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## SPECIAL DAYS IN KISLEV

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### Kislev 1/November 21/ Friday Rosh Chodesh Kislev

Chassidim mark Rosh Chodesh Kislev with a Farbrengen in honor of the recovery of the **Rebbe**, in 5738 [1977].

Yahrtzeit of **R. Yosef Shmuel of Frankfort**, author of Mesoras HaShas, the Talmudic cross-reference index printed in the Gemara, 5464 [1703].

Yahrtzeit of **R. Sholom Shachne**, founder of the first Yeshivah in Poland, 5319 [1558].

**R. Aharon HaLevi Hurevitz of Stroshale**, primary student of the **Alter Rebbe**, released from imprisonment, 5587 [1826].

He was arrested around the same time as the **Mittler Rebbe**. When his son, **R. Michoel Dovid**, confronted the slanderer of the **Mittler Rebbe**, the slanderer said, "You're also talking? I'll bring your father here, too." And so he did....

The **Strosheler** made Kiddush one Friday night with great Hishlahavus, as was his way; an officer who happened to see him told the governor he was a G-dly man who couldn't possibly be a criminal. His sentence was reduced and he was eventually released a few days before the **Mittler Rebbe**. It was the



only time he and the **Mittler Rebbe** saw each other since the **Alter Rebbe's** passing. (Beis Rebbe)

Birthday of **R' Shmaryahu Gurary**, the "**RaShaG**," o.b.m., son in law of the Frieddiker Rebbe, brother-in-law of the Rebbe, 5658/1897.

### Kislev 2/November 22/Shabbos

Day the Seforim and Writings of the Rebbei'im were returned to the Library of Agudas Chasidei Chabad, 5748 (1987).

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## ROSH CHODESH KISLEV: A DAY OF THANKSGIVING

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By: Rabbi Shimon Raichik OBM

On Rosh Chodesh Kislev 5738/1977 the Rebbe left 770 and went home for the first time since his heart attack on Shemini Atzeret of that year.

Since then, Rosh Chodesh Kislev has been set aside as a day of giving thanks to HaShem for the Rebbe's recovery and a time of farbrengens and gatherings to strengthen Torah.

At the time I was a bochur in 770 and so I was present during those exciting but scary weeks. I shall retell the events surrounding the Rebbe's heart attack and recovery to the

best of my knowledge and memory. Some of the information was gleaned from various diaries, from accounts in Iton Kfar Chabad, and from what people said at the time. Certain incidents which happened before the Rebbe's heart attack and which seemed interesting and unusual then, have taken on special meaning in retrospect.

On Chai Elul of that year (5737/1977) the Rebbe spoke emphatically about the anniversary of Yeshivas Tomchei Temimim Lubavitch.

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Yahrtzeit of **R. Shmerel of Verchovka**, student of the **Ba'al Shem Tov**, 5536 [1775].

### **Kislev 3/November 23/Sunday**

Roman images removed from the **Beis HaMikdash** courtyard when Jews threatened a war. (Megilas Ta'anis 9)

### **Kislev 4/November 24/Monday**

A delegation of Jews from Bavel came to Yerushalayim to ask **Zechariah** if they should continue to fast on Tishah B'Av, since the Second Beis HaMikdash was being built; He prophesied that all fasts would become days of joy and celebration, 3412 [349 BCE]. (Zechariah:7-8)

### **Kislev 5/November 25/Tuesday**

Yahrtzeit of **R. Shmuel Eidels**, the "**MaHaRSha**", 5392 [1631]

Wedding of the **Tzemach Tzedek** and **Rebbetzin Chayah Mushka**, in Liadi, 5564 [1803].

### **Kislev 6/November 26/Wednesday**

Tenaim between the **Rebbe** and the **Rebbetzin Chayah Mushka**, in Riga, Latvia, 5689 [1929].

### **Kislev 7/November 27/Thursday**

**King Yehoyakim** burned the scroll (of Eichah), dictated by **Yirmiyahu HaNavi** to Baruch b. Neriah, 3321 [603 BCE]. (Yirmiyahu 36:23)

Once a fast day, (Megilas Ta'anis) **death of Herod**, [4 BCE], proclaimed a holiday, (Megilas Ta'anis 9).

### **Kislev 9/November 29/Shabbos**

Birthday of our holy Master and Teacher, the **Mittler Rebbe**, **R. DovBer**, second Chabad Rebbe, 5534 [1773] and his Yahrtzeit, 5588 [1827].

On the night of Kislev 9, the **Mittler Rebbe** fainted many times. Once, they were unable to resuscitate him. The chassidim came, as well as the Chevrah Kadisha. The chassidim and the family didn't give up hope; they tried and successfully revived him.

They asked the Rebbe, "Didn't you hear the shouting in the house? Why are you frightening us so much?" He answered, "I heard a heavenly voice asking what does such a Neshamah have to do in this physical world?"

The Rebbe asked that he be dressed in his white clothes. Color returned to his face; he spoke of Zechusim - good things about Jews - that Jews are careful to do Mitzvos, especially Tzedakah, giving more than they can. He told his chassidim and family to be happy [because] simchah sweetens judgment. He began to say Chassidus. The chassidim became happy, as if it were a wedding. All felt that now the Rebbe would regain his health.

He said Chassidus all night and often asked if it was morning. He finished just before dawn; as he said the words "with You are the source of life," he passed away and was united with HaShem. (Sefer HaToldos)

The Tzemach Tzedek said there wasn't such a passing since R. Shimon Bar Yochai. The Zohar says he was saying Torah and passed on, saying the word "Chayim" - life.

The Rebbe was buried in Niezhen and that year the joyful day of redemption became one of mourning.

Yahrtzeit of **R. Moshe of Slavuta**, a printer in Slavuta, son of R. Pinchas of Koretz, 5598 [1837]. He was very close with the Alter Rebbe. (Beis Rebbe)

The **Alter Rebbe** had the first Tanya printed by him (printed this month on Kislev 20), out of a debt of gratitude to his father. (Ohel Rachel, p. 199)

### **Kislev 10/November 30/Sunday**

The **Mittler Rebbe** was released from imprisonment, 5587 (1826). On Chol HaMoed Sukkos it became known that the **Mittler Rebbe** had been slandered and accused of using funds to overthrow the Russian government. The accusers noted that the Rebbe was sending money to the Turkish Sultan (the money was for Jewish settlers in Israel, which was under Turkish rule). And, they said, the Rebbe's Shul was built to the same measurements as the Beis HaMikdash. (But when the Rebbe's Shul was measured to compare it with the measurements of the Beis HaMikdash it was determined that the measurements were quite different.) All of the Rebbe's accounts were to be translated [into Russian]. The accusers wanted the work done by their side. And so it was. The translation proved all funds had been spent according to law: Jews in Russia were helping Jews in Eretz Yisroel which was legal.

When the Rebbe was brought before the Governor-General he showed him that all funds were for the poor in Eretz Yisroel and all the accusations were false.

The Governor-General wanted to bring the Rebbe face to face with his accusers. When the Rebbe arrived, the Governor-General honored him and gave him a chair. At one point, the accuser turned to the Rebbe and said, "Rebbe..." The Rebbe said to the Governor-General, "He calls me a thief, and accuses me of treason - and calls me 'Rebbe' because that's the truth." The accuser started to stammer and stutter until the Governor-General asked him to leave.

On Shabbos, Tes Kislev, at Minchah, while the Rebbe said the Ma'amar, "Atah Echad", news came that he was innocent and would be released.

In the middle of his Chassidus he said “Shah! Make a place; my father is here.” On Sunday, Yud Kislev, he was freed.

#### **Kislev 12/December 2/Tuesday**

Yahrtzeit of R. **Shlomoh Luria**, the "**MaHaRShaL**", author of *Yam Shel Sh'lomoh*, 5334 [1573].

#### **Kislev 13/December 3/Wednesday**

Yahrtzeit of **Ravina b. Rav Huna**, co-editor of the *Gemara*, last of the *Amoraim*, 4235 [475].

#### **Kislev 14/December 4/Thursday**

Birthdays of **Reuvein son of Ya'akov Avinu**, 2194, and Yahrtzeit 2319.

Wedding Anniversary of the **Lubavitcher Rebbe** and **Rebbetzin Chaya Mushka**, daughter of the *Frierdiker Rebbe*. The wedding was in Warsaw on this date in 5689 (1928). "This day is the day that connects me with you, the Chassidim..." (*Sichah*, 5713)

#### **Kislev 15/December 5/Friday**

##### **V'sein Tal Umatar**

During the *Ma'ariv Amidah*, Thursday Night, we start to ask for rain in the *Brochah* of "**M'vareich Hashanim**."

Yahrtzeit of R. **Ze'ev of Zhitomir**, student of the *Mezritcher Magid*, author of *Or HaMeir*, 5660 [1810].

"...a *Sefer* the *Tzemach Tzedek* cites in *Or HaTorah* and brings many times and explains and comments on. . . and builds upon..." (*Sichos*, *Shabbos Chazon* and *Av 20*, 5734)

Annual holiday (a fast day with *Selichos*, followed by a dinner) of the **Chevrah Kadisha Burial Society**, according to *Chabad* [and Russian and Lithuanian] custom.

On this day in 5510 [1750] the **Alter Rebbe** was accepted into the *Chevrah Kadisha* of *Liozna*.

Yahrtzeit of R. **Chaim Chaykil**, brother-in-law of the *Tzemach Tzedek*. He was married to the *Tzemach Tzedek's* half-sister, **Devorah Leah**.

After the death of the *Tzemach Tzedek's* mother, his father, R. **Sholom Shachne**, married **Rebbetzin Rivkah**, daughter of R. **Aharon of Karlin**, and had two daughters.

#### **Kislev 18/December 8/Monday**

Yahrtzeit of R. **Avraham Maimuni**, son of the **Rambam**, leader of Egyptian Jewry, author of *HaMaspik L'Ovdei HaShem*, 4998 [1237].

Yahrtzeit of R. **Boruch of Mezhibyz**, grandson of the **Ba'al Shem Tov**, author of *Botzina DiNehora*, 5572 [1811].

Yahrtzeit of R. **Yosef Yitzchak of Ovrutch**, son of the **Tzemach Tzedek**, father of **Rebbetzin Shterna Sarah** who was the wife of the **Rebbe RaShaB**, 5637 [1877].

The *Frierdiker Rebbe* was named after R. **Yosef Yitzchak of Ovrutch**, his grand-father. The *Rebbe* told the following story:

Reb **Yosef Yitzchok's** father-in-law, R. **Ya'akov Yisroel of Cherkas**, asked his-son-in-law, "How do you daven?" He answered that he always tries to daven with a *minyan*. Once after davening R. **Ya'akov Yisroel** sent a messenger to get his son-in-law, he was told his son-in-law was in middle of davening. He sent the messenger several times, and every time he was told his son-in-law was still davening. When R. **Yosef Yitzchok** came to his father-in-law after davening, his father-in-law asked him, "You told me you davened with a *minyan b'tzibur*?" R. **Yosef Yitzchok** answered that my father, the *Tzemach Tzedek*, told me in the name of the *Alter Rebbe* that *b'tzibur* means to gather, that I have to gather all my *kochos* of the *Neshamah*, and the sparks together to daven, and that takes time. (*Farbrengen* 19 *Kislev* 5719)

Completion of annual cycle of *Tanya*.

#### **Kislev 19/December 9/Tuesday**

##### **Yud-Tes Kislev**

##### **Rosh HaShanah of Chasidus**

##### **Gut Yom Tov!**

*May you be written and sealed for a good year in the study of Chassidus, and the ways of Chassidus.*

Redemption of the **Alter Rebbe** from his first imprisonment, 5559 [1798].

Yahrtzeit of our holy Master and Teacher, R. **Dov Ber b. R. Avrohom**, the **Magid of Mezritch**, second leader of the Chassidic movement, 5533 [1772].

"...a day of *Farbrengens* and resolutions in establishing times to study the Revealed Torah and Chassidus publicly, and in strengthening the ways of Chassidim in true friendship." (*HaYom Yom*)

The **Alter Rebbe** celebrated the first *Seudah* of thanks on *Yud Tes Kislev* in 5562 [1802]

R. **Moshe**, son of the **Alter Rebbe**, freed from prison, 5576 [1815], (*Sefer HaToldos*).

First day of new cycle of study of *Tanya*.

We don't say *Tachnun*.

Birthday of **Rebbetzin Menuchah Rochel**, daughter of the **Mittler Rebbe**, 5559 [1798]. She was born the day the Alter Rebbe was released from prison; her father said, “From now on, we will have rest,” and called her Menuchah. [And Rochel for the Alter Rebbe's youngest daughter, who died young.]

#### **Kislev 20/December 10/Wednesday**

First printing of the Tanya, Slavuta, 5557 [1796].

Complete redemption of the **Alter Rebbe**.

**Ezra** urged the Jews assembled in Yerushalayim to dissolve all intermarriages, 3414 (347 BCE). (Ezra 10:9)

#### **Kislev 24/December 14/Sunday**

**Tonight we light the first Chanukah Light.**

**Happy Chanukah!**

The **Mishkan** was completed by Moshe Rabbeinu (Bereishis Raba 22, Shmos Rabbah 52:2) 2450.

“...On the twenty-fifth of Kislev the Mishkan was finished; HaShem waited until Nissan. Kislev was shamed, HaShem repaid it in the days of the Chashmonaim”. [Yalkut Shimoni, Melachim 1:184]

Dedication of the **Heichal** of the Second Beis HaMikdash, 520 BCE (Chagai 2:18) (R. Ya'akov Emden, Mor UKetziah, 670)

The Chashmonaim purified the Beis HaMikdash and offered the daily Korban Tamid, and had the **miracle of the oil**, 3597 [165 BCE].

Yahrtzeit of **R. Chaim Chezkiah Medini**, author of S'dei Chemed, a twenty volume Halachic encyclopedia, 5665 [1904].

“...According to the instruction of my father-in-law, the Rebbe, of blessed memory, we publish a new, corrected edition of the sefarim "S'dei Chemed...”

“The great benefit and necessity of these sefarim is known to anyone involved in rabbinic literature, and especially for Poskim of Halachah in its truest form according to the Torah of Gedolei Yisroel of previous generations...” (Introduction of the Rebbe, to his edition of S'dei Chemed [Kehot, NY. 1952]. He also compiled a biography of the author for that edition.)

#### **Kislev 26/December 16/Tuesday**

The first edition of the Tanya was delivered to the Alter Rebbe, 2nd Day of Chanukah 5557/1796.

“On the second day of Chanukah, the 26th of Kislev, a courier from Slavuta brought the first shipment - two hundred copies - of the Tanya, the printing of which had been completed on the 20th of Kislev. The Alter Rebbe mentioned three times “Chof Kislev” and the Chassidim

did not understand why the Rebbe was saying this (since the Alter Rebbe had requested that the learning commence on Yud Tes Kislev, the Yahrtzeit of the Maggid). Two years later the completion of the redemption of the Alter Rebbe was on the eve of Chof Kislev, and the Chassidim now understood what the Rebbe was saying.” *Reshimos - Notes of the Frierdiker Rebbe on Tanya, numbers 4 & 5.*

The Bris of the **Rebbe RaShaB**, 5621/1860.

On the second night of Chanukah, the Tzemach Tzedek called for his son, the Rebbe MaHaRaSh, and said to him: “Tomorrow your will perform the Bris of your son. Let it be done quietly, in the room that I use for private prayer. Only your brother and closest relatives will be present. Twenty people at most should attend. The second set of Luchos was given in a quiet and a private way and of them it is said: “...you will never cease to speak of them, nor will your children, nor your children’s children, now and for evermore.”

The Tzemach Tzedek gave instructions that the child should be named Shalom DovBer, giving him half his father’s name—Shalom Shachna, and the name of the Mittler Rebbe—Dov Ber. *Y'mei Chabad*

#### **Kislev 27/December 17/Wednesday**

Second redemption of the **Alter Rebbe**, 5561 [1800].

“...The second imprisonment of the Alter Rebbe wasn't as heavy as the first. But the slander was more severe, because it was against the existence of Chassidus...” (HaYom Yom)

#### **30 Kislev/December 20/Shabbos Rosh Chodesh Teves Day 1**

#### **Teves 1/December 21/Sunday Rosh Chodesh Teves Day 2**

#### **Teves 2/December 22/Monday Zos Chanukah/Final Day of Chanukah**

At the end of the farbrengen, the Rebbe changed the words of Tzomoh L'cho Nafshi from Uzcho uchvodcho, "Your strength and Your glory," to Nafshi uchvodi, "my soul and my honor." The first time this was heard distinctly. The second time the Rebbe swallowed the words, as if he did not want anyone to hear.

At the farbrengen of Erev Rosh Hashanah the Rebbe requested that the people sing many of the nigunim of Tishrei, and he spoke about the Tzedakah fund known as Keren Hashonoh, which the Rebbe usually spoke about on Simchas Torah.

At the farbrengen of 13 Tishrei the Rebbe discussed a letter of the Frierdiker Rebbe about simchah, which had been published before Sukkos of 5689/1939. In the letter the Rebbe Rayatz made a heartfelt request that the days of Sukkos be used for simchah, by celebrating Simchas Beis HaSho'eivah and the Yomim Tovim of Shemini Atzeres and Simchas Torah. The Rebbe emphasized that when we fulfill the request in the letter we connect ourselves to the person who wrote the letter. The Rebbe then requested not only that individuals should be b'simchah, but more and more people should be brought into the simchah of Sukkos by making farbrengens. The work of the Rebbe Rayatz was not measured, but was beyond limitations -- beginning from the time of his arrest and liberation [and continuing until now and beyond]. Even though his physical health was limited as supported by his doctors' diagnosis in 1932-- never-the-less he persevered 18 years in this world in his service to HaShem, bringing other Yidden and K'lal Yisroel close to HaShem, adding and continuing to add....

The Rebbe went on to say that the Gemarah says that Ya'akov is alive: Just as his children are alive, he is alive. From this we understand that, because the letter was published for all to read, surely everyone will fulfill everything written in it. Through simchah, everything will be nullified, including the precautions from the doctors not to exert oneself and get tired. Just the opposite will be the case, adding more and more light and going from strength to strength, until we are able to conquer the world, until "the world will become filled with the knowledge of HaShem like water covers the ocean."

At that time people wondered what was the Rebbe's intention in bringing the story of the Rebbe Rayatz and what the doctors had said. No one imagined what would happen.

Every tefillah that Sukkos, the Rebbe gestured with his hands to encourage everyone to be b'simchah, something which the Rebbe usually only did during the Tefillos of Shemini Atzeres and Simchas Torah. Shabbos Chol Hamoed Sukkos the Rebbe motioned with his hands during "Ana, Ana Avda" when the Torah was taken out at Minchah, an action he usually reserved for Simchas Torah by day. On Hoshana Rabba the Rebbe gave out lekach as usual. There was a very large crowd, and the Rebbe, who had not eaten all day, was only able to go home for a short time. The Rebbetzin requested from the secretariat that they keep an eye on the Rebbe. The Rebbe told Rabbi Leibel Groner that he had something to say at the fifth Hakafah.

The first Hakafah the Rebbe danced with RaShaG (Rabbi Shmaryahu Gurary, the Rebbe's brother-in-law). The second Hakafah was very, very lebedik. The third was very short and the clapping of the hands was quiet and short. The Rebbe sat down. While before he had been pale, the Rebbe's face was now completely white. Someone brought water, and Rabbi Binyomin Klein begged the Rebbe to drink it, but the Rebbe would not as it was before Kiddush and outside the Sukkah. Someone said that the Rebbe needed air. At that point most of the crowd left 770.

The remaining Hakafos were completed quickly. At the seventh one the Rebbe turned to the Olam [congregants] and, finding that most of them had gone, looked surprised. The Rebbe again danced with RaShaG who made it very short. The Rebbe smiled at him, surprised why he had done so. The Rebbe went back to his place for Davening, finishing Aleinu. The Rebbe turned to the Olam and said "Gut Yom Tov," waving with his hands. He then walked upstairs to his room and shut the door. Later someone ran to call the Rebbetzin who was at their home, and she quickly came to 770. The Rebbe walked into the Sukkah to make Kiddush and wash. He said nothing was wrong; he had just been on his feet all day without eating and was tired. He insisted on making Kiddush on wine and barely touched the k'zayis of meat that was brought. At the advice of Dr. Avrohom Seligson, he was given foods with a lot of sugar, to counter a possible low blood sugar condition, and the color in his face came back.

Meanwhile a bed had been brought into the Rebbe's room. Leaving the Sukkah, the Rebbe motioned to the Olam with his hands that they should be b'simchah and that they should carry on. Then he went back to his room. Rabbi J. J. Hecht went out to the Olam to say that the Rebbe was feeling better and was asking them to go home and make Kiddush.

Meanwhile doctors began congregating in 770. The physicians who examined the Rebbe concluded that the Rebbe may have suffered a heart attack. They strongly recommended that he be treated in a hospital. The Rebbe, however, did not want to be taken to the hospital. All night they tried to persuade the Rebbe to go to the hospital, but the Rebbe continued to refuse. The Rebbe said that as he had not eaten, he was feeling tired. He would rest through the night, he said, and in the morning would daven Shachris at 10 o'clock. Later that night the Rebbe revealed that in the days before he had been having pain in his heart and would massage his chest to relieve it.

The doctors were upset that the Rebbe did not heed their advice. One of them said that if the Rebbe were his father, he would put him on his back and carry him to the hospital. They would not take responsibility for treating him in 770. The Rebbetzin said that the Rebbe's wishes would be honored, and most of them left. Drs. Bob Richter and Levi Lehv began to set up a clinic in the Rebbe's room, bringing in machines from different hospitals.

There had also been discussion among the Rabbonim. Rabbi Dovid Chanzin from Eretz Yisroel finally paskened that the Rebbe also knew the Halachah and knew what was best for himself and everyone else. If this was the way he wanted it, then it must be so.

Around four or five in the morning the Rebbe had a second, more serious heart attack. A group of Chassidim began the long walk to the Ohel to pray for the Rebbe's health. Rabbi Yehudah Krinsky called the young heart specialist, Dr. Ira Weiss of Chicago, waking him up. Dr. Weiss said that his colleague and friend, Dr. Leo Teishholtz, should be called and asked to come right away. At 7 a.m. Dr. Teishholtz came. At noon Dr. Weiss arrived with a police escort from the airport. When he entered the Rebbe's room, he started to cry. "Treat me like a patient," the Rebbe advised him. After examining the Rebbe, Dr. Weiss agreed that the Rebbe shouldn't have to go to the hospital. The Olam was somewhat relieved.

On the morning of Shemini Atzeres there was a minyan for Reading of the Torah in the small room next to the Rebbe's, and the Rebbe sat up in bed for his Aliyah.

Rabbi Aaron Kazarnofsky, who had yahrtzeit on Simchas Torah and who every year went to the Rebbe for mashke for the yahrtzeit, gave the Rebbe a brochah with tears in his eyes. The Rebbe replied that surely Rabbi Kazarnofsky wanted the Rebbe to be healthy, and this was not the way to go about it: one must be b'simchah. Sometime during the day the Rebbe told Rabbi Groner to remind the Chassidim that tonight they must go to shuls as usual, to bring simchah to Yidden.

Rabbi Groner later went out with Rabbi Kazarnofsky and they stood outside on a bench and repeated these words. Everything must be with simchah. Everyone must go to shuls to be m'samai'ach Yidden. At many places people were shocked that the Chabadniks came to them, instead of staying in 770 to daven and say Tehillim.

The Rebbe also said that downstairs there should be a farbrengen before Hakafof and that the Pesukim of Ata Hareisa should be sold as usual and everyone should be b'simchah. Davka simchah!

It is said that one of the doctors asked if the noise bothered the Rebbe; the Rebbe answered that it was music to the ears. Most of the doctors went downstairs for Hakafof. The Rebbe constantly asked what was going on downstairs, in the shul. A minyan went into the Rebbe's room for Hakafof and the Rebbe held a small Sefer Torah. The day of Simchas Torah the Rebbe had his Aliyah.

Dr. Weiss came down frequently to give reports. He said that the Rebbe was progressing very nicely. This strengthened everyone. At one point the doctors had told the Rebbe that there was a 75 percent chance of a recurrence and asked the Rebbe if he understood what they were saying. The Rebbe, said yes, he understood; there was a 25 percent chance of complete recovery!

The next day, Simchas Torah, everyone washed

for the farbrengen. Rabbi Groner came down later that night to where the Chassidim were farbrenging and brought them wine from the Rebbe's bentching. He said in the name of the Rebbe: There is sometimes an absence where there is nothing there, and there is sometimes a vacuum that will draw even more. Only when there is a vacuum can you draw blood. This vacuum will bring about even more strength. [The Rebbe's temporary absence would bring out even more strength from the Rebbe.] Rabbi Groner said he had an announcement from the Rebbe but he was only to make it after bentching.

The announcement was that the Rebbe would say a few words from his room. The Olam was astonished and happy. Then the Rebbe said a Sichah and a ma'amar. The Rebbe then turned to thank his doctors for not cutting him off; he had told them he would speak for only five minutes but it was actually twenty-five. Everyone who heard the Rebbe will never forget how weak he sounded.

For the next several months the Rebbe spoke regularly every Motzei Shabbos Kodesh from his room. After Purim, the Rebbe would farbreng downstairs on Motzei Shabbos. He continued to do so for a year and a half. It was easier for the Rebbe to speak on Motzei Shabbos than on Shabbos because then he could use a microphone. The Rebbe at that time demanded from the Yidden in Eretz Yisroel to settle the entire West Bank--Yehuda and Shomron. It could be done very easily, said the Rebbe, and the greater the number of settlements, the greater the security for Eretz Yisroel.

The Rebbe requested that mail be brought to him regularly. People were waiting for his advice and he could not withhold it from them. As the Rebbe did not go to the Ohel for six weeks or more, his answers were phrased then "Azkir be'ais ratzon"--I will mention it at an auspicious time. People should not hesitate to write, urged the Rebbe, especially about such important things as health and shidduchim.

The Rebbe suspected that the secretariat, in their desire to lessen the Rebbe's workload, were not showing him all the mail. The Rebbe said that when the Frierdiker Rebbe was ill the secretariat also wanted to hold back the letters -- and the Rebbe Rayatz responded by saying that his life was to help others: Why should they take from him his source of life? Why should he not be able to help others? Helping people gives him chayus. Like the Frierdiker Rebbe before him, the Rebbe's purpose in life was to help others.

Desirous of seeing the guests who had come for Tishrei, the Rebbe sat by the door of his room after Simchas Torah and after Shabbos Bereishis. In place of Yechidus they filed past the Rebbe and put notes on the table in front of him. In front of the Rebbe there was a pile of dollars, and each person took a dollar. The Rebbe did not want to disappoint the guests, and besides he wanted to see them too.

In the middle of Cheshvan Dr. Weiss had to go back to Chicago. Dr. Larry Resnick took over the care of the Rebbe, though Dr. Weiss would fly in from Chicago from time to time to check up on the Rebbe's progress. One night when it was very late I noticed someone coming out of 770 accompanied by the doctors. I found out that it was Dr. Bernard Lown of Boston, the top heart specialist in America who had taught Drs. Weiss and Teischholtz. He was on his way back from Russia and stopped in New York to examine the Rebbe. He felt that more precautions should be taken.

When the Rebbe was well enough, he came to the upstairs Shul for the reading of the Torah, not everyone was allowed in. Monday and Thursday the 770 bachurim held a lottery to choose who would be present. Meanwhile people were constantly going to the Ohel to daven for the Rebbe's recovery.

On the 28th of MarCheshvan, the Rebbe left 770 for the first time and walked over to the library, where the books of the Frierdiker Rebbe had just arrived from Warsaw and he spent two hours going through the seforim. Eastern Parkway was full of people standing on benches and rooftops to see the Rebbe.

The greatest simchah came on Rosh Chodesh Kislev, however. At 7:35 that Thursday night the bochurim found out that the Rebbe was going home. The streets were full of Chassidim dancing and singing as the Rebbe got into the car, driven by Rabbi Krinsky. A few minutes after the Rebbe left 770, the Rebbetzin also left. On the way she privately expressed her appreciation of how strong the Chassidim's attachment was to the Rebbe.

It is hard to describe that night. From all over people came to celebrate. The non-Jewish owner of the liquor store on Schenectady Avenue told

people that he was going to close late that night because the Rabbi went home. Around one in the morning Rabbis Sholom Morozov and Yitzchok Springer sat down to farbreng.

On Friday the Rebbe came back for Shabbos and stayed over Shabbos in 770. He came out to the small Bais Medrash for Kriyas HaTorah and Musaf. Downstairs Chassidim farbrenged the whole Shabbos long. This was arranged by Reb Yisroel Duchman, OBM, who worked to make it happen all Friday with a few others.

On Yud-Tes Kislev the Rebbe held his first farbrengen downstairs since the heart attack. Many people said Shehecheyanu. The bochurim had been working hard and cleaning for a few days to make the shul Yomtovidik. The farbrengen was short and ended with dollars for the “Tankisten,” the people who manned the Mitzvah “tanks” or campers.

That night a large crowd gathered in Chovevei Torah and farbrenged all night long in honor of the Rebbe’s first farbrengen since the heart attack.

That Chanukah the Rebbe gave dollars as Chanukah gelt. After Minchah on the fifth night of Chanukah, the Rebbe began to give out Chanukah gelt. Lines of people piled up by the double doors. The doctors were shaking their heads, concerned that it was too much for the Rebbe, but the Rebbe ignored their misgivings. The Rebbe gave the secretariat Chanukah gelt and told them to go upstairs and take care of what they had to.

Zos Chanukah,” the last day of Chanukah, at 3:00 in the afternoon, I got a phone call to be in 770. Something was going to happen.

When I got there the Rebbe was speaking, “making up” for the farbrengen we hadn’t had on Simchas Torah. Everyone washed. At the end of the farbrengen the Rebbe gave out Kos Shel Brachah which he wanted everyone to come by and take. All this was very unusual, as in those years the Rebbe never farbrenged on Zos Chanukah, and certainly never washed and gave out Kos Shel Brochah. Later I found out exactly what had happened. The Rebbe had called in Rabbi J.J. Hecht, A”H, earlier that day. He was going to farbreng after Minchah, something he never did on Zos Chanukah in those years, and he needed a “Ba’al sod,” someone who could keep a secret.

The Rebbe explained that concerning secrets there are three kinds of people: Someone who cannot keep a secret, someone you can see is hiding something, and someone in whom you cannot detect that they are hiding anything. The Rebbe explained that everyone in the secretariat was busy and that Rabbi Hecht should prepare challahs and mashkeh. Rabbi Hecht asked if he could tell his brother and the Rebbe said all right. When he asked if he could tell his son in Morristown, the Rebbe said it would be like telling the whole world.

It is said that when Rabbi Hecht brought the challoos into the secretaries’ room, they were quite annoyed, not suspecting what they were for. They asked him, “What are we, a storage place?”

Later, a record of the Rebbe’s conversation, based on what Rabbi Hecht had told his son, became public. The Rebbe was insistent on knowing how much everything would cost, challoos and mashkeh. Rabbi Hecht told him the mashkeh didn’t cost anything. The Rebbe was insistent on paying until Rabbi Hecht made it perfectly clear that he had a balabos in his shul who provided liquor for a whole year, and that’s why it wouldn’t cost anything.

A few more notes of what occurred in the next two years on the subject of the Rebbe’s recovery:

On the following Rosh HaShanah, in the middle of giving out Kos Shel Brochah to a long line of people, the doctors stopped the line, fearful that it was too much of a strain on the Rebbe. Promised the Rebbe, “If anyone jumps over the barrier I will give them double the amount.” Someone jumped the barrier and the Rebbe gave him double. Once again the doctors made a big fuss and stopped the line. This time the Rebbe said, “If anyone jumps over the barrier I will give them triple the amount.” But this time no one did because the doctors did not let.

That year the Rebbe changed how he took pidyonos and gave out lekach. The Rebbe took pidyonos three, four days before Rosh HaShanah instead of taking them all on Erev Rosh HaShanah as he did every year before. (From then on, that became the way it was done.) Instead of giving out lekach only on Erev Yom Kippur and on Hoshana Raba, the Rebbe began giving it out three or four days before, thus spreading it out and avoiding having to do it all on one day. On Erev Yom Kippur and Hoshana Raba the Rebbe only gave out lekach to newly arrived guests.

# TES KISLEV

Farbrenge and Learning is a Pidyon for the Mittler Rebbe.  
(See special Days - page 2 - Kislev 9 & 10/Nov 29 & 30)

In a letter my saintly father-in-law, the Friediker Rebbe, explains the importance of observing the Yahrzeit of a Tzadik with learning and Farbrenge. He tells of the Yahrzeit of the Mittler Rebbe on Tes Kislev when the Rebbe RaShaB said a Ma'amar and then said that the learning and farbrenge we do on a Yahrzeit is a Pidyon Nefesh we give the departed.

It's easy to assume that if it were possible to see the Mittler Rebbe now and give him a Pidyon Nefesh, everyone would rush to do so. And it is indeed possible to do that on this Yahrzeit, at this Farbrenge, as well as by studying the teachings of the Rebbe.

And it is fitting that on the day of his Yahrzeit we should sing a nigun of the Mittler Rebbe. Among the nigunim attributed to the Mittler Rebbe is the nigun, "Nya Zhuritz Chloptzi." The Rebbe RaShaB explained the song: that for the Mittler Rebbe's Chasidim, their only concern was how to reach the "inn" ("...Nya dayadem da karchamka") and when they reached it, they lacked nothing. This means that when we are traveling on the road, and we enter an inn on the way, we can rest, daven and learn with peace of mind. This refers to our traveling now in the time of Golus. All Jews—even those living in Eretz Yisroel are in exile. Along this road there are "inns," the places of the Rebbel'im. We must try to minimize the time on the road, and maximize the time at the place of the Rebbe, with the knowledge that nothing is lacking there.

Giving a Pidyon Nefesh isn't only for spiritual things, but even for material things as well. Although the Alter Rebbe in Igeres HaKodesh negates this, as belonging to "true prophets," the Chasidim were unperturbed and continued to ask regarding material needs. And once we know the Alter Rebbe said answering about material things is connected with "true prophets," we then know that the Rebbe's answering about physical things is because he is a "true prophet."

Since there was a Farbrenge in connection with the Yahrzeit, and a Nigun attributed to the Mittler Rebbe's Chasidim was sung, and everyone accepted upon himself to learn something from the Mittler Rebbe's Seforim, this is giving a Pidyon to the Rebbe to help not only in spiritual things, but in material things too.

And though the Rebbe is now removed from this world, nevertheless he will affect us even in material things, and give us strength to make from the physical a home for G-dliness.

*(Sichah, Shabbos Yud Kislev 5711)*

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# YUD DALED KISLEV ~ THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

**Yud Daled Kislev is the Rebbe and Rebbetzin's wedding anniversary. The Rebbe said that this day connects me with you and you with me and together we will extend all our efforts to bring about the complete and true Geulah (Shabbos Parshas vaysihlach 14 Kislev 5714 1953). The following is a glimpse into the events of the wedding.**

The Frierdiker Rebbe announced at the Rebbe's Sheva Brochos that this would also serve as the Yud Tes Kislev (1929) Farbrengen. During this Farbrengen, the Frierdiker Rebbe turned to his Gabai, Reb Chatsha Faigen, and instructed him to send a telegram to an acquaintance in Rostov. The telegram was to request that the acquaintance place a Pidyon on the Tziun of the Rebbe RaShaB (father of the Frierdiker Rebbe) stating that the Rebbe RaShaB's wish had now been fulfilled.

What wish? The Rebbe RaShaB had prayed that his granddaughter, Chaya Mushka, should marry the oldest son of Reb Levi Yitzchok, and now this had happened. Chassidim say that when the Rebbe RaShaB was speaking with his wife, the Rebbetzin Shterna Sarah, about possible Shidduchim for their granddaughter, Chaya Mushka, the Rebbe RaShaB had said, "We should think about the oldest son of Reb Levik." It is impossible to ascertain exactly when the Rebbe RaShaB began considering the Rebbe for the Shidduch. But we do know that from the day of the Rebbe's bris, the Rebbe RaShaB showed special interest in this person. He sent no less than six telegrams with instructions concerning the child. And this interest continued throughout the Rebbe RaShaB's life.

Although the Rebbe was chosen by the Rebbe RaShaB to be his future grandson-in-law and subsequently the successor to the Frierdiker Rebbe, the Rebbe never saw the Rebbe RaShaB. The Rebbe's first visit to the Frierdiker Rebbe was at the age of 21 in 1923, in which year he attended the Yud Tes Kislev Farbrengen.

After the Frierdiker Rebbe moved to Leningrad in 1924, the Rebbe's mother, Rebbetzin Chanah OB"m, came to visit her future daughter-in-law. By then it was well known that the Rebbe would soon be the son-in-law of the Frierdiker Rebbe, however, it was not officially announced and the wedding did not take place for another five years. When the Frierdiker Rebbe was preparing to leave Russia in 1927, he told the officials that he would

only leave on the condition that his immediate circle be allowed to leave with him. His immediate circle was quite a list, and of course on the list was the name of the Rebbe, son-in-law designate. When the official saw that, he remarked that it certainly would be no problem to find another match for Chaya Mushka, and therefore this young man need not receive permission to leave with the Frierdiker Rebbe's "entourage". The Frierdiker Rebbe responded emphatically that "a son-in-law like this is impossible to find!" The Rebbe was then granted permission. The Rebbe first traveled to visit his parents, not knowing if they would ever meet again, and then left Russia a week after the Frierdiker Rebbe.

One year later, on the third day of Kislev, 1929, the Tana'im for the Shidduch took place. The wedding date was set for 11 days later, the 14th of Kislev. Plans were made for the wedding to take place in the Yeshivah Tomchei T'mimim in Warsaw. Chassidim say there were three conditions that the Rebbei'im made with their future sons-in-law:

- 1- to stay awake and learn the entire Thursday night;
- 2- to stay awake and learn the entire Friday night;
- 3- not to implant false teeth.

Also, the Frierdiker Rebbe reportedly asked the Rebbe to Farbreng every Shabbos Mevorchim.

The Frierdiker Rebbe sent out four different categories of invitations for the wedding:

He wrote a letter to Chassidim still in Russia, with a request that they farbreng on the wedding day. He wrote that although they would be separated by space, in heart they would be together. Chassidishe people received a printed invitation. Former students of Tomchei T'mimim received a photocopy of an invitation handwritten by the Frierdiker Rebbe. Elder Chassidim

received a personally hand-written invitation (written by the Frierdiker Rebbe) with their name on it, and with the Frierdiker Rebbe's signature on it.

As is customary, the Rebbe had an Aliyah the Shabbos before his wedding. At the Mi Shebeirach, it was announced that his father and mother would give Tzedakah in honor of the Chasunah, and the congregation was instructed to bless the Chosson.

The next day, Sunday, in the evening, the Frierdiker Rebbe, his family and the young future son-in-law, left Riga, Latvia, accompanied by many Chassidim. Hundreds of Chassidim, T'mimim and others gathered at the station to greet the Rebbe. The crowd burst out with shouts of joy and blessings as the Rebbe arrived. Several bochorim created a path amongst the multitudes for the Rebbe. A fancy vehicle had been prepared, to bring the Rebbe and his family to a prestigious hotel.

At 7:00 Monday morning, they arrived in Warsaw, where they were welcomed warmly by a tremendous crowd of people who had come in honor of their beloved and revered Rebbe.

Although holding the wedding in Warsaw entailed much additional work and expense, the Rebbe was determined that it should be held in a holy, Torah'dik place: Yeshivas Tomchei T'mimim.

The Rebbe had sent a special telegram on Motzo'ei Shabbos to prepare a meal for T'mimim the night before the Chasunah.

At 8:00 on Monday evening, the Seudah in honor of the Chosson for the students of Tomchei T'mimim in Warsaw began.

Although the meal was made for the yeshivah students, nevertheless, many others came as well.

Due to the tremendous turnout, police were brought in to organize an orderly system of entry. Under the supervision of the 'Mashgiach' of the Yeshivah, Reb Alter Simchovitch, everyone was allowed in. During this Seudah, the Rebbe said a Ma'amar Chassidus, and after Bentsching which took place past midnight, the Rebbe danced with the older Talmidim! The meal ended

with great festivity at 3 o'clock in the morning.

The walls of the yeshivah had been freshly painted in honor of the Chasunah. The Yeshivah was decorated with all kinds of ornaments and decorations for the auspicious event. The main hall, along with several of the rooms alongside it, were designated for the men. Several other rooms were designated for the women. On Tuesday, the 14th of Kislev, the Kabolos Ponim began at 5:00 in the afternoon. Police forces were standing at each doorway, permitting only those with an entry card to enter. Nevertheless the building was overflowing with people. The Rebbe arrived with the Rebbes of Rodzin, Zlatplana, Novominsk and Rabbi Menachem Zamba. The honored guests, Rebbes, Rabbonim, and relatives were seated near the head table. Spread around them were Anash, T'mimim and others. On the head table were candles, a challah, and tart cakes. However, they were not touched.

The Rebbe arrived at 6:00pm. Nigunim were sung for approximately a half hour. Afterwards, the Rebbe began to speak and said: "It is well known that at a wedding, the neshamos of the ancestors come down to take part in the rejoicing. The previous three generations always come, to all Jews. But some merit to have even further-back generations attending.

"As a way to invite, or entice the neshamos of our holy ancestors, tzadikim, to come to the Chuppah and bentsch the young couple, I will say some Chassidus from each one whose presence I request."

The Rebbe then went on to say Chassidus from: The Alter Rebbe, the Mittler Rebbe, the Tzemach Tzedek the Rebbe MaHaRaSh, and the Rebbe RaShaB. He said, "Whenever someone says something in the name of the originator, it is as if that person is standing there. too." During the "Kabolos Ponim" the Rebbe instructed that the nigunim of all the Rebbei'im preceding him should be sung. Prior to each nigun the Rebbe announced, "we will be singing the nigun of the Alter Rebbe," etc. After the Frierdiker Rebbe finished saying the Ma'amar L'choh Dodi, he went with the Chosson into a private room, where they were together for a few minutes. One of the things the Rebbe said there was: "In truth, I would like to recite the b'rochoh, ' Ozer Yisroel BiGvurah'. However, I cannot, since I already

said it once this morning." (According to another version: The Friediker Rebbe told the Chosson that he had this in mind while making the b'rochah of "Ozer Yisroel BiGvurah" that morning). Also, it is known that the Rebbe tied his own Gartel around the Chosson and said, "I am binding you to me forever." [On the occasion of their 25th anniversary (1954), the Rebbe said to the Chassidim, "This is the day on which I began my strong attachment to you." ]

During the Bedekenish, the Alter Rebbe's Nigun of Four Stanzas was sung. The Yeshivah courtyard was lit up with many lights. In the center was the Chuppah. Surrounding it was a crowd numbering over five thousand. As the Rebbe recited the brochos, one of the elder Chassidim -who had merited to see the Rebbe RaShaB -shouted out in excitement. "Oy, the Rebbe, Reb Sholom er is being m'sader kiddushin! " The Rebbe of Rodzin read the kesubah. The witnesses signing on the kesubah were Rabbi Berel Moshe Shmotkin and Rabbi Mendel Kupershtock, both respectable Chabad Chassidim from Poland. After the chuppah, the congregation sang a joyous nigun. The Chosson and Kallah then departed with the mechutanim to the yichud room (one of the Yeshivah rooms). The Rebbe walked around with a towel over his shoulder distributing mashkeh. This was an exact re-enactment of his father's behavior at his own wedding. (On a later occasion, the Rebbe related that he offered to assist the Friediker Rebbe in distributing the mashkeh, yet he was continuously instructed (by the Friediker Rebbe) to remain seated. So, he sat "Oif shpilkes" as the Friediker Rebbe distributed the mashkeh. During the meal the Rebbe instructed one of the T'mimim to distribute a souvenir gift to all the invitees. After the meal, at about 3:30 a.m., all of the assembled rose and danced in a circle.

When the Rebbes of Poland sat down to rest, the Rebbe took the Chosson and they danced together. The crowd then surrounded the Rebbe in a half circle and sang nigunim for about a half hour. Following was the Ma'amar "Asher Bara." The Rebbe of Amshinov entered while the Rebbe was saying the Ma'amar.

The Rebbe stopped and said, "With the permission of the Torah and the permission of the congrega-

tion -I am holding in the middle ... " The Rebbe continued the Ma'amar for another half an hour. After the Ma'amar the Rebbe said l'chaim to the Amshinover Rebbe. Shortly thereafter the Rebbe retired to his hotel room. The Chassidim rejoiced until 6 :00 a .m . Only select individuals, including relatives and honorable guests were invited to the Sheva Brochos. Nevertheless, the crowd numbered several hundred strong. When the Rebbe traveled home, many Chassidim accompanied the Rebbe to Riga, and even more came to see the Rebbe off.

## The following is a free translation of the Rebbe's

**account.** **The Rebbe wrote at the beginning of the account: "A short account of the wedding on 14 Kislev 5690, Warsaw." Abridged from Rashaz's account in possession of Rabbi Moshe P. Katz.**

At seven o'clock Monday morning, the thirteenth of Kislev, the Rebbe came with his household aside from the Rebbetzin and the bride who were already in Warsaw -as well as the groom to Warsaw. Among the guests were also the Rebbe's father-in-law, Reb Avraham Schneerson from Kishinev, and his Mechutan, Reh Menachem Mendel Gurary. At eight in the evening was the seudah "Chosson Mohl" (Chosson 's Feast), specifically for the students of Tomchei T'mimim, held in the Yeshivah building. Present were: The Rebbe, his father-in-law , Reb Avrohom Schneerson from Kishinev, the Chosson, the Rebbe's uncle, Rabbi Moshe Hakohen Horenstein, etc. During the meal, the Rebbe recited the Ma'amar "V'chol Bonayich" -which is printed in Kuntres Beis (Sefer HaMa'amorim Kuntreisim Alef); See the Sichah of Yud Tes Kislev /5689 (1928) [regarding] what was added on that which was said on Shabbos Parshas Vayeitzei. After the Ma'amar was recited, nigunim were sung till after midnight. After bentching the Rebbe said he would like to go dance with the students gathered there. A large circle was made, and the Rebbe danced with relatives and the T'mimim. Then the chairman of the Yeshivah board, Rabbi S. F. Zalmanov, announced

in the name of all the T'mimim, Mashgichim, and principals of the Yeshivah 'Mazal Tov Mazal Tov, to the Rebbe, all the Mechutanim, etc.!

The next day, the fourteenth of Kislev, at five in the evening was the commencement of the Kabolas Ponim in the Yeshivah building. At the head of the table -by the Rebbe's instruction and despite the Chosson's request -sat the Chosson, to his right the Rebbe in a shtreimel, to his left Reb Avrohom Schneerson. After a short while, the Rebbe began: 'It is well known that at the time, etc.' and he said the Ma'amar "L'choh Dodi" (-all this is printed in Kuntres Beis). After the Ma'amar, the Rebbe went with the Chosson to a particular room and spent a short while there. From there they went to "Bedekenish" (covering the brides face with a veil by the bridegroom) and from there they continued to the Chuppah in the Yeshivah courtyard, under the open sky. The Rebbe instructed to sing the Alter Rebbe Nigun of Four Stanzas during the walk to the Chuppah. The Rebbe himself sang as well. The Sidur Kiddushin -wedding ceremony- and Sheva B'rochos were recited by the Rebbe. After the Chuppah the Rebbe, the Chosson and Kallah and all the Mechutanim retired to the Yeshivah building to rest a bit. All the invitees went to the large hall -in another place where the meal was prepared, according to the Rebbe's wishes that only the spiritual part be in the Yeshivah.

After more than an hour had passed the Rebbe, the Chosson and Kallah, etc. also arrived there. Mashkeh and Mezonos were served. The Rebbe went around the tables and distributed Mashkeh to everyone, with a blessing. As he approached the place where the Yeshivah students stood, he instructed the Mashgiach, Rabbi Alter Simchovitz, to distribute Mashkeh to each student, and he said: "T'mimim! The Torah only lasts with one who kills himself over it! Torah is retained specifically through toil. [Only] one who toils reaches the depth of the matter. Even someone with a good intellect, a fine intellect, and at the first perusal absorbs the concept well, nevertheless, even one who does not possess such good mental capacities, but toils over the intellectual concept, reaches a deeper understanding this is so because the Torah is chochmah (wisdom), i.e. G-dliness. Even the wisdom of the revealed part of Torah is G-dliness. It is for this reason that we go into Golus -exile. The Golus affects Jews in general, those who study Torah in particular, and you, the T'mimim, in

particular. ( There is a lengthy talk on all this, however, this is not the place for it, and not now is the time for this). The main continuity of the Torah is by one who kills himself over it. Know, T'mimim, that you must submit yourselves totally, and with this you can go. Toil in the study of Torah, also Nigleh (the revealed aspects of the Torah), and you must also learn Chassidus like this. This is so that it should not remain a theory alone, rather that it come to practical use, meaning in good character traits. Then I will bless you, may you be helped in all matters that you need, and may you have long lives, etc. " After an intermission the Rebbe recited the Ma'amar "Asher Barah Sasson" (Kuntres Beis) which continued till midnight. Following was washing for the meal. In middle of the meal, the Rebbe instructed one of the T'mimim to distribute, in his name, a souvenir-gift to everyone of the assembled, a facsimile of a hand-written letter of the Alter Rebbe, together with a letter from the Rebbe. The songs were sung accompanied by musical instruments. The meal ended after six in the morning.

Wednesday, at six o'clock in the evening, the Sheva Brochos seudah was held in this hall. At this meal, many of the Rebbes of Poland were present. A special table was designated for them. At the head of the table sat the Rebbe, Reb Avraham Schneerson, and the Chosson. In middle of the meal the Rebbe instructed to sing the Nigun of Four Stanzas slowly, and the Rebbe and the Rebbei'im of Poland sang, too. After



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bentching, the Rebbe danced with the Rebbei'im and Rabbonim. After a short while the

# Yud Tes Kislev ~ The Rosh Hashanah of Chassidus

Monday night/Tuesday ~ December 8-9

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The Nineteenth of Kislev is the Yahrzeit of our saintly master, R. DovBer, the Maggid of Mezritch, the mentor of the second generation of the Chassidic movement, from 5521 (1761) until his passing on Tuesday, of Parshas Vayeishev, Kislev 19, 5533 (1772). (For a biography in English, see: R. Jacob Immanuel Schochet's the Great Maggid (Kehot, N.Y. 1974))

R. Shneur Zalman of Liadi, the Alter Rebbe, author of the Tanya, founder and first leader of the Chabad Chassidic movement from 5533 (1772) until his passing on Teves 24, 5573 (1812), was released from his first imprisonment on Kislev 19, late in the afternoon Tuesday of Parshas Vayeishev, 5559 (1798).

The Alter Rebbe writes in a letter: "...This indeed must be made known, that on the day which HaShem made for us, on the nineteenth of Kislev; on the third day of the week (about which the Torah writes twice, "It is good") on the Yahrzeit of our holy master (the Maggid of Mezritch), whose soul reposes in Eden

On that day, while I was reading the verse in the Book of Tehillim that begins, "he has redeemed my soul in peace" (55:19), and before I began the following verse, "I went forth in peace through the G-d of Peace." (For an account of his arrest and liberation see: R. Nissan Mindel, Rabbi Shneur Zalman of Liadi (Kehot, N.Y., 1971)

"One ought to prepare oneself for the approach of the Rosh HaShanah of chassidus in ways that recall the days of Selichos and the month of Elul." (Sichah Yud-Tes Kislev, 5707)

"It's a custom for Chassidim to immerse in the Mikveh before Shacharis on the nineteenth of Kislev, keeping the practice handed down by the earliest Chassidim in the name of the Ba'al Shem tov, to go to the Mikveh before Shabbos and Yom Tov, and on Shabbos and Yom Tov morning." (Sefer Haminhagim)

The Rebbe RaShaB used to make an appeal for charitable purposes during the Farbrengen of Yud-Tes Kislev. (Sefer HaSichos: Toras Shalom, p. 243)

It's customary to divide the M'sechtos of Shas, on Yud-Tes Kislev, to study in the course of the coming year.

The Alter Rebbe writes in the letter "Hochei'ach Tochi'ach", that closes Kuntres Acharon at the end of Tanya: "Complete the study of the entire Talmud every year and in every community, the M'sechtos apportioned by lot or by consent. In a city where there are many shuls, each congregation should complete the Talmud. and if a congregation is too small to implement this, they should join forces with men of a larger one. This program shall be neither violated nor varied."

From 5663 (1902) on, because of lack of time on Yud-Tes Kislev, the division of the Shas in Lubavitch was done on Teves 24, Yahrzeit of the Alter Rebbe. In 5713 (1952), fifty years later, the Rebbe, restored the custom to its original date, Yud-Tes Kislev.

Those whose community, for whatever reason, was too small to cope with the entire Talmud, participate in the division arranged by Machneh Israel, 770 Eastern Parkway. Brooklyn, NY 11213.

Rosh Hashanah L'Chassidus is a day when everyone should bless their family and friends with: "May

you be written and sealed for a good year in the study of Chassidus, and the ways of Chassidus.” We should start learning the HaYom Yom everyday.

In the Farbrengen of Yud Tes Kislev we should have the 3 pillars of Torah, Avodah, and G’milus Chassodim.

Torah: is to learn from the teachings of the Alter Rebbe, especially a Ma’amar, the Chassidic discourse, which is connected to Geulah, starting with the words: Padah B’Shalom.

Tefillah: also includes saying L’chaim to bless other people (even if they are not present).

Tzedakah: Kind deeds, is to give Tzedakah at the Farbrengen. Saying kind words to another person is also a kind deed. (Farbrengen of Yud Tes Kislev, 5749/1988)

Everyone should make Yud Tes Kislev farbrengens: with himself, with his family and with his friends. (Shabbos Parshas Vayishlach - 16th Kislev, 5752/1991)

The Rebbe always stressed Shiurim of Chitas. The daily schedule of Tanya is written in back of the Tanya.

### Stories of Yud-Tes Kislev ~ From Various Sichos

R’ Yisroel Yitzchok of Staradov, a Chasid of R’ Menachem Mendel of Horodok, became a Chasid of the Alter Rebbe. He was of such stature among Chasidim that even when there were restrictions about coming to the Alter Rebbe, he was exempt and could come whenever he wished.

In 5559 (1798) he was in Liozna for Tishrei. When he saw the black coach to take the Alter Rebbe to prison he shouted, “The Shechinah is exiled!” he said Shema and fainted. They couldn’t revive him. Someone had an idea, to shout to him that the Rebbe was free and had returned. R’ Yisroel Yitzchok awoke, but was very weak. He couldn’t return home by foot, but had to go by wagon.

The entire time the Alter Rebbe was in prison the Chasidim fasted. In Staradov, on the night of Yud Tes Kislev they made a farbrengen for the Maggid’s Yahrtzeit, but by day they fasted.

R’ Yisroel Yitzchok said: R’ Menachem Mendel of Horodok came to him in a dream and said, “Although you are no longer my Chassid, I will reveal to you a secret: Tonight, we were in the Heichal of the Maggid, the Ba’al Shem Tov sat on his right and the Ari Zal on his left. The Maggid said Chassidus and began to cry. He said, “My student, the Maggid of Liozna, is in prison; we must do something. Suddenly R’ Shimon bar Yochai came and they made a Beis Din and ruled that the Alter Rebbe must be freed.” The Chasidim wondered whether they should continue fasting, and in fact they did. This was Tuesday. On Sunday a messenger came and told them the Alter Rebbe was free.

(Sichos of the Frierdiker Rebbe, Shavuos 5696)

\*\*\*

The Alter Rebbe was arrested in 5559. It would have been years earlier, but when the Tzadik R’ Zushe of Anipoli found out about the decree, he said, “Zushe doesn’t want it.” The decree was delayed several years.

The same decree was on many of the Maggid’s disciples. The Alter Rebbe accepted it and R’ Zushe said, “Zushe doesn’t want it.”

(Sichah of the Frierdiker Rebbe, Yud Tes Kislev 5687)

\*\*\*

When they were going to arrest Mittler Rebbe, there was a Professor Haybentaub, who was very close with the Governor of Vitebsk. The professor told the governor that they can’t make a sudden arrest and separate the Rebbe from his Chassidim, because the arrest itself won’t harm him, but the fact that he won’t be able to say words

of Chassidus will be a danger to his health. Professor Haybentaub convinced the Government that they should give the Rebbe permission to say Chassidus. (See page 2, Kislev 10). The Mittler Rebbe said of the arrest, “I do not have the strength of my father. My father agreed to be arrested because he wanted to test the brotherly love of Chasidim. How would they accept his arrest?”

The Frierdiker Rebbe said, “I once told my father this. He said, “I searched through Seforim to find how it’s permitted according to Torah, to put oneself in danger to see the Middos and brotherly love of Chasidim.”

My father concluded that a shepherd of B’nei Yisroel must know what is happening with his flock. “If the Alter Rebbe would have known that this was missing from Chasidim he would have to correct it. To do this, it was worth putting himself in danger.” The Rebbe RaShaB said the brotherly love of Chasidim is their nature; if someone’s missing this he is blemished, as if someone would be born missing a limb, Chas v’Shalom. (Sichah Yud Kislev 5697)

\* \* \*

On the first anniversary of Yud Tes Kislev chassidim didn’t know what would happen. The Alter Rebbe’s brother R’ Yehudah Leib, wrote that no one should come for Yud Tes Kislev or the Shabbosim before. The Chasidim knew they wouldn’t say Tachnun, but didn’t know if it would be a Yom Tov. The emissary who collected money for Chabad in Eretz Yisroel, R’ Ya’akov Smilianer, gave this advice: they should collect money faster than usual; he’d bring it to the Alter Rebbe early and try to rescind the decree. He succeeded and many Chassidim came for Yud Tes Kislev.

The Alter Rebbe said a Ma’amar, “And next year they established it as a Yom Tov.” (as the Gemara says about Chanukah.) (Sichah of the Frierdiker Rebbe, Yud Tes Kislev 5697)

The Rebbe explained that since he connected Yud Tes Kislev to Chanukah, it teaches us that just as Chanukah will exist after Moshiach comes, so too will the Yom Tov of Yud Tes Kislev. (Vayeishev 5717).

\* \* \*

R’ Issac of Vitebsk told the Rebbe MaHaRaSh: On the first anniversary Chasidim gathered in Liozna and it was very joyous. The Rebbe’s grandson, the Tzemach Tzedek, came into the room, pounded on the table, “Atah Hareisa.” The Chasidim divided Atah Hareisa among themselves and danced HaKofos with a Sefer Torah until late at night. The Alter Rebbe heard of this and was very pleased. He called his grandson, put his holy hand on his head and blessed him: “He will reveal the Torah SheB’al Peh of the Torah SheBichsav of Toras Chassidus Chabad.” (Kitzurim V’Ho’oros of Tanya, Page 124)

The Tzemach Tzedek explained: in his youth he wanted to divide the Tanya into Pesukim and to put in Nekudos. “That night I dreamt that I was learning the laws of a Sefer Torah. The question arose if a Torah had Nekudos and was divided into Pesukim was it kosher? I resolved that it was. I woke up and understood the hint.

That day I was to go into the Alter Rebbe’s room. When I stood at the threshold, he said “A Torah with Nekudos and Pesukim is invalid because the entire Torah is names of Hashem put together in combinations of words and letters.”

(Kitzurim V’Ho’oros of Tanya, Page 107)

## **Listen Brother, Don’t Fall Asleep Before Daybreak (Moshiach)**

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My father, HaRav Menachem Shmuel Dovid Raichik OB”M frequently recalled the last Yud Tes Kislev farbrengen which the Frierdiker Rebbe held in Otwock, Poland, in the year of 5699, December 1938. In the Sichah, at that Farbrengen, the Rebbe gave them two examples for the period which we are now in. The first example was of someone who was climbing a mountain and was almost at the peak. Those last few steps are the hardest to take and overcome. At that time any small thing is precious - a clump of grass, a stone, a twig, something to hold on to with your body. If someone can give you a hand to help you, give you some light and show you how to go those few extra steps, then this is some-

thing very precious. The same thing now, we are right before Moshiach, the last few steps. Every good thing we have to keep precious, we have to have the light to help us succeed. What is the light that helps us succeed? It is the light of Torah and Mitzvos. Setting for yourself a time to learn. We are holding just before Moshiach. There are only a few more steps and any good thing that we can do hastens his coming.

The second example was of a person who doesn't sleep a whole night and then in the last 10-15 minutes before daylight he has a compelling desire to sleep. If a person could only push himself not to fall asleep during that time and then if during the day he could push himself more and not fall asleep then he can accomplish what he is supposed to, but if he falls asleep before daybreak then the whole day is lost. His sleepiness affects him the whole day and his mind is not clear. So too, us now, we are just minutes away from Moshiach coming. Before the light of the day (Moshiach) we get very sleepy spiritually. No one knows a din, we have to strengthen ourselves not to fall asleep! Everyone has to set aside time every day to learn. We have to give Terumah and Ma'aseros of time, tithing of our time, to learn! It's not enough that we support Yeshivos and others to learn on our behalf, which is a very good and important thing to do. But we ourselves must learn! A day can not pass in which we don't learn something. You can not prepare yourself to go to sleep at night and to say K'rias Shema without at least learning half an hour during the day. This is intrinsically connected to our Par-nossoh. We have to know that we have to designate time to learn (in a Beis Medrash, in a Shiur) and then we will not fall asleep before daybreak Chas v'Sholom. We will be a vessel to receive the light of the Day (Moshiach). This is an obligation on every single Jew to know. When you meet another Jew you have to tell him - "Listen Brother, don't fall asleep before Daybreak. because if you do, when the light of Day will come, you will be very upset."

## ותן טל ומטר לברכה ~ ASKING FOR RAIN

We ask HaShem for rain, (ותן טל ומטר), in the weekday Shemoneh Esrei, in the B'rachah M'vareich HaShanim.

Outside of Eretz Yisroel, we begin to ask for rain sixty days after Tekufas Tishrei, the Jewish Autumnal Equinox. (In the twenty-first century, Tekufas Tishrei is always on October 7 —the sixty-day count includes the day of the Tekufah, and the day we begin to ask).

This year we start saying "V'sein Tal Umatar" in Ma'ariv on **Thursday night, December 4**

<b>If you forget to say it before finishing the B'rachah 'M'vareich HaShanim':</b>	Go back to "V'sein Tal Umatar Liv'rachah and continue from there.
<b>If you finished the B'rachah (and haven't started the next):</b>	Say "V'sein Tal Umatar Liv'rachah" and start the next b'rochah.
<b>If you started the next B'rachah:</b>	Say "V'sein Tal Umatar Liv'rachah" in 'Shema Koleinu' before "Ki ata shome'ah tefilas kol peh"
<b>If you finished 'Shema Koleinu' (but haven't started the next B'rachah):</b>	Say "V'sein Tal Umatar Liv'rachah" and continue with R'tzei.
<b>If you started the next B'rachah:</b>	Start again from 'Baruch Aleinu'.
<b>If you haven't yet said the second Yih'yu L'ratzon" (at the end of Elokei N'tzor):</b>	Start again from 'Baruch Aleinu'.
<b>If you remember after completing Elokei N'tzor and reciting the second Yih'yu L'ratzon:</b>	Say the Shemoneh Esrei again.

# CHANUKAH: LAWS & CUSTOMS

SUNDAY NIGHT, DECEMBER 14 THRU MONDAY DAY, DECEMBER 22

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## WHEN TO LIGHT

The First Night of Chanukah is on **Sunday night, December 14.**

The Chabad Minhag is to light the Menorah immediately after sunset [except on Friday and Motzo'ei Shabbos] and have the lights burn at least fifty minutes. If you can't light then, you may light all night.

If you won't be able to Daven Minchah and Ma'ariv with a Minyan if you light at the right time, daven with a Minyan, then go home and light.

If you'll miss the opportunity for Miv'tzo'im, light at home afterwards. (Try to light during the first half hour after nightfall.)

In extenuating circumstances you may light with a B'rachah from after P'lag HaMinchah, but make sure the lights will burn a half hour after nightfall.

Once it's time to light, you can't work, sit down to eat a meal, or even learn Torah, until you light. If you're out visiting, go home to light the Menorah. (An overnight guest lights in his host's home.)

## HOW TO LIGHT

Gather everyone to light the Menorah, (to publicize the celebration of the miracle.)

Our custom is to put the Menorah in the doorway, opposite the Mezuzah of the dining room (not in a window).

Put the Menorah between three to ten Tefachim (9.6 to 31.5 inches) from the floor.

Make sure the Menorah is in a place where a breeze won't blow out the flames. The candles shouldn't be so close to each other that they melt.

We use olive oil for the lights and a beeswax candle for the Shamash.

Make sure the Shamash stands higher than the other candles; the other flames should be in a straight and even row. Some people put in new wicks every night; others use used wicks, since they light more easily.

Oil left over in the Menorah from one day can be used another day.

You can't do the Mitzvah with electric lights.

Before lighting, make sure there's enough oil (or that the candles are long enough) to burn fifty minutes after sunset.

Children should be taught to light Chanukah Licht. Boys from the age of Chinuch should light their own Menorah. Girls follow their family's custom.

“The custom of the Households of the Rebbei'im was that the girls didn't light Chanukah Lights (neither those under or over Bas Mitzvah), but fulfilled their obligation through their fathers and later their husbands.” [Sichah, Shabbos, Vayeishev, 5750]

A single woman living alone must light Chanukah candles.

We wear a Gartel (but not Shabbos clothes).

On the first night we light the Shamash and say three B'rachos:

- “**Lehadlik Ner Chanukah**” (NOT “Shel Chanukah”)
- “**She-asah Nisim**”
- “**Shehecheyanu**”

Light the Menorah after reciting **ALL** the B'rachos. (Don't talk between the B'rachos and lighting.)

On the other nights, say only the first *two* B'rachos.

On the first night, light the candle to the extreme right. Every night add a new light to the left of the previous light, lighting from left to right (the new candle first.)

We say “Haneiros Halalu” after lighting ALL the candles.

Try to sit by the Menorah for about half an hour (except on Erev Shabbos).

We can't make ANY use of the Chanukah candles, such as reading or working by their light.

If a candle hasn't burned for the required time, relight it without a B'rachah, (except on Shabbos). If the Shamash goes out, you can't relight it from the Chanukah candles (nor can you light any candles from each other).

Women have the custom not to work while the candles burn. After the minimum time, they may do work, but not in full view of the lights.

Let the Chanukah candles burn themselves out .

If you leave the house and you're afraid to leave them burning, make a condition before lighting, that you'll be able to put them out after the required time. If the Menorah burned the required time, you can move it even while the lights are burning.

If you come home late at night, you can light the Menorah with the B'rachos, if people in the house are awake. Otherwise, wake someone (even a small child who understands what Chanukah lights are).

## **AFTER LIGHTING**

It's customary to give our children Chanukah Gelt.

“...The Rebbe RaShaB used to give Chanukah Gelt on the Fourth and Fifth Night of Chanukah”. [Hayom Yom]

“...The Frierdiker Rebbe used to give Chanukah Gelt to his daughters, even after they married, and to his sons-in-law.” [Sichah, Kislev 21, 5748]

“...It's worthwhile to give children Chanukah

Gelt at least two times throughout Chanukah (every night would be even nicer, including Erev Shabbos before Shabbos), and on the Fifth Night to add.” [Sichah, Chanukah 5750]

“...They should explain to them that the Chanukah Gelt is so that they'll add in their Torah learning, etc.” [Sichah, Kislev 21, 5748]

We eat Latkes or doughnuts fried in oil. Some eat Milchigs because of the miracle of Yehudis who killed the Syrian general, putting him to sleep with dairy foods.

There's a question if we must eat a Seudah on Chanukah. Of course, if you say Divrei Torah or sing songs of praise to HaShem, it becomes a Seudas Mitzvah according to all opinions.

“The Tzemach Tzedek's custom was to make a kind of Farbrengen, one of the nights of Chanukah, with his family. It was called “Latkes Evening”. This was also the custom of the Alter Rebbe and the Mittler Rebbe. Among the stories the Rebbe'im told at this meal, were stories that they talked about every year, even though they talked about them the year before.” [Hayom Yom]

Everyone should make Chanukah gathering in their homes, with family, in school and in the work place. People should gather together at least once to speak about Chanukah and to make good resolutions about Torah and Mitzvos and to give out Chanukah gelt. [21 Kislev 5748, 23 Kislev, 5749]

## **LIGHTING IN SHUL**

We light the Menorah in Shul after Minchah before “Aleinu”. We put the Menorah on the south wall, between east and west, to commemorate the Beis HaMikdash.

There should be a Minyan to say the B'rachos.

The person who makes the B'rachos, and lights the Shul's Menorah, says the B'rachos again at home. Since he says “Shehecheyanu” in Shul, he doesn't say it again at home —unless his household fulfills their obligation through him.

We light the Menorah before Shacharis, without a B'rachah.

## SHABBOS

Rosh Chodesh comes out on Shabbos this year. We take our three Sifrei Torah to read the Parshah of the week, the Chanukah portion and the Rosh Chodesh portion. We say the longest bentching which includes Al Hanisim, R'tzei and Ya'aleh V'Yavo.

Prepare everything well in advance. On Erev Shabbos we daven Minchah early, light the Menorah, and then the Shabbos Candles.

Light the Menorah **before** lighting the Shabbos candles. Make sure it can burn for at least fifty minutes past sunset. (The little Chanukah candles that come in the box are just not going to make it.) On Shabbos the Menorah is Muktzeh, and shouldn't be moved.

On Motzo'ei Shabbos we daven Ma'ariv promptly because we must light the Menorah. In Shul we light after Ma'ariv before "Aleinu", and then say Havdalah afterwards. At home, say Havdalah first, then light the Menorah, say "Haneiros Halalu", and then "V'yiten Lecha".

## TEFILLOS

Add "Al Hanisim" in Shemoneh Esrei. If you forgot it say it before finishing the B'rachah "Hatov Shimcha ULecha Na'eh L'hodos", say it then and continue. If you finished the Brachah, don't repeat it.

Don't skip "Al Hanisim" in Shemoneh Esrei, to be able to say "Kedushah" or "Modim" with the Minyan.

We say the complete Hallel. (An Avel [mourner] may Daven for the Amud except for Hallel.)

We read from the Torah part of Parshas Naso every day to commemorate the dedication of the Beis HaMikdash.

Add "Al Hanisim" in Bentching. If you forgot it, you can say it before finishing the B'rachah of "Nodeh Lecha".

If you've finish the B'rachah, when you get to the Harachamons, say "Harachamon Hu Ya'aseh Lanu Nisim Kemo She-asah La'avoseinu Bayamim

Haheim Bizman Hazeh", and begin "Al Hanisim". We give extra Tzedakah on Chanukah.

## ZOS CHANUKAH

### SUNDAY NIGHT, MONDAY

### December 21, 22/Teves 2

The last day of Chanukah is called Zos Chanukah.

We should learn from the Ma'amorim of the Alter Rebbe with the notes of the Tzemach Tzedek explaining the greatness of Zos Chanukah.... [Ohr HaTorah - Chanukah vol. 5] [Zos Chanukah, 5749]

"Everyone should take upon themselves a good resolution to add in greater strength in all aspects of Ner Mitzvah and Torah Ohr. Starting with learning Torah, both Nigleh and Chassidus: simply to learn a lot. The quality of learning and the quantity of time. Through taking off of time from business to learn the Eibishter will surely give one an abundance of silver and gold for all one's necessities, and to do Mitzvos B'Hidur, i.e.. paying for tuition, dowry for marrying off one's sons and daughters etc. A persons involvement with spreading Yiddishkeit shouldn't be hindered by expenses, because Hashem will surely find enough silver and gold to cover all his expenses for whatever he needs. (*Shabbos Zos Chanukah 5750*)

Zos Chanukah is a time for blessing someone not yet blessed with children. This is because Chanukah is a time of the revelation of the thirteen attributes of mercy. These are reflected in the thirteen words of the B'rachah, "L'hadlik Ner Chanukah." (*Shabbos Parshas Mikeitz, Zos Chanukah 5713/1952*)

In the sefer Me'or Einayim, R. Menachem Nachum of Chernobyl writes that the possuk, "Orachti Ner Li'meshichai," ~ "I prepare a candle for my anointed one (Moshiach)," refers to Chanukah Candles.

Oil or wicks left over in the Menorah can't be used (unless, before lighting, you specified intention to be able to use them). They should be burned without deriving benefit. The oil in the bottle can be used for any purpose.

***Always practice safety first near flames!***

# Kislev 5786 Calendar

**Rosh Chodesh Kislev**  
**Kislev 1/November 21/Friday**

**Toldos**

**Kislev 2/November 22**

Light Candles Friday November 21: **4:28**  
Shabbos Ends: **5:31**  
Last Time to Read Shema: **9:04**

**Vayetzei**

**Tes Kislev/November 29**

Light Candles Friday November 28: **4:26**  
Shabbos Ends: **5:29**  
Last Time to Read Shema **9:08**

**Yud Kislev/ Nov. 29/ Sunday**  
No Tachnun

**Vayishlach**

**Kislev 16/December 6**

Light Candles Friday December 5: **4:26**  
Shabbos Ends: **5:29**  
Last Time to Read Shema: **9:13**

**Yud Tes Kislev**

**Kislev 19/Dec 8-9**

**Monday night / Tuesday**  
**Redemption of the Alter Rebbe**  
No Tachnun

**Complete Redemption of the**  
**Alter Rebbe**  
**First Printing of the Tanya**

**Vayeishev**

**Mevarchim Teves**

**Kislev 23/December 13**

Light Candles Friday December 12: **4:27**  
Tehillim: **8:15**  
Shachris: **10:00**  
Shabbos Ends: **5:30**  
Last Time to Read Shema: **9:17**

**Chanukah**

**Kislev 25 -Teves 2/**

**December 14-22**

Plag Haminchah/ December 22 **3:46**  
Sunset/December 2: **4:48**  
(Plag Hamincha & sunset  
change daily during Chanukah -  
check calendar)

**Start saying V'sein Tal Umatar**  
**L'Brochah at Ma'ariv**  
**Thursday night, December 4**

**Molad of Teves**

**Friday, December 20 2026**  
**2:22 (10 *chalakim*) AM**

**Rosh Chodesh Teves Day 1**

**Mikeitz**

**Shabbos Chanukah**

**Kislev 30/ December 20**

Light Candles Friday December 19: **4:29**  
Shabbos Ends: **5:32**  
Last Time to Read Shema: **9:21**

**Rosh Chodesh Teves Day 2**

**Teves 1/ December 21 /Sunday**

**Zos Chanukah**

**Teves 2/December 9-10**  
**Sunday night/ Monday day**



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## Directives of the Rebbe for Kislev - המעשה הוא העיקר

In the month of Kislev from Rosh Chodesh onward everybody should add in their Shiurim of Nigleh and Chassidus, if possible in a public manner. It should be from the teachings of the three founders of Chassidus, the Ba'al Shem Tov, the Maggid, and the Alter Rebbe. Those that are capable should also add something everyday from the Torah of each of the Rebbei'im. (*Sichos Kodesh 5749/1988*)

Aside from our own learning we, men and women, should see to it that others add in their learning too. (*Rosh Chodesh and Gimmel Kislev 5749*)

On special Yomim Tovim we should first learn Torah of the Rebbe for whom the day is significant, then add from the rest of the Rebbei'im, e.g. Yud Kislev we should first learn from the Torah of the Mittler Rebbe, then add from the rest of the Rebbei'im.

Make Farbrengens during the month of Kislev. Especially on the Yomim Tovim of Yud Kislev, and Yud Tes Kislev (*and Chanukah*). The Farbrengens should include the three pillars of the world, Torah, Tefillah and Gemilas Chassodim. (*Sichah Yud Kislev 5748, Yud Tes Kislev 5749*)

The Rebbe constantly stressed on Yud Tes Kislev that we should strengthen our learning of Chittas, especially since we are starting a new cycle of learning Tanya.

We should increase our involvement with Mivtzah Chanukah, distributing Menorahs etc.

*May we immediately merit to participate  
in the lighting of the Menorah  
in the Beis Hamikdash I*