



בס"ד. חדר מנחם לאס אנדזשעלעס. סיפור לשבת פרשת יתרו, ח"י שבט, ה'תשע"ב

חסידי הראשונים

Stories of the Early Chassidim

Reb Nota of Malastirchine

Reb Nota was the Rav of the city Malastirchine. He was a Chossid of the Mittlerer Rebbe and the Tzemach Tzedek. The Mittlerer Rebbe said that with three Chassidim, he achieved what he wanted to. One of these was Reb Nota. He was very humble, and did not make a big deal out of himself at all. When he used to come to Lubavitch, if you did not know who he was, you would think he was just a simple person.

There was once a young *Chasid* who heard many wonderful things about Reb Nota of Malastirchine. For quite some time he had wanted to meet Reb Nota and to speak to him for himself.

One time, this *Chasid* came to Lubavitch for a visit. He asked around if any famous *Chassidim* were in Lubavitch at the time, and was told that the famous Reb Nota was in Lubavitch and he was told where he was staying. The man was overjoyed. At long last he would get to meet the person that he wanted to meet so much.

As he approached the house where Reb Nota was staying, the young man passed someone who had just walked out the front door. "Excuse me," he said in a voice full of excitement and respect, "Is it true that Reb Nota of Malastirchine is staying here?"

Noticing the great respect in the young man's voice, the man replied, "Oh, they really exaggerate about that Reb Nota. There is a tiny town called Malastirchine, and it has a little *Rebbe 'le* called Nota. From that, everyone makes a big deal!"

Hearing the chutzpah in the way the stranger spoke about Reb Nota, the young man became angry. "How dare you say such a thing!" he said sharply. He told off this stranger, and even gave him a slap on the cheek for his chutzpah. The man said nothing and walked on.

The young man then went into the house and asked where he could find Reb Nota. "He just walked out," he was told. "You probably passed him on your way in."

Realizing what he had just done, that it was Reb Nota himself who he had spoken to, and it was because he was so humble that he did not like the praise that was said about him, the young man felt terrible about what he had done, and he ran outside to catch up to Reb Nota and ask for forgiveness.

When he found Reb Nota and asked for forgiveness, Reb Nota laughed and said, "For What? You didn't do anything wrong to me!"

[From Shmuos Vesippurim – Extraordinary Chassidic Tales Vol 2]