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"I Will Always Remember My First Visit to Lubavitch"

By Elie Wiesel

The following is an article written by Professor Elie Wiesel and first published in a journal printed in honour of forty years of the Rebbe's Leadership titled "One Hour: Forty Years".

I will always remember my first visit to Lubavitch. It happened some thirty years ago.

Though a Chasid of Wizhnitz, I had heard of Chabad and its renowned leader. A foreign correspondent for Israel's evening paper "Yediot Achronot," I had thought of doing a story about the way Lubavitcher chasidim celebrate the liberation of the first-or the "Alter"- Rebbe, Rabbi Shneur Zalman of Liadi from Czarist prison.

When I left in the early morning hours, I still belonged to Wizhnitz, but I was already caught by something or someone one finds only in Lubavitch.

I remember: in a "shul" that seems both huge and intimate, thousands and thousands of chasidim, young and old, from all over the world, are dancing vertically, as if not moving from their place, yet forcing their rhythm onto the entire universe.

Their eyes closed, they sing as only Chasidim can. Ten times, fifty times, they repeat the same words, the same tune, and the song bursts their chests and lights a thousands flames in their eyes before rising higher and higher, up to the seventh heaven, if not higher, to the "Heichel hanegina," source and sanctuary of all songs.

The centre is the Rebbe. The Chasid in me looks at him with wonder. There is something melancholy and profoundly moving about his personality. Disturbing and reassuring



at the same time. He feels what everyone here feels, he helps all attain the unattainable. In his presence, one feels more Jewish, more authentically Jewish. Seen by him, one comes in closer contact with one's own inner Jewish centre.

I am unable to take my eyes off him. His gaze encompasses everyone and everything. I have rarely witnessed such control of and concern over such a large assembly. Thousands of eyes follow his most imperceptible movements.

When he talks, everybody listens breathlessly, absorbing every word, every sigh. When he sighs, the whole world sighs with him and us.

I remember: hours long I stood there, at 770 Eastern Parkway, as in a dream, looking at the Rebbe who was looking at his followers. At times, he smiled and night vanished from their lives. There were moments when he seemed serious and sombre. And, between

songs, his fervent listeners trembled between fear and hope.

Suddenly I saw myself as a child again. Spending a Shabbat at the court of the Wizhnitzer Rebbe. There, too, the souls became strings and played ancient melodies.

Yet here in Lubavitch it is different. The world is different. Countless invisible Cemeteries separate the past from the present. In Lubavitch I think even about Wizhnitz in a different manner.

What the Rebbe of Lubavitch is doing, what he is accomplishing here can be felt beyond Lubavitch.

This I came to understand much later. As I began traveling around the country, I discovered the Rebbe's emissaries in the most forsaken places. Were it not for them and their devotion, were it not for the mission entrusted onto them by the Rebbe, in the forty-two years of his leadership, who knows how many Jewish souls would have been lost to our people.

It is part of the Rebbe's greatness that he knows whom to send where and when. Not all their accomplishments have been made public. Some must remain secret. When they will be revealed - soon, I hope - they will surely increase the existing admiration for the Rebbe's vision.

Thus the Jewish people owe the Rebbe a great debt of recognition and gratitude. I do, too. I have learned much from Lubavitch in Lubavitch.

Had I not participated in the "Chag HaGeula" of Chabad some thirty years ago, I wonder whether I would be who I am now.

The Rebbe's Call to Action

There is not a Jewish soul in the world who has not been touched in some way by the Lubavitcher Rebbe: some through direct personal contact, others as a result of the work of the thousands of emissaries in Jewish communities in almost every country around the globe. The Rebbe's broad influence has set the agenda for organizations and communities across the spectrum of observance and political leanings.

At this 112-year milestone since the Rebbe's birth, it is fitting to stop and reflect on the breadth and scope of the Rebbe's far-sighted vision. But reflection alone is insufficient. The Rebbe's slogan, paraphrasing the Mishne, is "The main thing is the deed." The most important thing is that our thoughts and feelings be translated into action.

We invite you to get acquainted with just a few of the Rebbe's innovative campaigns and to choose one through which you would like to celebrate the Rebbe's birthday together with world Jewry.

Put On Tefilin

Launched on the Shabbat before the Six Day War broke out in 1967, the Rebbe's by-now famous "Tefilin Campaign" was initiated as a safety measure for the Jewish people in general and Jewish soldiers in Israel in particular. Before and during the war, every Israeli soldier put on tefilin. At that time the Rebbe emphasized that the Torah verse "And they [the nations of the world] shall fear you" applies to those who don tefilin. What better mitzva to do now to help the situation in the Holy Land?

A House Full of Books

The Rebbe initiated a campaign for every Jewish home to be a "house full of Torah books." Purchase Jewish books for children, friends and relatives for birthdays, anniversaries, etc. Treat yourself to a browse at your local Jewish bookstore and pick up a few for yourself.



Give Charity

Every Jewish home should have a charity ("tzedaka") box into which coins are placed daily, except the Sabbath and holidays.

Have a tzedaka box in each room in your home and even in your office. By having one in your place of business, the Rebbe explains, one "involves G-d as an active partner in one's business and enhances his potential to distribute G-d's blessing to others."

In addition to giving charity oneself, one should encourage family members to give charity as well. The commandment to give charity also applies to non-Jews and one should encourage non-Jewish acquaintances to give charity, too.

"Tzedaka is great, because it brings the Redemption near," our Sages teach. By showing generosity to our fellow men, we anticipate G-d's ultimate generosity and bounty.

Study Maimonides

In 5744 (1984) the Rebbe called for the daily study of Maimonides' Mishne Torah, thereby uniting all Jews in the study encompassing the entire Torah. The Rebbe enjoined all men, women and children to participate, allowing for the study of three chapters daily, one chapter a day or Maimonides' simpler Sefer HaMitzvot. The daily lesson is accessible on the Internet at www.chabad.org. Both books are available in English.

Affix A Mezuzah

Put mezuzot on all doorposts of your home (except bathrooms and storage closets). Make sure the mezuzah parchments are hand-written by a scribe. Beautiful mezuzah covers can be purchased at most Judaica stores. As you pass the mezuzah on your front door, make a habit of touching your fingers to it and then kissing your fingers; this reminds us of G-d's presence and our Jewish heritage.

Torah Study

Each person should establish a set time for increasing his Jewish knowledge every day, even if just for a few moments. Most appropriate as we stand at the threshold of the Redemption is to study sections of Torah that discuss Moshiach and the Redemption, as well as the Rebbe's own teachings.

The Zohar teaches that as a result of wasting opportunities for Torah study, "the day on which Moshiach will redeem us from this exile is postponed." Through Torah study, by studying both the revealed and the hidden dimensions of the Torah, this postponement can be revoked.

In addition, or as an alternative, it's good to participate in a Torah Study group, preferably in groups of ten, for "over every group of ten, the Divine Presence rests." By participating in communal sessions, we enhance Jewish unity.

Jewish Married Life

The attitudes and the practices that the Torah prescribes for married life help to develop genuine communication and love between husband and wife. Known as "Taharat HaMishpacha"-Family Purity-couples from all walks of life have adopted this mitzvah as a means to enhance and enrich their married life.

Eat Kosher

Jews not only look Jewish and think Jewish, we eat Jewish! Jewish law discusses what the kosher diet entails, including the total separation of meat and milk, which animals, poultry and fish are permissible and how they must be slaughtered. Kosher food is truly "soul food," and is the only proper food for a Jewish soul. Thousands of kosher products with reliable rabbinical supervision are already stocked on your local supermarket's shelves.

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The Lamplighter contains words from sacred writings. Please do not deface or discard.

Light Shabbat Candles

All women and girls (over age 3) should light candles every Friday evening eighteen minutes before sunset. Married women light two or more candles, unmarried women light one. It is important not to light after sunset, as that would be a desecration of the Sabbath. Through the lighting of Shabbat candles we will merit the fulfilment of G-d's promise of the Redemption, "If you will keep the lights of the Sabbath candles, I will show you the lights of Zion."

Love and Unity

Love your fellow Jew simply because he is a Jew. The Rebbe declared: "Since the Holy Temple was destroyed on account of undeserved hatred, this reason must be undone by means of unearned love - by loving every Jew without cause, even when one sees no apparent justification for loving him. And it is this unity which will bring the Prophet Elijah, the harbinger of the Redemption."

In the spirit of Ahavat Yisrael, love of a fellow Jew, we should endeavour to unify all different kinds of Jews. This sentiment should be reflected in all of our interactions with our fellow Jews. This will be a foretaste of the Messianic Era, for the Redemption will unify all of Israel.

Jewish Education

Jewish continuity is assured when Jewish kids get a solid Jewish education. The Previous Lubavitcher Rebbe charged every Jew with the responsibility of contemplating for 30 minutes. Support Jewish education in any way you can.

A Letter in a Torah Scroll

The very last commandment in the Torah is for one to write a Torah scroll for him/herself. The Rebbe highlighted this mitzva when he established the Sefer Torah Campaign over 30 years ago. For a nominal fee, one would "purchase" letters in a Torah scroll, thereby connecting with millions of Jews around the world. To date, over 6 million Jewish men, women and children have participated in this mitzva. For the special Children's Sefer Torah visit: www.kidstorah.org

Enlist in Tzivos Hashem

"All Jewish children must know that they are, from birth, soldiers in Tzivos Hashem - G-d's army - and conduct themselves accordingly." Three decades ago the Rebbe established the international Jewish children's organization Tzivos Hashem. With the motto "We want Moshiach now" the children were charged with the special



mission of performing mitzvot and good deeds to hasten the coming of Moshiach. Enrol children under the age of Bar/Bat Mitzva in Tzivos Hashem. www.tzivos-hashem.org

The Seven Universal Laws of Noah

Influence non-Jews to observe the seven universal laws commanded to Noah and his descendants. They are the prohibitions against adultery, murder, theft, eating the limb of a living animal, saying G-d's name in vain, to establish a system of justice and belief in one G-d. "The future Redemption will apply not only to Israel, but to the whole world as well. In preparation for this Redemption, the Jewish people should try to influence the nations of the world to observe their seven mitzvot," the Rebbe explained.

Summer Camp

The Rebbe spoke many times about the unique learning opportunity for Jewish children afforded by the months of summer vacation. Without the pressures of tests, homework, etc., children enrolled in camps permeated with a Torah atmosphere eagerly learn about their heritage and are instilled with pride in being Jewish. Creative methods are used to make Judaism come alive. The soul is nourished as the body and mind are strengthened. If you don't have camp-age children help sponsor a child who would not otherwise be able to attend a camp.

Use Your Jewish Name

That the Jewish people did not change their names was one of the factors in the liberation of our ancestors from Egyptian bondage. In fact, one of the merits that brought about the Redemption from Egypt was that they kept their Hebrew names. A

Hebrew name has a meaning and message that binds a Jew with G-d and His Torah and this is especially important when Jews are in Exile.

Find out what your Jewish name is and your mother's and father's Jewish names. If you were never given a Jewish name, chose one yourself after consulting your rabbi. Encourage family and close friends to call you by your Jewish name.

Eat A Shabbat Meal with Your Family

In 5734 (1974) the Rebbe urged families to unite through eating Shabbat meals together. Just imagine, no TV, phone, computer-what a great way to enhance communication skills within your family. Try a traditional Shabbat menu, exotic recipes or even a one-pot meal. The main point is to do it together as a family.

Celebrate Your Jewish Birthday

Your birthday is an auspicious day. It is a time to make a gathering with friends and relatives at which you teach or study some Torah, share your good resolutions for the upcoming year and give charity.

Give it With Love

For generations Psalm 121, known as Shir LaMaalot, customarily adorned the labour and delivery room and afterward the bassinet. The Rebbe called for the reintroduction of this ancient custom. The Shir LaMaalot states our "declaration of dependence" upon G-d for our well-being and His commitment to guard us. If you are expecting a child or know someone who is, you can get a beautiful full-colour Shir LaMaalot card by visiting www.LchaimWeekly.org/general/art/shir-lamaalot.jpg

Get Ready for Moshiach

The Rebbe once related that from the time he was a little child he imagined what the world will be like when Moshiach comes. Do your part to get ready and to let other people know that the long-awaited era of peace, harmony, health, prosperity and Divine wisdom, the Messianic Era, is imminent. Study about Moshiach and the Redemption, give charity, and add in acts of goodness and kindness. It's in our hands, as the Rebbe said, "What more can I do to motivate the whole world to cry out and demand the Redemption? I have done all I can; now you do everything you can, here and now, to bring the Redemption immediately."

For more information about how to participate in any of these campaigns contact your local Chabad-Lubavitch Center or log onto www.askmoses.com



INSIGHTS

LETTERS BY THE LUBAVITCHER REBBE

By the Grace of G d
8th of Tammuz, 5738 [July 13, 1978]
Brooklyn, N.Y.
Mr. ----
Johannesburg
South Africa

Greeting and Blessing:

...As we are approaching the auspicious anniversary of the liberation of my father-in-law of saintly memory on the 12-13th of Tammuz, I trust that you know the history and significance of this date. The main point of it is that he has shown what a Jew can achieve when he is absolutely determined to live up to his commitment to Torah and Mitzvoth regardless of the circumstances. And there is no need to spell out what these circumstances were under the Communist regime 50 years ago. And although who can compare to his stature, nevertheless having accomplished what he did, he has made it easier for all those who would follow in his footsteps. Certainly those of us who are privileged to live in incomparably happier circumstances, where one does not have to endanger his life, G d forbid, to observe the Torah and Mitzvoth, and whatever difficulties there may be for the most part imaginary and can certainly be overcome, so that in the final analysis it is mainly a matter of one's own will and determination. This makes it the duty and privilege of every one of us to do all one can, by example and precept, to spread Yiddishkeit, Torah and Mitzvoth, in one's surroundings, and it is certain that every such effort is bound to be blessed by G d with Hatslocho [success].

With blessing,
M. Schneerson
(An excerpt from a letter of the Rebbe)

A WORD *from the Director*

There are many stories that we hear about the Rebbe and his miracles. These stories are not an isolated phenomenon. Documented evidence has forced even the most hardened sceptics to admit that the childless were blessed with progeny, the ill with health, and that fortunes were made and/or saved because of the Rebbe's blessings.

But more importantly, the Rebbe's greatest miracles are in the realm of ideas. He provided us with clarity and insight, an awareness of who we are and where we are going that rings true and empowers. Each person whose life he has touched has become deeper and richer and a source of inspiration for others. The chain reaction that this dynamic initiated continues to produce change in many people's lives.

Today, Yud-Alef Nissan is the Rebbe's birthday. Our Sages teach us that on a person's birthday, his or her spiritual potentials and goals are given additional power. This is the day when the Rebbe's goals and purposes are highlighted and given greater expression.

In one of his letters, the Rebbe writes that from his earliest childhood, he would picture the future Redemption in his mind. Perhaps the most appropriate birthday present we could give to the Rebbe is to do something to advance that purpose, and the Rebbe has told us exactly what he would like us to do:

- a) Learn about the era of G-dly knowledge, peace, and cooperation that Moshiach will initiate, and share that awareness with others; and*
- b) Be proactive by reaching out to the people around you with deeds of love and kindness.*

By living with the Redemption, anticipating the knowledge, harmony, and peace of that era in our day-to-day lives, we can precipitate the time when these values will spread through the entire world with the coming of Moshiach.

On behalf of my family and the Chabad House of Caulfield, I wish you all the best for a very joyous and kosher Pesach.

J. I. Gutnick

MOSHIACH MATTERS

Mitzvot (commandments) are referred to as "seeds". For every mitzva is an infusion of Divine-energy into our material world, which when cultivated will blossom and bear fruit. In an ultimate sense, the fruit of the seeds will be the Redemption, the era when the G-dliness invested in the world through the Divine service of the Jewish people for thousands of years will flourish in overt revelation. This will remake the nature of our existence, allowing us to appreciate the inner Divine core within all being. Since the world itself will become conscious of its G-dly nature, this redemption will never be followed by exile. For G-dliness will never become concealed again. (In the Garden of the Torah)

CANDLE LIGHTING: 11-16 APRIL 2014



BEGINS			ENDS		
11th	14th	15th	12th	16th	
5.42	5.37	6.34	MELBOURNE	6.38	6.33
5.40	5.36	6.31	ADELAIDE	6.35	6.30
5.18	5.15	6.07	BRISBANE	6.10	6.06
6.26	6.25	7.14	DARWIN	7.15	7.13
5.16	5.13	6.05	GOLD COAST	6.08	6.04
5.44	5.40	6.33	PERTH	6.37	6.32
5.21	5.17	6.11	SYDNEY	6.15	6.10
5.28	5.24	6.19	CANBERRA	6.23	6.18
5.31	5.26	6.24	LAUNCESTON	6.28	6.22
5.44	5.40	6.36	AUCKLAND	6.40	6.34
5.40	5.36	6.33	WELLINGTON	6.38	6.32
5.29	5.24	6.22	HOBART	6.27	6.21
5.15	5.12	6.04	BYRON BAY	6.07	6.03
6.52	6.51	7.41	SINGAPORE	7.41	7.40

Light candles on the 15th after the time given, and only from a pre-existing flame

CHABAD HOUSE OF CAULFIELD LUBAVITCH

439 INKERMANN STREET, CAULFIELD
PARSHAS ACHAREI • 11 NISSAN • 11 APRIL

FRIDAY NIGHT:	CANDLE LIGHTING: MINCHA: KABBOLAS SHABBOS:	5:42 PM 5:50 PM 6:15 PM
SHABBOS:	SHACHARIS: LATEST TIME TO SAY SHEMA: MINCHA: SHABBOS ENDS	10:00 AM 9:31 AM 5:40 PM 6:38 PM
SUNDAY:	SHACHARIS: MINCHA: MAARIV:	8:00 AM, 9:15 AM 5:45 PM 6:30 PM followed by Bedikas Chametz
MONDAY 14 APRIL, EREV YOM TOV:	8:00 AM, 9:15 AM, each Minyon followed by Siyum SHACHARIS: FINISH EATING CHAMETZ BEFORE SELL AND BURN CHAMETZ BEFORE: CANDLE LIGHTING: MINCHA: MAARIV:	10:29 AM 11:25 PM 5:37 PM 5:45 PM 6:25 PM followed by Seder 1
TUESDAY 15 APRIL:	SHACHARIS: MINCHA: HOLIDAY ENDS:	10:00 AM 5:40 PM 6:33 PM
THURSDAY CHOL HAMOED:	SHACHARIS: MINCHA: MAARIV:	8:00 AM, 9:15 AM 5:40 PM 6:2 PM