

ONCE UPON A CHASSID

The Wisdom and the Whimsy
The Fire and the Joy

Stories, Anecdotes & Sayings
translated and adopted from the writings of the
Rebbes and Chassidim of Chabad Lubavitch
Arranged in conjunction with the 54 sections of the Torah

By Yanki Tauber

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IN LOVING MEMORY OF
 Horav **Schneur Zalman Halevi** עי"ה
 ben Horav **Yitzchok Elchonon Halevi** הי"ד
Shagalov
 Passed away on 21 Tamuz, 5766
 Reb **Dovid Asniel** ben Reb **Eliyahu** עי"ה
Ekman
 Passed away on 5 Sivan - Erev Shavuot, 5765
 Mrs. **Devora Rivka** bas Reb **Yosef Eliezer** עי"ה
Marenburg
 Passed away on the second day
 of Rosh Chodesh Adar, 5766
 Reb **Yitzchok Moshe** (Ian)
 ben Reb **Dovid Asniel** עי"ה
Ekman (Santiago, Chile)
 Passed away on the 24th day of Shevat, 5769
 ת. נ. צ. ג. ה.

AND IN HONOR OF
 Mrs. **Esther Shaindel** bas **Fraidel Chedva** שתח'ל
Shagalov

DEDICATED BY
 Rabbi & Mrs. **Yosef Y.** and **Gittel Rochel** שיחי
Shagalov

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Rabbi Yosef Y. Shagalov,
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32:9

יעקב חבל נחלתו

Jacob is the rope of His inheritance

The relationship between a Jew and his G-d is like a rope: the more the Jew pulls away, the taunter the bond grows; finally, the mounting pressure causes him to rebound with an even greater force of attraction than before...

Zvi Yair

The Wayward Horse

Near Lubavitch there lived a chassid who had married off his daughter to an extremely talented Torah scholar. The proud father-in-law promised to provide for the newlyweds so that the young man could devote himself entirely to his studies.

But after a while, the promising prodigy fell into bad company, neglected his studies, and began to veer off to decidedly unsavory pursuits. After much effort, the distraught father-in-law managed to persuade the young man to see Rabbi Menachem Mendel of Lubavitch.

Once Upon A Chassid

“Tell me,” said the Rebbe to the young genius, whose new-found interests included horse racing, “what’s so great about a swift horse? Say that it can gallop twenty *versts* in the time it takes the average horse to go four; but should it take a wrong turn, it will carry its rider further and further from his goal - at five times the speed!”

“You have a point,” agreed the young man. “In such a case the swiftness of the horse has become a disadvantage.”

The Rebbe’s next words penetrated the young man’s heart: “But remember, as soon as the horse realizes that it has gone astray, it can regain the right path that much faster than his weaker brother...”

Source:

Shmu'os V'sipurim ["Sayings and Stories"] by
Rabbi Raphael Nachman Kahan, vol. 11*, p. 48.

*. Correction: Vol. 2.

BESURAS HAGEULO

The Announcement Of The Redemption

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May it be G-d's Will - and this is the essential point - that each and every one of us should become a "shaliach" (a messenger) to inform oneself, one's family, and all the Jews around him or her that: "**Here he [Moshiach] comes.**"¹ and "Behold, this is our G-d... this is the L-rd for whom we hoped."²

(Note that the word "this" [indicating a clear recognition] is mentioned twice.)³ and "Behold, David the Anointed King" [is here] - and therefore *Eliyahu HaNavi* [the prophet] already appeared a day earlier in T'verya [Tiberius]⁴ to announce the arrival of our righteous Moshiach.

It may be suggested that, since Moshiach can come any day - "I await his coming **every day**"⁵ - and since *Eliyahu HaNavi* must announce Moshiach's arrival the day before, that therefore *Eliyahu HaNavi* **actually comes every day** to T'verya and announces the coming of Moshiach. The announcement is directed particularly to those who put themselves in a position of "I await his coming every day," even though (as is the custom of *Chabad*)⁶ they do not actually articulate this verbally, but only think about it. [The announcement is made specifically to us] when we recite [this year],⁷ from the well-known Psalm, the verse: "I have found My

1. Expression used in *Shir HaShirim* [Song of Songs], 2:8.

2. *Yeshayahu [Isaiah]*, 25:9. See end of [tractate] *Ta'anis*.

3. *Shemos Rabbah*, end of chapter 23.

4. See *Eiruvim* 43b: Eliyahu has arrived yesterday... to the Great Court." In turn, the Great Court will first be restored in T'verya [Tiberius]" Rambam, *Hilchos Sanhedrin*, end of chapter 14.

5. Twelfth of the "Thirteen Principles of Faith."

6. See *Likkutei Sichos*, vol. IX, p. 282 ff.

7. [It is a Chassidic custom to recite Psalms corresponding to one's age as

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servant David, I have anointed him with My holy oil."⁸

...Added emphasis should be placed on all of the above this year, for two reasons. First, this year it is customary to recite the Psalm, which makes reference to the coming of *Moshiach*, when it states: "I have found my servant David, I have anointed him with my holy oil." In addition, this year we have reached the milestone of forty years since the passing of the Previous Rebbe, at which time "G-d has given you a heart to know and eyes to see and ears to hear."⁹ These [being a "*shaliach*" to announce "Behold he comes" and hearing Eliyahu's pronouncement because "I await him every day"] become even more significant since seven days have already passed since we entered into the year [57]51 - תשא"י which Jews have designated and disseminated as the year in which אראנו נפלאות - Avenu Niflaos - I will show him wonders, following the initials of the year.

(From the talk of Wednesday, Parshas Beracha, 7 Tishrei 5751)

well the Psalm corresponding to the Rebbe's age. This sicha was said during the Rebbe's 89th year. Translator's note.]

8. 89:21.

9. Tavo 29:3.

לעילוי נשמת

הו"ח אי"א נו"נ התמים

ר' שמואל יעקב

בן ר' משה ע"ה

פינק

רודף צדקה וחסד

ביתו פתוח לרווחה

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במוסדותיו של כ"ק אדמו"ר נשיא דורנו

אב מסור ונתון וזכה שבניו וצאצאיו

הולכים בדרך התורה והמצוות

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ה'י מקושר בלב ונפש

לכ"ק אדמו"ר נשיא דורנו

נפטר בשם טוב

י"ט טבת ה'תשע"ט

ת. נ. צ. ב. ה.

(מנוסח המצבה)

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IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Reb Reuvein ben Reb Mordechai Yaakov HaKohen ע"ה
Caplan

Passed away on 11 Tishrei, 5778

ת. נ. צ. ב. ה.

AND IN HONOR OF HIS WIFE - שתבלחט"א
Mrs. Elka bas Raizel שתי' Caplan
May she go from strength to strength
in health, happiness, Torah and *mitzvot*.

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