

THE REBBE

The Rebbe has devoted his life to helping and saving his fellow Jews.

Over the years, the Rebbe has given so much to so many people: his own Chassidim, all of Klal Yisroel and the whole world.

The Rebbe's gifts are special because they are not the kind that can be used up or forgotten. They are gifts that stay with us forever and help us to become stronger and better.

Now, Gimmul Tammuz is here. What do you think the Rebbe would like as a present?

We all know that ever since the Rebbe was a very young child there was one thing that has always been on his mind, there is one thing that the Rebbe has always wanted.

Yes! the best present we can give the Rebbe is to bring Moshiach Now!



Can you think of something you can do to bring Moshiach Now?

THE GIFT OF YECHIDUS



Yechidus is a private meeting between a Rebbe and a chossid.

It is a very important and serious time when the Rebbe's attention is focused on a single person, and that person has a chance to ask the Rebbe about anything he wants.

Of course, a chossid prepares carefully for his special appointment alone with the Rebbe.

Even many years after their Yechidus, chassidim can remember every movement, every word that the Rebbe said to them.

THE GIFT OF DOLLARS

So many people wanted a yechidus with the Rebbe that it became impossible for him to meet with each one.



Then, on the Rebbe's 84th birthday, he began to hand out dollars for tzedaka.

Every Sunday, the Rebbe would stand for up to 5 or 6 hours giving dollars to the thousands of people that walked by the hall just outside his office.

All sorts of people came, men, women and children. Some were Chassidim; some were not. A few were not even Jewish. Some people asked a short question, many needed a brocho for health or children. And the Rebbe listened, answered, and gave a personal brocho to everyone who came to meet him.

Usually the person would keep the dollar he got from the Rebbe's holy hand, and give a different one to tzedaka.

THE GIFT OF LETTERS

Every day, the post office brought sacks and sacks of mail to 770. Hundreds of letters were addressed to the Rebbe!

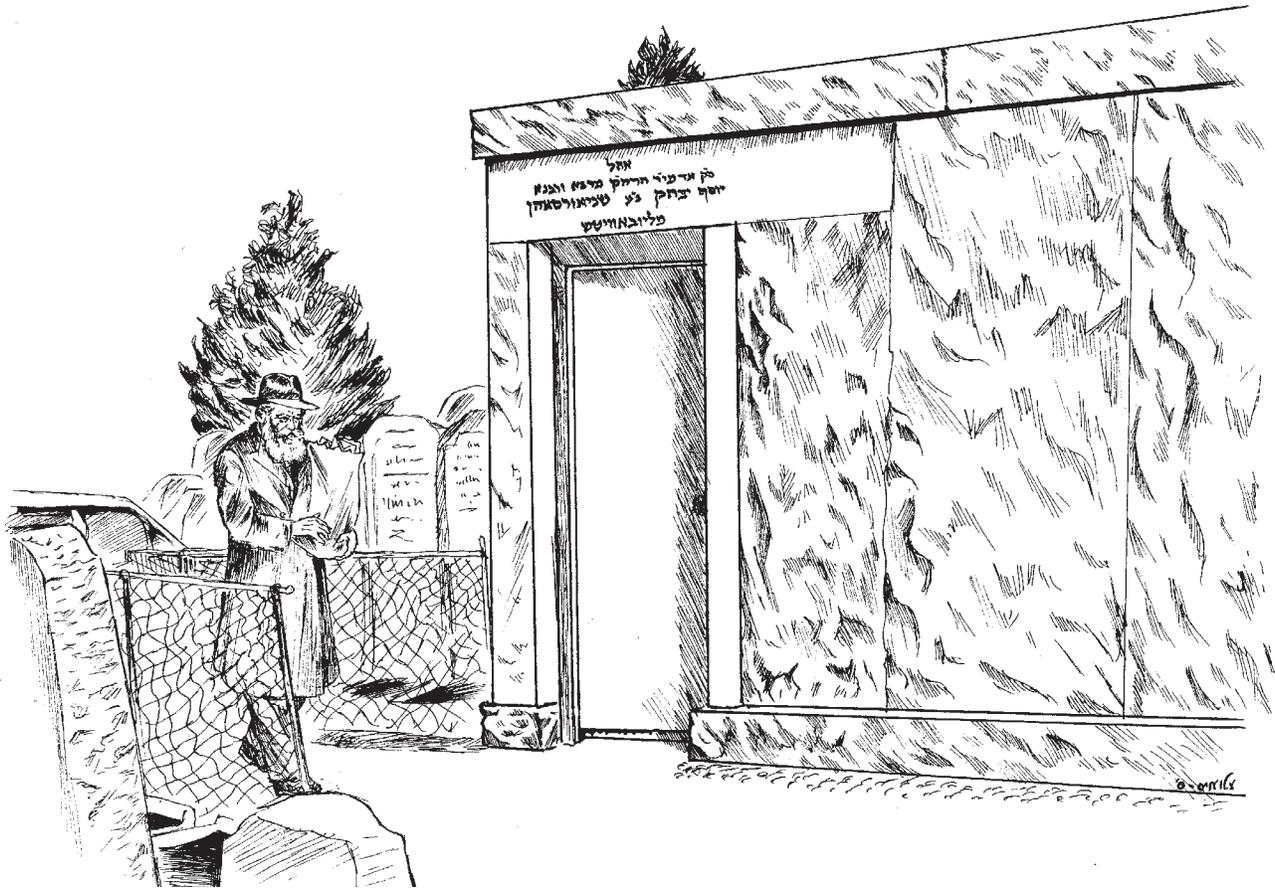


People wrote with all kinds of important questions. They asked for the Rebbe's brochois before getting married, going on shlichus or having an operation.

Some letters were from people who needed help. Others were full of good news about babies being born, or from a person who began to put on tefillin or light Shabbos candles and wanted the Rebbe to know.

It took hours to read the letters, to answer them and to sign them. People who have letters from the Rebbe keep them and treasure them.

THE GIFT OF AZKIR AL HATZIYON & SPECIAL SEFORIM



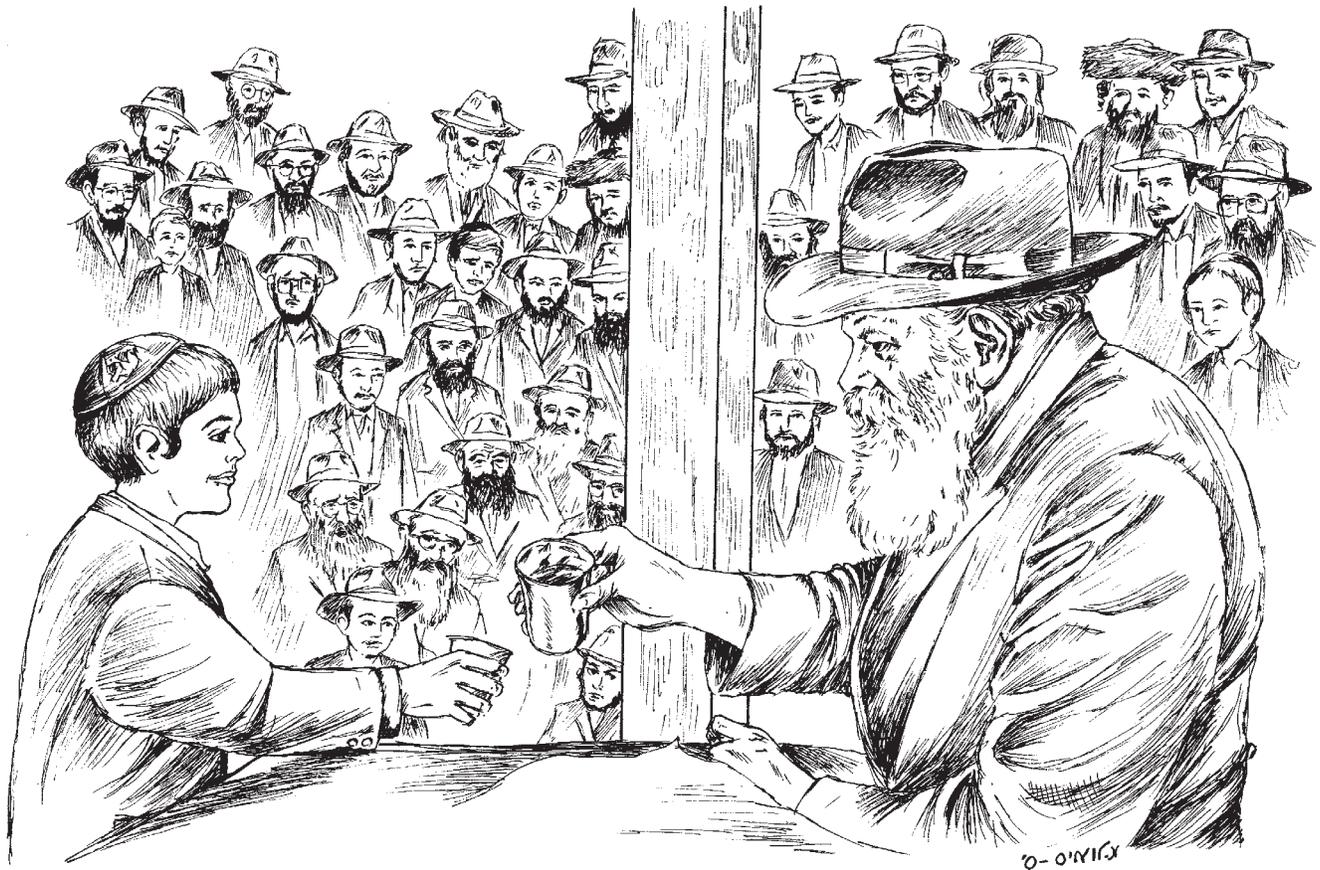
One of the answers the Rebbe often gave to a person's letter was "Azkir al Hatziyon."

This meant that the Rebbe would take the letter with him and mention the person's problem or request at the Ohel of the Frierdiker Rebbe.

Before going to the Ohel, the Rebbe would put on his silk sertuk, go to the mikvah, and take only a drink, but no food that day. The Rebbe spent many hours standing at the Ohel, davening for Klal Yisroel, sometimes crying as he read their letters.

After coming back from the Ohel, the Rebbe might say a sicha and give out dollars. At times, the Rebbe would give out seforim that he wanted the Chassidim to have... standing for hours--late into the night--without having eaten anything.

THE GIFT OF KOS SHEL BROCHO:



After the Farbrengen of Pesach, Rosh Hashanah, Shavuos and Succos are over, it would be dark, so the Rebbe would make Havdalah. Then he drank the wine, leaving a little at the bottom of the becher.

The bochurim would sing lively niggunim as the Rebbe poured wine from his becher--koi shel brocho--for each chossid that passed by. The Rebbe's becher was filled over and over again as hundreds of people jammed together in a huge line that stretched all around the room.

Fathers brought their children -- even newborn babies -- to get a bit of the wine and to be close to the Rebbe. Often the Rebbe would swing his left hand to encourage the joyful singing. Many people added the Koi Shel Bracha to their bottles of wine or grape juice at home.

THE GIFT OF FARBRENGENS:

On Yom Tov, on Chassidishe Yomim Tovim, and eventually every Shabbos afternoon, the Rebbe would farbreng in 770.

These were some of the most precious times when the Rebbe would talk to the chassidim (say a sicha) about so many things: the parsha, Eretz Yisroel, Mivtzoyim, Tzivos Hashem, how a chossid should behave, lessons in serving Hashem, ideas for bringing Torah and Mitzvos to every single Jew, and of course, about Moshiach and the Geulah.

After each sicha, the chassidim would sing a niggun and people would make L'chaim to the Rebbe. The Rebbe might also say a "Maamar," very holy teachings of Chassidus.

Everyone in 770 would stand up respectfully during the entire Maamar.

Whenever we learn a Sicha or a Maamar we become very close and connected to our Rebbe.



THE GIFT OF RALLIES:

When the Rebbe wanted to speak specifically to the children, there would be a rally in 770.

Boys and girls under bar and bas mitzvah age were invited to sit downstairs in separate sections accompanied by leaders or teachers.

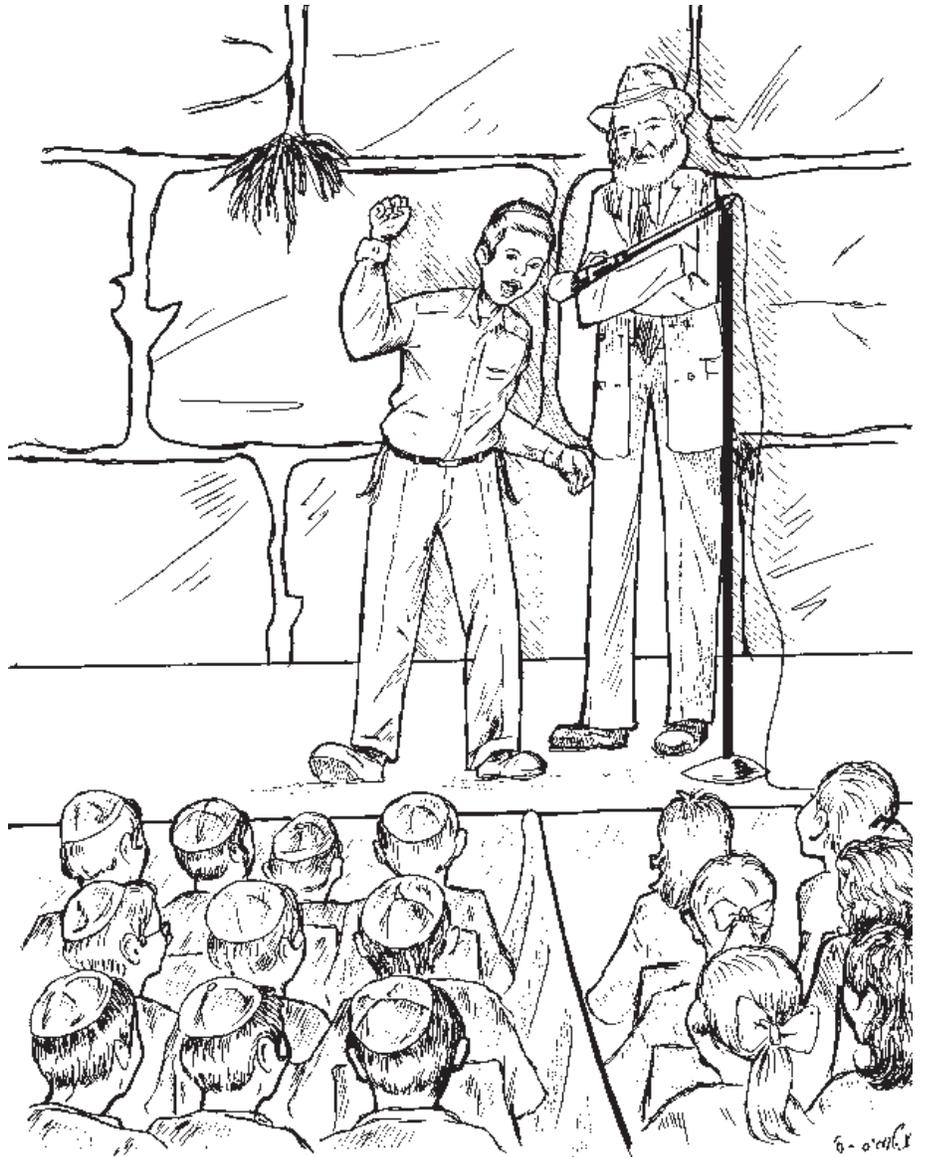
When the Rebbe came in, he would daven mincha.

Then a few little children would be chosen to say the 12 pesukim, which the Rebbe always said

along with them. The child who said the final possuk always ended with a loud "yechi," and all the children answered as loudly as they could!

The Rebbe smiled a great deal during these rallies - especially at the very littlest Tzivos Hashem soldiers. Everyone could tell that the Rebbe was proud of his young Chassidim and expected a lot from them.

After speaking to the children, the Rebbe usually gave out dimes for them to use for tzedaka.



THE GIFT OF LEKACH:

Lekach means honey cake. It is a custom on Erev Yom Kippur to ask for lekach from someone else.

That way, if it was decided in shamayim that a person would have to beg-- he already has "begged" for lekach.

The Rebbe would personally give out lekach to his chassidim at various times along with a brocho for a good and sweet year.

People who got lekach would share it with their family members and friends who couldn't be in Crown Heights for Tishrei.

Every small crumb of the Rebbe's lekach was precious.



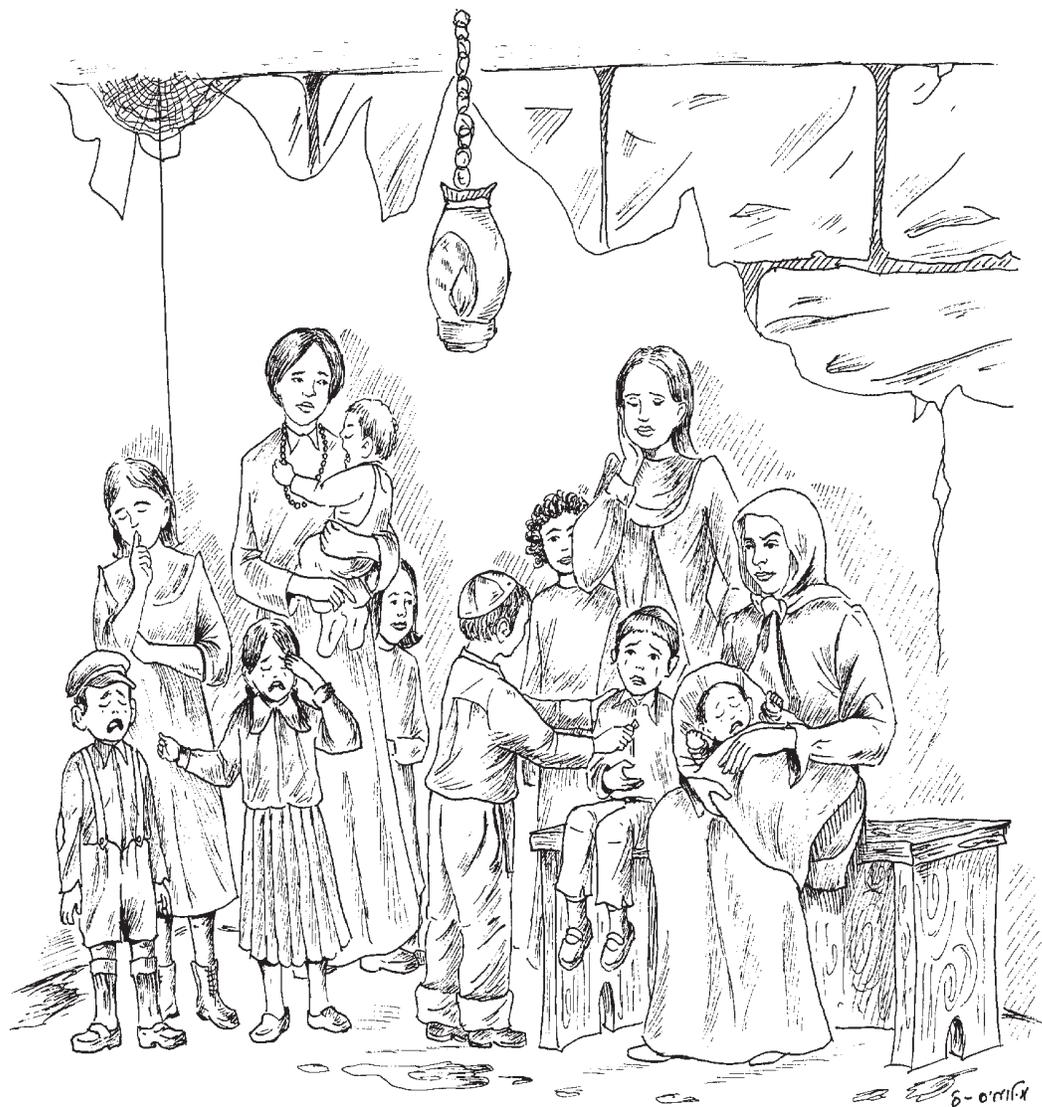
CALMING THE CHILDREN:

When the Rebbe was a small boy in Nikolayev, everyone was afraid of the dangerous Russian goyim. They used to run through the streets, pushing, shouting, and taking things that belonged to the Jews.

One day, Rebbetzin Chana (the Rebbe's mother) heard that the Russians were coming and took her children to a safe place where other women and children were hiding.

The frightened boys and girls were crying loudly. If they weren't quiet, the Russians would find the hiding place! The mothers didn't know what to do.

One little boy, less than five years old, walked over and smiled at the other children. He spoke softly, gave them some candy, and they all stopped crying. That child was the Rebbe.



INTO THE SEA:

The Rebbe's family once spent a summer in Balaclava, by the shore of the Black Sea in Crimea.

One day, as they were walking near the water, they heard someone shout: "A child is drowning!" A young boy had gone out alone in a small boat, and the boat had tipped over in the deep part of the ocean.



Another boy jumped into the water, swam out to the boat and rescued the child.

Hurrying to the scene, the Rebbe's mother discovered that the 'hero' was none other than her nine-year-old son.

That brave boy was the Rebbe.

THE HUNDRED DOLLAR BILL:

During World War II, many Jews running away from the Nazis arrived in France.

Among them were the Rebbe and his wife, the Rebbetzin Chaya Mushka.

These poor Jews had run away from their homes. They had no place to stay. The French hotel owners didn't want their hotels to be full of Jews.

They made a rule that unless someone could show a one hundred-dollar bill they wouldn't give him a room.

Of course most of the Jews didn't have that much money, so they had no place to sleep.

There was a man who owned just a single one hundred-dollar bill.

He used to stand in the street and lend it to any poor Jew who needed it, in order to get into a hotel.

Then he would take back his bill and look for someone else to help.

That man was the Rebbe.



THE REBBE'S REACH:

Far away in Australia, there was a blind Jewish girl.

Her parents sent her to the only school for the blind in their city - a goyishe school. The priest in charge said she could come for free if she would become a goy. Otherwise, her parents would have to pay a lot of money to the school.

The Jewish girl's parents felt they had no choice. Their daughter would have to convert and become a goy!

But the girl herself wasn't sure it was the right thing to do.

She went to shul and davened to Hashem to send her a sign to help her decide.

Just then, a rabbi came over to her. "I am looking for Egyptian Jews who need help," he said. "My family came from Egypt many years ago," answered the girl in surprise, "and you must be the sign I prayed for. Now I know I must remain a Jew! How did you know I needed help?"

The rabbi answered, "Far away, in New York, there is a great rabbi, a Jewish leader who cares about each and every Yid. He sent me to this city to take care of some Egyptian Jews, and so I looked for you."

That great leader is the Rebbe.

