



חסידים הראשונים

Stories of the Early Chassidim

Reb Hillel Paritcher

Reb Hillel Paritcher was a very famous Chossid of the Mitteler Rebbe and the Tzemach Tzedek. In the beginning he was a chossid of Reb Mordechai Tchernobler, but when he found out about Chabad Chassidus, he wanted to meet the Alter Rebbe. He never did, but he became a Chossid of the Mitteler Rebbe. He also wrote Seforim on Chassidus, which are printed.

Once Reb Hillel arrived in Lubavitch during the middle of the week. The Tzemach Tzedek used to say Chassidus (Maamorim) on Shabbos, and when Reb Hillel came, it was not a time of saying Chassidus.

The Tzemach Tzedek's room was not usually locked, but no one would dare to enter without permission from the Rebbe. However, Reb Hillel really wanted to hear a Maamor, so he walked into the room, and found the Rebbe sitting and writing.

The Tzemach Tzedek asked him: What do you want? Reb Hillel answered in one word: Chassidus. The Rebbe told him that now is not the time for it. But Reb Hillel stayed standing there, and the Rebbe continued writing for a long time.

Later, the Rebbe raised his head and saw that Reb Hillel was still there. He asked him: Why are you standing here? Reb Hillel again answered: Rebbe, Chassidus. But again the Rebbe told him "No."

Reb Hillel went back to the place where he was staying, and because he really wanted to hear a Maamor, and couldn't, he became very sick with a high fever.

They told this to the Tzemach Tzedek's wife, the Rebbetzin. When she heard this, she went into the Tzemach Tzedek, and said, "Reb Hillel is sick. Is it so hard for you to say Chassidus? Is it (Chassidus) very expensive in the store?" The Tzemach Tzedek listened to these words, and agreed to say Chassidus.

Reb Hillel was so weak by this time, that they had to take him on a wagon to the Rebbe, but after he heard the Maamar, on the way back to the home of his host, he was already able to walk, with two people supporting him.

On the way, Reb Hillel told them: Believe me, if the Rebbe would not have said a Maamar for me, I would not have been able to survive the night.