



A Story for the Shabbos Table

סיפורי הבעל שם טוב

STORIES OF THE REBBE BY STUDENTS IN CHEDER – IN HONOR OF YUD SHEVAT

A preview of the upcoming Bracha v'Hatzlacha Volume 5

The Rebbe Responded – With My Father's Name!

By Aaron Mishael

When I went to New York for my Bar Mitzvah, my father and I decided to take the 10 am bus to the Ohel on Friday. On the bus, there was a video playing Rebbe videos. On this morning the video was an interview with Shimshon Stock telling about one of his encounters with the Rebbe. The engine on the bus was very noisy and we could barely hear anything.

At the Ohel we wrote our panim and davened. We were in the middle of davening when the bus driver said that we had to get back on the bus or he would leave without us. We boarded the bus and the driver turned the video on.

The camera zoomed in on Shimshon Stock's face and he said, "I asked the Rebbe to give me a bracha that my son should be a chossid". And the Rebbe told me, "Shimshon, if you want your son to be a chossid then you have to be a chossid."

I glanced at my father and saw that he was smiling. When we got off the bus, my father said, "That's exactly what I asked the Rebbe for, that you should grow up to be a chossid".

My father felt that he received an answer from the Rebbe. My father's name is Shimshon and here he heard the Rebbe's using his name in his response.

This is a proof that the Rebbe is still with us and answering our requests. All we have to do is ask.

"The Farhehr"

By the Hurwitz brothers

During the Second World War, my great-great grandfather, Rabbi Shneur Zalman Schneerson lived in Paris France. He was the Chief Rabbi of Paris at the time. One of his many wonderful accomplishments was caring for children whose parents were taken away by the Nazis. Recently, my great grandmother, Rebbetzin Hadassah Carlebach, and my great aunt, Mrs. Sterna Citron went back to France with a group of people who were producing a documentary, and they retraced the steps of their families during that terrible time.

During their trip, they met with a man who, sixty years before, was one of the children that my great-great grandfather took care of. He told them the following story about the Rebbe.

In 1947, the Rebbe was in France, and came to test these boys on their Torah Studies (a farhehr). With such excitement, he proudly told them that he and the other boys did very well -and the Rebbe was extremely proud of how they were learning.

So many years later, making the Rebbe proud was one of his most special memories.

Editors note: The Rebbe was in France at that time to meet his mother who had just come out of Russia, and bring her to America.

When the Rebbe returned to America, he sent prizes of sefarim to the children who had done well in the tests. See the following letter from the Rebbe (printed in Igros Kodesh, and translated in "I Will Write It In Their Hearts" Vol 3)

This letter was addressed to the directorate of the school in Buasie, France.
B"H, 15 Av, 5707 Greetings and blessings,

I experienced great satisfaction when visiting the school and speaking with the directorate, the teachers, and the students. As a reminder of my visit and as a mark of excellence for the students to be mentioned, a package of texts printed by the publications department of Merkos L'Inyonei Chinuch has been sent out to be distributed as prizes for the following students: G. Portnoy, N. Repkubaska, Y. Kliener, S. Lipsker, M. Eisenberg, S. Block, H. Lasser, and L. Biviorska.

With blessings for great success, **Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson**