

# The Jewish Weekly

In Loving memory of  
**Mendy Klein**  
 ר' מנחם משה ז"ל  
 בן ר' נפתלי הירצקא  
 נפטר ל"ג בעומר  
 י"ח אייר תשע"ח  
 ת.נ.צ.ב.ה.

## Meeting the Rebbe from Paris, Israel and Lakewood, NJ

By Rabbi Yerachmiel Tilles

I was born in Paris after World War II, about forty-five years ago. I remained an only son, as my parents were already middle-aged when I was born. Even when I was young, I sensed that my parents were withholding some secret about my birth.

I became engaged at the age of twenty-four. A short while before my wedding, my father, may he rest in peace, disclosed the story. I can still see him, as he sat close to me, with tears coming to his eyes when he lifted the veil of confidence from his long-kept secret.

My parents were among the lucky Polish Jews who escaped to Russia during World War II. They joined bands of homeless refugees, who wandered from place to place, until they arrived in the city of Tashkent in the Carpathian Mountains. Tashkent was a temporary haven for refugees, including many Lubavitcher chassidim.

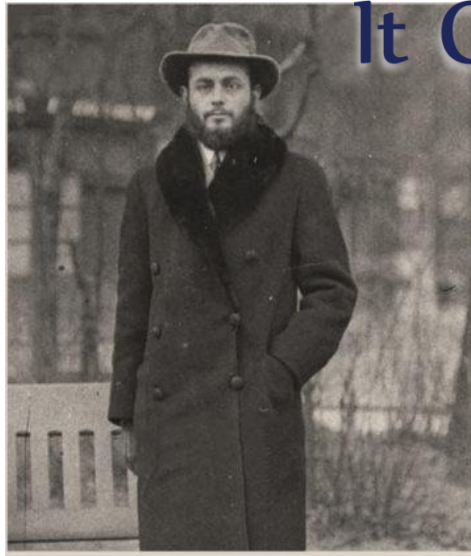
My father always spoke highly of the Lubavitchers whom he had met in Tashkent. Self-sacrifice was their way of life. They offered assistance and support beyond their means. Their prayers reflected a deep commitment to Judaism. But most outstanding was their intense struggle to educate the young, despite their hardships during these difficult years.

My father was already nearly fifty years old, and my mother was about forty, when the war ended. They wanted to establish a home. Fortunately, being Polish citizens, they were able to leave Russia. They mingled with the migrating masses who were crossing Europe, and eventually made their home in Paris. They were grateful for having survived, but they faced the pain of childlessness after twenty years of marriage.

In those days, Paris was a melting pot of refugees, and my parents were delighted to come across former acquaintances. Among them there were some Lubavitcher chassidim whom they had befriended in Tashkent.

One day, shortly after my parents arrived in Paris, my father met a beaming Lubavitcher chassid, who exclaimed, "We've merited an important guest in town. Rabbi Schneerson the son-in-law of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, has arrived in Paris. He came to welcome his mother, Rebbetzin Chanah Schneerson, who just left Russia."

On several occasions, my father met Rabbi Schneerson in the shul at the Pletzel in Paris and talked with him. My father was a learned scholar, and he cherished these talks



*The Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson*

with Rabbi Schneerson. During one of those conversations, Rabbi Schneerson inquired about my father's experiences during the war. When he touched upon the topic of family, my father tearfully explained that he did not have children. With compassion in his eyes, Rabbi Schneerson [who was childless almost as long,] gripped my father's hand warmly, and blessed him, "May G-d enable you to fulfill the mitzvah of Vehigadeta levincha ('Tell [about the Exodus at the Seder] to your children...') next year."

The following year, when Pesach arrived, I was already two months old.

Two more years passed, and my parents emigrated from Europe to Israel. From the time I can remember, the Seder has always been an emotional experience for my father. He always expounded upon avadim hayinu [the "telling" section of the Passover Hagaddah] patiently and extensively, and with much love and joy.

I could not appreciate my father's intensity at the Seder until he disclosed the story of my birth."

And that's not all. Three years ago, my daughter married a yeshiva student from Lakewood, New Jersey. She was due to give birth the following Pesach. We had planned a family trip to the States to spend the holiday together, and celebrate the arrival of our grandchild. My wife arrived a month earlier to assist my daughter, while my younger children and I arrived in New Jersey a week before Pesach.

"At that time I told my son-in-law, 'I would like to see the Lubavitcher Rebbe and have my younger son receive his blessing.'

"My son-in-law was less enthusiastic. His home community did not have many followers of the Rebbe and he felt no need to make the two-hour journey. I, however, was not to be dissuaded.

## It Once Happened..

When my son-in-law saw that I was intent on going, he told me about the opportunity to meet briefly with the Rebbe on Sunday morning, when the Rebbe distributes dollars to be given to charity. I readily agreed, and my son-in-law arranged a ride to Brooklyn for me and my young son.

"We neared '770', where we were amazed to see a winding, block-long line of people waiting to see the Rebbe. During those hours in which we waited our turn, I told the miraculous story of my birth to my son.

"He was very moved to hear the story, 'I was surprised that you were so determined to come here, he said, 'and I did not know why you were willing to wait so long. Time has always been very precious to you. Now I understand.'

"Finally, after hours of slowly inching forward, we reached a point from where we could see the distinguished and impressive appearance of the Rebbe. There was a tangible spirit of divinity in the air. I was amazed at the thousands of people who passed by. He blessed each one and handed out tzedakah [a dollar for (charity)] personally.

Though the line of people passed quickly, I could see that some of them said something to the Rebbe and that he responded. I hadn't planned to say anything. I just wanted to see and approach the Rebbe once. "Maybe because it was my personal need to thank him for the blessing that he gave my parents, which culminated in my birth," I thought to myself.

Our turn arrived more quickly than I had anticipated. The Rebbe gave my son, who was standing before me, a dollar. Brachah v'hatzlacha ("blessings and success"), the Rebbe said. Then, without pause, he asked him in Yiddish, "Are you ready to ask the Four Questions?"

My son was caught by surprise, not having expected the Rebbe to address him. Sensing his surprise, the attendant explained the question.

My son regained his composure and responded, "Yes." The Rebbe smiled and handed him another dollar. "This is for the Four Questions" he said.

As I approached the Rebbe, he handed me a dollar saying, "Brachah v'hatzlacha." Then, he handed me a second dollar, "for the answer to the Four Questions." Whereupon he gave me a deeply penetrating look, and with a tremendous smile he added: "and for Vehigadeta levincha."

*Reprinted from an email of KabbalaOnline.org.*

*Editor's Note: The Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson's 118<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth is tonight - Sunday, 11 Nissan - April 5*



**YF GRAPHICS**

Shabbat Times - Tzav

	Candle Lighting	Motzei Shabbat	Motzei Shabbat ר"ת
Jerusalem	6:24	7:38	8:17
Tel Aviv	6:40	7:40	
Haifa	6:31	7:40	
Be'er Sheva	6:42	7:40	



# Slice of Life

# Torah Compilations With Yossi Parshat Tzav

## The Two Turkish Merchants Who Settled in Jerusalem

By Rabbi Elimelech Biderman

"I asked the malachim, 'Why am I permitted to go to Gan Eden? This is the world of truth. How were my sins overlooked? And why did an iron wall separate me from the demons?'"

"The malachim answered, 'The wall was created by your kviyat itim l'Torah (setting aside time daily to learn Torah). You had a set time to learn Torah, which you never missed. That became the iron wall that protected you. If you had missed occasionally, there would be breaches in the wall and the malachei chavalah would be able to pass through those breaches. But since you never missed, you had a strong protection, and now you can go to Gan Eden.'

The friend added, "I didn't come earlier because it's difficult to get permission to leave Gan Eden to come to Olam HaZeh. But I kept asking for permission so I could keep my promise, and at last they allowed me. Heaven decided that it is good I should return to tell you what happened, so people will know how important it is to have set times to study Torah every day."

*Reprinted from an email of Torah Wellsprings.*

Many reasons are given for this Shabbat being called Shabbat Hagadol. The one that I identify with most strongly, is the fact that we find with a lot of our important Shabbatot of the year, they take their names from a key word in the Torah reading or the Haftorah of that day. For example, Shabbat Chazon, Shabbat Zachor, Shabbat Nachamu and Shabbat Shuvah.

And similarly, in our Haftorah for Shabbat HaGadol, we have the words of the Prophet Malachi, who declares: הנה אנוכי שולח לכם את אליהו הנביא, 'behold' says Hashem, 'I sent to you Elijah the Prophet', לפני בוא יום ה' הגדול והנורא, 'before that great and awesome day of Hashem'. Here we are referring to the great day of the coming of the Moshiach, and seeing as we read it on this Shabbat, this Shabbat takes its name from that term and becomes 'Shabbat HaGadol'.

And then the Prophet continues, והשיב לב אבות על בנים ולב בנים על אבותם, 'the hearts of parents will inspire their children and the hearts of children will inspire their parents'.

Here is a description of a remarkable phenomenon, one in which we don't only find children being influenced by their parents, but in addition to that, parents being influenced by their children. And I believe that this is exactly what is happening within the Jewish world, today.

Thanks to our outstanding educational systems, we are finding so many children now, moving ahead of their parents in terms of their Jewish knowledge and observance.

If that happens, parents should not take this as a rejection, but on the contrary, as a compliment to them because they want their children to grow and develop as individuals and as responsible Jews.

And they should always strive to be one step ahead, to know more than their children, to enable their children, to inspire and to be role models for them.

So, therefore, let us celebrate Shabbat HaGadol, this 'great Shabbat', which is within התקופה הגדולה, this 'great era' of which we are a part of and let us pray that the words of Malachi will come about speedily in our time – לפני בוא יום ה' הגדול והנורא, 'when we will experience the great day of the Ultimate Redemption' and let's pray for our medical personnel, soldiers and police who go out to protect us, and for those who need healing, shidduchim, children or parnassah, and may we be blessed to have the most awesome, gorgeous, beautiful, peaceful, happy, healthy, amazing, relaxed, spiritual, sweet Shabbat and Happy and Kosher Pesach.

## The Jewish Weekly's PARSHA FACTS

NUMBER OF MITZVOT: 18  
MITZVOT ASEH: 9  
MITZVOT LO TAASEH: 9

NUMBER OF PESUKIM: 97 (Some sources say that TZAV has 96 pesukim.)  
NUMBER OF WORDS: 1353  
NUMBER OF LETTERS: 5096

This year, (5780 / 2020) Parshat Tzav is a special Shabbat. It is Shabbat HaGadol: (Lit. 'the Great Shabbat');

Some say the Shabbat preceding Pesach is called Shabbat HaGadol because it was the day when the Jews were to take the sheep to be used for the Korban Pesach four days later. (This means that the first Pesach was on a Wednesday, like this year).

After nine plagues, the Egyptians were powerless to react to the slaughter of one of their gods. The Bnei Yisrael, of course, didn't know this, and therefore displayed tremendous faith in Hashem prior to Yetziat Mitzrayim. We remember this event with a special Haftorah, Malachi 3:4 - 24, where again great faith and trust in Hashem is emphasized. The Haftorah concludes with the call to remember the teachings of Moshe and informs us that Hashem will send Eliyahu Hanavi to herald the great and awesome day when Bnei Yisrael will again experience redemption. This is yet another possible reason for the name Shabbat HaGadol, - that "great day" mentioned in the Haftorah.

Whatever the reason for the name, it is customary to recite part of the Haggadah on Shabbat HaGadol, from "עבדים היינו - Avadim Hayinu" to "לכפר על עוונותינו" to "Lechaper Al Kol Avonoteinu."

HAFTORA: Malachi II 3:4-24 (repeating verse 23 at the end).

Pesach starts Sundown Wednesday, April 8, 2020.

There were two merchants who were very devoted to learning Torah. They came from Turkey, settled in Jerusalem, and they studied together every morning, before going to work. They did this for many years, and never missed a day.

They made a pact that whoever dies first would come back to this world to tell the other what he saw in heaven.

One of them died, and after quite some time, he came to his friend in a dream. He said, "A human being made of flesh and blood, living in the world of falsehood, can't understand what happens in heaven. But there is one thing that I can tell you: I was brought to the heavenly court. At my side were my parents and grandparents. Good malachim placed my mitzvot on the scale. Demons (malachei chavalah) piled my sins on the other side of the scale. Hakadosh Baruch Hu was the judge. The scale tipped towards the side of sin. I was very afraid. Suddenly, an iron wall went up and it protected me from the demons. A bat kol announced that I should go to Gan Eden.

**The Jewish Weekly Pesach Guide, Halachot, Minhagim and stories for the year 2020 / 5780**

**available now on our website**

**www.thejweekly.org**

According to Nitei Gavriel, Mishna Torat Hashem and Shulchan Aruch with Harav  
Based on Rabbi Shmuel Lesches's Haftarah Sheets  
Compiled by Yossi Fraenkel  
in memory of his grandparents  
ר' ראובן בן הרב משה אליעזר הלוי ע"ה  
וחיה ברכה בת ר' נפתלי משה ע"ה רבינוביץ  
ר' יוסף בן ר' אורי ע"ה  
ומלכה בת ר' יצחק צבי הלוי ע"ה פרנקל