



## A Story for the Shabbos Table

## סיפורי הבעל שם טוב

### THE STORY OF THE SECOND WINDOW

*Reprinted from Bracha VeHatzlacha Vol 2. This story was submitted by Mendy Perl*

Even before the Rebbe accepted the Nesius, he would usually take part in every children's event that was organized by my Zeidy, Rabbi Yosef Goldstein. Many of the children who participated in the Mesibos Shabbos Programs attended the Lag B'Omer Parades. They would sing Niggunim, recite Pesukim, say Shema, and enjoy plenty of candies. In the first of these Parades, about fifty children showed up. This was considered a large turnout at that time. If one hundred children took part, that was already something special.

The Rebbe would speak in Yiddish, and then Rabbi Kazarnovsky would then translate in English. On one such occasion, while the Rebbe was speaking, my Zeidy noticed that one of the windows of the Friediker Rebbe's wife, Rebbetzin Nechama Dina's room had opened. Apparently, the Rebbe Rayatz was there, and he was listening to every word that the Rebbe was saying.

Not everyone noticed this. However, my Zeidy who was always alert to such things did observe it, because he knew that he had to watch for it. This is the nature of Lag B'Omer, as it says in Tehillim, "Uncover my eyes that I may perceive the wonders of Your Torah."

Later, a second window to that room opened. My Zeidy looked up to see who was there, but he could not see anyone.

As soon as the Rebbe finished speaking, the secretary approached him and said, "Your father-in-law [the Rebbe Rayatz] wants to see you right away." The Rebbe immediately hurried upstairs.

The Rebbe then related what happened when he was in the Rebbe Rayatz's room. (My Zeidy heard this from Rabbi Yitzchok Dovid Groner, who was present when the Rebbe himself spoke about it.)

"The Rebbe [Rayatz] told me. the difference of opinion between the Alter Rebbe and his mechutan, Rabbi Levi Yitzchok of Berditchev, regarding the verse, 'Veshomru Bnei Yisrael - and the children of Israel observed', is well known.

Rabbi Levi Yitzchok said to the Alter Rebbe, "There is a hue and cry above, and a great fair takes place when the Jews say, 'Veshomru Bnei Yisrael'. The Alter Rebbe replied, "Mechutan, Mechutan, that is true, but we don't need to be at every fair".

When the Rebbe Rayatz finished speaking, he smiled and then continued, "But the Alter Rebbe was present at this fair!"

When my Zeidy heard this story, he suddenly realized what had happened. The Alter Rebbe personally attended this Lag B'Omer parade. He was the one by the 2nd window that "seemingly" did not have anyone standing there.