

This publication is a weekly dose of chizuk inspired by the Torah of Rebbe Nachman of Breslov zt"l

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Chizuk and Inspiration on Uman Rosh Hashana 2020

This year we have the ability to witness the Rebbe take the "crown" (Corona) off the head of the Sitra Achra and place the true crown on the head of the King of all Kings!

There is a cloud of uncertainty hanging over Rosh Hashana.

Rosh Chodesh Tammuz has passed and we are now within three months of the big day. For those of us who have been to Uman for Rosh Hashana and tasted the true sweetness and closeness to Hashem through the incredible spiritual strength of the holy Rebbe, there is a huge elephant in the room: What's going to happen with the Rebbe's kibbutz this year?!

We find our minds wandering through all types of different scenarios that could take place. Will there be tickets available? How much will they cost? How early are we going to have to leave? Are we going to have to sit in quarantine? Maybe the Ukrainians won't let us in at all, G-d forbid? How will we get back home?

With all these doubts, questions, and fears going through our head we begin to feel anxious. Some of us have been going to Uman for decades already without missing a single year. Others may have only gone once or twice. But the common denominator between us all is that we know just how important the Rebbe's kibbutz is.

Based on the teachings of Rebbe Nachman and our own personal experiences, we know the incredible value of going to Uman.

In Chayei Mohoran, the Rebbe implores each and every person who draws inspiration from his teachings to come to him for Rosh Hashana. There are not many things which every single Breslover must do, but this is one obligation we have. This was true while the Rebbe lived and even more so after his passing, as is documented in numerous

places by Reb Noson, who is the undisputed continuation of the Rebbe's teachings.

The Rebbe says that there is nothing greater than his Rosh Hashana kibbutz, and anyone who was with him for Rosh Hashana should be happy the entire year. He says that his entire subject (inyan) is Rosh Hashana. Only on Rosh Hashana does he have the ability to give us the complete tikun that we need, and only on Rosh Hashana are we able to receive that tikun.

However, we don't even have to look at any sefer of the Rebbe or Reb Noson to know just how important the Rebbe's kibbutz is. Purely based on what we've experienced there in previous years, we can already fathom the unbelievable transformation that Uman Rosh Hashana has on our lives and on the entire world.

Many of us struggle greatly with low self-esteem and depression. But when we go to the Rebbe, we're somehow able to see the good in ourselves and feel true happiness and contentment in our lives.

Many of us struggle greatly to daven with any kavana whatsoever. But when we go to the Rebbe, we're somehow able to attach ourselves to Hashem and taste the true sweetness of tefilah.

Many of us feel completely disconnected and uninspired in our avodas Hashem. But when we go to the Rebbe, we find a new spiritual awakening to serve our Creator.

Many of us feel very alone without good friends to connect with. But when we go to the Rebbe, we find other Jews whose hearts are open to truly hear what we're going through and give us support.

Overall, the unity and brotherhood that we experience in Uman is unparalleled. Since the Beis HaMikdash was destroyed, there has never been such a gathering of Jews from all four corners of the earth with completely different cultures and religious backgrounds. When we dance after Tashlich and we look around at all the shining faces in our circle, we feel like this must be a taste of the times of Mashiach. The unity between all the extremely different sects of Judaism gives us a sense of the oneness of the Master of the Universe. The obvious result of this unity is the unprecedented joy and celebration which we experience (See LM I 61).

clearly how joining the Rebbe's kibbutz has completely transformed and improved our life. Nonetheless, even for those of us who go home and don't see any drastic changes, we all know that it is those few days by the Rebbe for Rosh Hashana that give us the inspiration to keep going. It is the experience that we have in Uman that gives us the courage to keep fighting with our yetzer, and the yearning to be close to Hashem, despite all of our physical and spiritual suffering.

Instead of trying to figure the future, we should turn to Hashem with our most heartfelt prayers.

Therefore, when we even consider the possibility of missing out on the Rebbe's kibbutz, we begin to feel uneasy and afraid. Then, because of our fear, we feel we must try to figure out the future and we get lost in daydreams and conversations of potential scenarios and solutions.

However, if there's one thing that we've learned from Corona, it is that we have no idea what is in store. Right now, there is no way for us to plan out exactly how we're going to get to Uman.

Nevertheless, we're not helpless at all! We're not like feathers blowing this way and that in the wind, without any control over our destiny. Rather, we have a weapon which we inherited from ancestors which can overcome all obstacles and break down the most fortified walls of stone. We can daven to Hashem!

With all of the craziness in the world and our own personal suffering, we need the Rebbe's Rosh Hashana more than ever!

If there has ever been a time in our lives when we really needed to turn to Hashem in prayer it is now. Without a doubt, this year has challenged us more than ever before. Many of us have been sick, and some of

Many of us can see us



have lost family members to Covid. Almost all of us have taken a hit financially and we're struggling to stay afloat.

In addition, no matter what physical suffering we've gone through, nothing can ever compare

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to the spiritual suffering that we're dealing with. No matter how many credit cards we've maxed out and how completely bankrupt we are, nothing can compare to what we owe Hashem for our sins. No matter how sick our bodies are, nothing can compare to the sickness of our broken spirit. Whatever little bit of real daas and attachment to avodas Hashem we

had, has been almost completely eaten up by Coronavirus.

Therefore, we need the Rebbe's Rosh Hashana now more than ever before. The Rebbe has the ability to heal us from all our spiritual suffering and help us with all our needs in this world as well. The Rebbe can bring us back to our right mind — give us a new "rosh" — and reawaken our desire to serve Hashem. He can give us the faith to be fearless in the face of all the insanity of today's world. He is our best advocate to Hashem to bless us with an abundance of prosperity and good health for us and our families. But he needs us to come to him. When we do our part, then he will take care of his part and pull us out of Gehinom.

Our hisbodedus can change the laws of nature.

Thus, there has never been a more important time for hisbodedus. Even if we've never been able to get out a single word before, now we have no choice. We must cry out to Hashem with all of our strength to break down the barriers preventing the Rosh Hashana kibbutz. We must implore Hashem to help us overcome the obstacles and make it to the Rebbe. We must beg Hashem to make it possible for us to go to Uman this year.

If we really don't know what to say, we can start by davening to Hashem to help us get a ticket that we can afford. We can ask Him to remove any delays or unforeseen travel issues. We can

pray to Hashem to make the Ukrainians let us in easily without any additional requirements. In short, we can and should daven for every single aspect of our trip to the Rebbe.

We should remember that the Rebbe teaches us that our tefilos have the ability to make miracles! (See LM I 7) We have the ability to completely alter the laws of nature! We should believe in the unfathomable power that we have at the tips of our tongues. We can overturn even the harshest Heavenly decrees. Through our prayers, we can overcome even the greatest and seemingly unsurmountable obstacles.

Hashem gives us obstacles to getting to the tzadik only in order to strengthen our ratzon and attachment to him.

One of the main themes in the Torah of Rebbe Nachman is overcoming obstacles. The Rebbe discusses this subject numerous times throughout all of the Breslov sefarim. If we look carefully, we can see that almost every time the Rebbe mentions this theme, he brings the example of overcoming the obstacles when traveling to the tzadik.

This is because our connection to tzadikim is the foundation stone of Judaism. Where would we be without Moshe Rabbeinu? Where would we be without Rabbi Shimon? Where would we be without the Baal Shem Tov? Without the guidance of the "shepherds" of each generation, who knows if we would have been able to survive the bitter darkness of this exile. This is especially true today when the Jewish people as a whole have fallen so deeply into the pit of heresy and physical desire, that our only hope is to attach ourselves to the tzadik who can lift us out of complete despair.

Therefore, the forces of evil in the world have to try to stop us at all costs. For seventy years, up until the fall of the Iron Curtain, the Other Side succeeded in almost completely preventing the kibbutz on Rosh Hashana. Over the last thirty years since that decree was lifted, it has been relatively easy to get to the Rebbe. Because of this, the kibbutz has grown at an exponential rate which is almost unfathomable. Through this, we've seen the true power of the Rebbe to bring the entire world back to Hashem.

This year, however, the Other Side has reawakened to stop us from bringing the ultimate redemption. We may be faced with new challenges that our generation has never seen before. Nonetheless, the Rebbe says that according to the size of the obstacles in getting to the tzadik, we can measure the true value of being there. Thus, we can easily understand the unbelievable importance of traveling to Uman this year.

Therefore, we should begin right now to build our desire to be a part of the kibbutz. We should dig deep inside our soul to find every ounce of spiritual yearning that we have, and express all of our thoughts and holy desires in words. We

should long with all our heart to be a part of the Rebbe's Rosh Hashana and turn all of our longings into tefilah.

In addition, we should remember that, in truth, the obstacles before us don't really exist. They are simply a manifestation of Hashem Himself only for the purpose of strengthening our ratzon to go to the tzadik.

Therefore, we can't fall into the yetzer hara's trap of feeling helpless. We can't sit on our heels and just watch our life pass by on a screen before us. We must take charge of our destiny. There is no mazel which can determine our fate. Even the laws of nature cannot stand before us. We have the ability to strengthen our desire to overcome all of the tests and challenges we may face. We have the weapon of Mashiach which can blow away all of the imaginary walls in front of us.

Every single one of us is absolutely essential to the Rebbe's kibbutz, and the crowning of the King of all Kings!

The Rebbe needs each and every one of us to be a part of his kibbutz. In Likutei Mororan II 8, which Rabbi Nachman gave over at his last Rosh Hashana and described it as his "will," the Rebbe teaches us that every single Jew who comes to the kibbutz by a tzadik increases the level of kedusha exponentially. Ten Jews together don't just add up to ten letters of the Torah. Rather, the true equation is $1 \times 2 \times 3 \times 4 \times 5$, etc. When we make a similar equation for 50,000 people, the result is absolutely unimaginable.

Thus, we shouldn't think, "What's one less Jew? Maybe it would be nice if it wasn't so crowded?" Rather, we should strengthen our faith in the Rebbe's teachings that each and every one of us plays an incredible role in the rectification of the entire world that the Rebbe can make on Rosh Hashana.

In light of this, it is imperative that we encourage all those who are connected to the Rebbe to come to Uman this year. When we see someone who is in doubt and struggling with the challenges in traveling to the Rebbe, we should help him not to give up, and remind him just how important it is for the entire kibbutz that he should be there. We should daven for others to be able to overcome their obstacles and assist them in any way we can.

This year more than ever before, the Rebbe's Rosh Hashana has the ability to change the entire world. The Rebbe can sweeten and nullify all of the *dinim* which have taken over our lives and created chaos in the world. This year we have the ability to witness the Rebbe take the "crown" (Corona) off the head of the Sitra Achra and place the true crown on the head of the King of all Kings. This year we can be a part of the Rebbe's kibbutz. Right now, let's open our hearts and mouths in prayer to Hashem, and start getting ready.

Based on the Torah of Rabbi Nachman of Breslov zt"l and his primary talmid R' Noson zt"l, as given over by R' Nisan Dovid Kivak, Shlita. For further comments and questions, or to sign up to receive the articles by email, you may contact: leventermusic@gmail.com