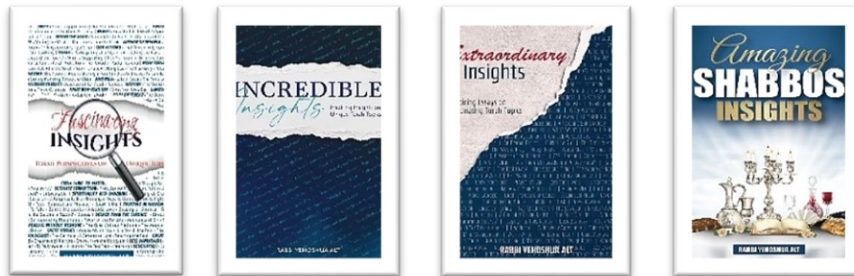


# Fascinating INSIGHTS

כ' טבת תשפ"ג  
January 13, 2023

פרשת שמות  
11<sup>th</sup> year, edition 468

To purchase any of the other author's books (hardcopy or e-book) and get it delivered to your door, please send an email to [yalt3285@gmail.com](mailto:yalt3285@gmail.com) or visit <https://amzn.to/3eyh5xP> (where you can also see the reviews).



## SPREADING FASCINATING TORAH INSIGHTS ACROSS THE GLOBE

Argentina • Austria • Australia • Belgium • Brazil • Canada • Chile • China • Czech Republic • England • France • Germany • Gibraltar • Holland • Hungary • India • Israel • Italy • Mexico • Panama • Poland • Russia • South Africa • Switzerland • Ukraine • United Arab Emirates • United States • Venezuela

To join the thousands of recipients and receive these insights free on a weekly email, obtain previous articles, feedback, comments, suggestions (on how to spread the insights of this publication further, make it more appealing or anything else), to sponsor this publication which has been in six continents and more than forty countries, or if you know anyone who is interested in receiving these insights weekly, please contact the author, Rabbi Yehoshua Alt, at [yalt3285@gmail.com](mailto:yalt3285@gmail.com). Thank you.

לעילוי נשמת חיה רחל בת ישראל

The weekly Fascinating Insights sheet is also available in FRENCH, HEBREW and YIDDISH. To view or download them in these languages, send an email to [yalt3285@gmail.com](mailto:yalt3285@gmail.com) or visit <https://bit.ly/3FJ8uEc>.

This newsletter can also be viewed in English at <https://bit.ly/3z9qF5E>.

דעם וואלענטער קען מען אויך זען אויף יידיש ביי <https://bit.ly/38RvdTI>

Pour voir ou télécharger la version Française: <https://parshasheets.com/?s=Fascinating+Insights>.

אפשר לקרוא את עלון זה בעברית באתר דרשו: <https://bit.ly/3mGmEOZ>

Archives: <https://parshasheets.com/?s=Rabbi+Yehoshua+Alt>

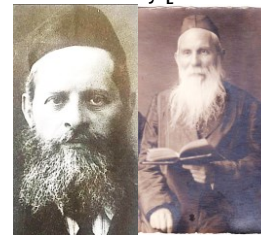
To view these essays in German, please visit <https://judentum.online/>

**Please feel free to print some copies of this publication and distribute them in your local shul for the public, thereby having a hand in spreading Torah.**

### [Celebrating From Afar](#)

In 1778, R' Akiva Eiger (1761–1837), just 17 years old, married. Unfortunately, most of his family including his parents could not attend the wedding. Among those who were unable to attend was his uncle, R' Wolf Eiger (1756–1795), one of the renowned Jewish leaders at the time. Instead he sent a letter, which was later printed in Shu"t R' Akiva Eiger.<sup>1</sup> He writes, "All of the leaders of the city are rejoicing together at the celebration made on your behalf."<sup>2</sup> R' Akiva Eiger responded to this letter:<sup>3</sup> אל אדוני על הדבר אשר עשה לשמוח ביום שמחתי בפומבי והוא אות נאמן תודות אלך.<sup>3</sup> על עזוז אהבתו, אם כי לא ידעתי על מה... A thousand thanks to my master regarding what he did, to rejoice on the day of my

wedding publicly, which is a sure sign to the strength of his love, though I don't know why [he celebrated like this]...



A similar story took place with R' Avraham Grodzinski<sup>4</sup> (1883–1944), the mashgiach of the Slabodka yeshiva, when he was visiting Warsaw. He suddenly glanced at his watch and began to sing and dance. He explained, "At this moment one of my students is getting

<sup>1</sup> Shulchan Aruch, Orach Chaim, 29.

<sup>2</sup> In recent times, there were those who were unable to attend a relative's or close friend's wedding, but still wanted to celebrate. So they made what is called a Seudas R' Akiva Eiger.

<sup>3</sup> Printed in Shu"t R' Akiva Eiger, Orach Chaim, 30.

<sup>4</sup> His father, R' Yitzchak, who was a leader of the Warsaw Jewish community, established and supported a Yeshiva in Warsaw, to which the Chafetz Chaim commented that R' Yitzchak saved Jewish education in Warsaw. In the house of R' Yitzchak, tens of poor people on a daily basis partook in meals. In 1899, R'

Avraham Grodzinski enrolled in the Slabodka Yeshiva, under the leadership of the Alter of Slabodka [of whom he became the primary student], after short periods in the yeshivos in Radin and Lomza. Later, he became the Mashgiach Ruchani [spiritual supervisor] of the Slabodka Yeshiva in Lithuania. He was the father-in-law of R' Chaim Kreisworth and of R' Shlomo Wolbe, as well as the brother-in-law of R' Yaakov Kamenetzky. He and four of his children were killed in the Holocaust while his other four survived. His talks of Mussar are in his Sefer Toras Avraham.

married in Slabodka. Although I am unable to participate personally at his wedding and fulfill the great mitzvah of gladdening the chosson, nevertheless I am rejoicing even from afar, as I feel very happy for him.”

\*\*\*\*\*

### Torah During the Holocaust

In one of his articles, the Holocaust survivor R' Mordechai Leib Glatstein wrote about the formidable circumstances of the Holocaust followed by these words: “What gave us the mysterious strength, the endurance to live, to breathe, to carry on? לולי תורתך שעשעי אז אבדתי בעניי, had Your Torah not been my preoccupation, then I would have perished through my affliction.<sup>5</sup> We would stand together with our dear unforgettable friends, the great brothers Itchi Meir and Avrum'che Ziemba, together with the well-known Rabbanim of Warsaw, R' Dovid Shapiro and R' Shimshon Stockhammer and with many other Torah scholars with whom we were able to have discourses in Torah during the dismal nights. During the galus nights, the gemara that these precious Jews remembered and were able to recite from memory served as a *ner tamid*, an eternal light that provided illumination to their gloomy and demoralized hearts, giving them hope for a future.”

After witnessing some of the horrendous terror and brutality of the nefarious Nazis, Dr. Hillel Seidman wrote in his diary on Monday, September 7, 1942: “R' Menachem Ziemba is meanwhile writing his Chidushei Torah. As he explains to me, לולי תורתך שעשעי אז אבדתי בעניי. He shows me a responsa on the Minchas Chinuch which he has headed with the words: ‘Bezras Hashem Yisbarach, during the days of wrath and destruction. Will you destroy the remnants of the Jewish People? Second day of Selichos. To your judgment we stand today, for we are all Your servants.’ Then he turns to his son-in-law, R' Behr from Ozrakow to argue in learning. Afterwards in a discussion with R' Shimshon Stockhammer he elaborates on the Rambam's view (in Hilchos Daos) on the duty to stay alive.”<sup>6</sup>



Dr. Hillel Seidman described the scene when he entered the Schultz factory on Friday, Hoshana Rabba, October 2, 1942: “At one workbench, officially repairing shoes, sits the Kozioglover Rav, R' Yehuda Aryeh Frumer, formerly Rosh Yeshiva of Chachmei Lublin. He might be sitting here but his mind is miles away; his lips are constantly moving, obviously he is studying Torah by heart. Every so often he throws a question to his neighbor,

the Piasetzna Rebbe, R' Kalonymus Kalmam Shapiro, and they begin a whispered dialogue in Talmudic study quoting chazal and poskim. The spirits of the Rishonim and Achronim hover above this workbench — for these “shoemakers” are really Geonim and Talmudic giants. Who worries about the German overseers or the SS? Rapidly, they forget the continual hunger, the ongoing persecution and oppression, the ever-present threat of death. They are no longer in a factory at 46 Nowolipie street but inside the Temple's Hewn Chamber at a sitting of the Sanhedrin. While some succumb to their maltreatment, these gedolim rise to new spiritual heights. As I sit at the table, I notice my old friend Moshe Pinchas Hertz, the Biala ilui; despite his young age his mind races like a raging fire which cannot be contained. Throwing all caution to the wind, he quotes Rambams, Rans and Tosafos at all corners. But there is an urgent need to restrain him — any minute the SS may reappear. Nearby “works” another young man, Avraham Shloma Rabinowitz, son of the Niestadler Rebbe. Next to him sits R' Avraham Alter (the Rav of Pavianitz), R' Dovid Halberstam (Rav of Sosnowitz) and R' Blumenfeld (the Mizrachi activist). Every so often R' Rabinowitz bashfully adds his own contribution to the discussion which his neighbors on the workbench pass on until it reaches the Talmudic giant, the Kozioglover Rav and others who listen eagerly.”<sup>7</sup>

\*\*\*\*\*

### Usage of Kabbalistic Mysteries

The Sefer Chassidim<sup>8</sup> relates that a chochom (wise person) was once asked that a man who has knowledge of the kabbalistic mysteries inherent in Hashem's name and with his knowledge he is able to destroy the enemies of the Jewish people and transform the community into God-fearing Jews, is he permitted to use his mystical power?

The chochom replied that he is allowed to kill the enemy only if he knows with certainty that not one of this enemy's descendants will be a righteous person. This is just as Moshe did when he killed the Egyptian, as it says ויפן כה וכה וירא כי אין איש ויך את המצרי, Moshe looked all around and seeing no one about — meaning he saw that no righteous man would issue from him<sup>9</sup> — he then killed the Mitzri.<sup>10</sup>

Rabbi Alt merited to learn under the tutelage of R' Mordechai Friedlander tz"l for close to five years. He received semicha from R' Zalman Nechemia Goldberg tz"l. Rabbi Alt has written on numerous topics for various websites and publications and is the author of four books including the recently released *Amazing Shabbos Insights*. His writings, some of which have been translated into Yiddish, Hebrew, German and French, inspire people across the spectrum of Jewish observance to live with the vibrancy and beauty of Torah. He lives with his wife and family in Kiryat Yearim (where the Aron was for 20 years [Shmuel 1, 7:1,2]) where he studies, writes and teaches. The author is passionate about teaching Jews of all levels of observance.

<sup>5</sup> Tehillim 119:92.

<sup>6</sup> The Warsaw Ghetto Diaries, p. 112.

<sup>7</sup> The Warsaw Ghetto Diaries, p. 145.

<sup>8</sup> 484.

<sup>9</sup> Shemos 2:12, Rashi.

<sup>10</sup> Shemos 2:12.