe Rashab asked Reb Tuvya Leib to tell him about the "Miracle Sefer Torah."

In the year 5712, there was - ל"ע - a big *Kitrug* on the city of Mezhibuzh and many people were getting sick with different ailments, some of them very serious ר"ל. The townspeople came to the Baal Shem Tov and asked him to daven for them.

The Baal Shem Tov answered that he could not help them. Their help has to come from the people of the city themselves – through words of Torah. This

can be achieved in two ways. 1) by saying Tehillim and 2) by everyone in the city joining to write a Sefer Torah.

Immediately, the people all agreed to join in writing a Torah and the Baal Shem Tov called his Sofer, Reb Tzvi, and told him to start writing the first two Yerios (pieces of parchment).

As soon as the Sofer started writing the Torah, the sick people miraculously started getting better and they called this Sefer Torah "Di Mofes (The Miracle) Sefer Torah".

The Rebbe Rashab then davened Mincha, went to the Mikvah and then to the Ohel of the Baal Shem Tov. He stayed there for a long time, and then came back to the Shul to daven Maariv. He asked his attendant, reb Binyomin Berlin, to find out how much money they need to repair the Shul. The answer was that for a necessary repairs it will cost 300 ruble but to really do it properly and strong, it will cost about 450 ruble.

He then told his attendant to tell the people that he is a businessman from the town of Orsha, [because the Rebbe Rashab paid a merchant's tax there] and that he is willing to pay all the money for the proper and strong repairs if they will make a Minyan the next morning (on Monday) and lein in the Miracle sefer Torah, and give him an Aliya and also Gelila in that special Sefer Torah. The Rebbe also added a few conditions, that the Minyan should be early in the morning, there should only be a minyan of elderly Yidden present, a Kohen and Levi should get an Aliya, and for the first three days it should be kept a secret.

When the people agreed, The Rebbe Rashab gave 200 ruble right away and said that he will send the rest when he gets back home.

The Rebbe Rashab then went to where he was staying and drank and ate something, and then went back to the shul, with some Mashke and Farbaisan and sat and Farbrenge with the people there until late at night.

He then went to rest, and while it was still night, the Rebbe Rashab awoke and went to the Mikvah, where they met some of the elders who were going to be part of the Minyan. From there they went to the Shul and prepared for davening. Right after the Minyan the Rebbe Rashab went again to the Ohel, and from there he went to the train station...

[The Friediker Rebbe said this story when they started writing Moshiach's Sefer Torah. It is printed in Igros Kodesh of the Friediker Rebbe vol 6 p. 280-3]