



בס"ד. חדר מנחם לאס אנדזשעלעס. סיפור לשבת פרשת לך לך, ח' מרחשון, ה'תשע"ב

חסידי הראשונים

Stories of the Early Chassidim

Reb Pinchas Reizes

This week's story is about Reb Pinchas Reizes. Here we will see the reason why he was called Reizes even though his father's last name was Schick. - [Taken from the book Reb Pinchas Reizes.]

Reb Pinchas' mother-in-law Reizel was an extremely wealthy and charitable woman, as well as being profoundly pious. When she heard about the greatness of the Alter Rebbe, she called her three sons-in-law and told them the following: "I have decided that I will give my entire fortune to the one who goes to Liozna and becomes a student of the Maggid of Liozna (as the Alter Rebbe was then called)."

Reb Pinchas, who had already decided to become a chossid of the Alter Rebbe, but had not yet acted upon his idea, announced his willingness to go.

He immediately set out on the journey and soon arrived in Liozna. However, for the next five months he had to satisfy himself by learning from the Alter Rebbe's Chassidim. The Alter Rebbe was still traveling, attracting more and more followers. When the Alter Rebbe finally arrived back in Liozna, Reb Pinchas was accepted into his second class after being thoroughly tested.

Eight months after he left, Reb Pinchas returned home. He had with him a note from the Alter Rebbe stating that he had studied with him personally for three months. His mother-in-law, true to her word, gave him her entire fortune.

Following the ways of our sages of not become a *Tzaddik* for monetary gain, Reb Pinchas took the money he had received and gave it to the Alter Rebbe to do with it as he saw fit.

The Alter Rebbe *bentched* Reb Pinchas with material riches in addition to further success in Torah study. Reb Pinchas asked to be blessed in a third matter as well, [it is believed that he requested a blessing for a child] but the Alter Rebbe did not answer him.

It definitely would have been more prestigious for Reb Pinchas to be called by his father's name; HoRav Chanoch Henoah was the Chief Rabbi of Shklov and recognized as a gaon by Jews throughout the entire region. However, in view of the fact that it was his mother-in-law who encouraged him to become a chossid, he took the name Reizes.

Reb Pinchas once made a calculation of his entire personal fortune, (excluding his house, which belonged to his wife). His wealth totaled ten thousand rubles, which was an extremely large sum at that time.

He then took the total amount and brought it to the Alter Rebbe saying, "Rebbe, I am putting my entire fortune at your disposal. Please take it and do with it as you see fit."

The Alter Rebbe replied, "No, it shall remain with you. You should be blessed with much success and continue doing your good deeds with it."

The Alter Rebbe's words were fulfilled. Reb Pinchas was successful and continued to help others with an open hand. To the extent that after he passed away Chassidim saw his personal ledger and the total amount of Tzedakah that he gave away was almost ten times the ten thousand rubles.



'No, it shall remain by you/

