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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** ע"ה
 ben Horav **Yitzchok Elchonon Halevi** הי"ד
Shagalov
 Passed away on 21 Tamuz, 5766
 Reb **Dovid Asniel** ben Reb **Eliyahu** ע"ה
Ekman
 Passed away on 5 Sivan - Erev Shavuot, 5765
 Mrs. **Devora Rivka** bas Reb **Yosef Eliezer** ע"ה
Marenburg
 Passed away on the second day
 of Rosh Chodesh Adar, 5766
 Reb **Yitzchok Moshe** (Ian)
 ben Reb **Dovid Asniel** ע"ה
Ekman (Santiago, Chile)
 Passed away on the 24th day of Shevat, 5769
 ת.נ.צ.ב.ה.
 AND IN HONOR OF
 Mrs. **Esther Shaindel** bas **Fraidel Chedva** שתחיל
Shagalov
 DEDICATED BY
 Rabbi & Mrs. **Yosef Y. and Gittel Rochel** שיחי
Shagalov

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IN LOVING MEMORY OF
 Mrs. **Roneete Mona Mina** bas Reb **Zev** ע"ה **Kurtzman**
 Passed away on 9 Cheshvan, 5783

ת.נ.צ.ב.ה.
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 Chabad-Lubavitch community of California שיחי
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IN LOVING MEMORY OF
 OUR DEAR FRIEND AND COPY EDITOR
 Rabbi **Benyomin Daniel (Brad)** ben Reb **Ephraim** ע"ה **Hoffman**
 Passed away on 24 Tamuz, 5783

ת.נ.צ.ב.ה.
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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** שתחי **Caplan**
May she go from strength to strength
in health, happiness, Torah and *mitzvot*.
* * *

IN LOVING MEMORY OF A DEAR FREIND
Reb **Yosef Yisroel** ben Reb **Sholom** ע"ה **Rosner**
Passed away on 7 Menachem-Av, 5777
ת. נ. צ. ב. ה.

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27:5

לא תניף עליהם ברזל

*And there you shall build an altar to
the Lord your G-d, an altar of stones:
you shall not lift up an iron tool upon
them*

Iron was created to shorten the life of man,
and the altar was created to lengthen the life
of man. It is therefore not fitting that the
shortened shall be lifted upon the lengthened.

Talmud, Midos 3:4

Its [the Torah's] ways are ways of pleasant-
ness, and all its paths are peace.

Proverbs 3:17

The Noseless Mirror

Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi once received a silver
snuffbox as gift. But the Rebbe did not want to put it to its
intended use, and remarked: "There is one part of the body
which is not constantly seeking gratification - the nose.
Should I train it, too, to be a pleasure-seeker?"

Instead, Rabbi Schneur Zalman found a more lofty use for the gift: he detached the snuffbox's cover and used it as a mirror to help him center the *teffilin* on his head.

This incident was once related to Rabbi Schneur Zalman's grandson, Rabbi Menachem Mendel of Lubavitch. As the one telling the anecdote described how Rabbi Schneur Zalman "broke off" the cover of the snuffbox, Rabbi Menachem Mendel remarked: "No, no, my grandfather never broke anyone or thing. He merely removed the hinge-pin which connected the upper part to the lower."

* * *

Said the Lubavitcher Rebbe *shlitah*:

The deeper significance of Rabbi Menachem Mendel's clarification is this: Rabbi Schneur Zalman would never have "**broken off**" the cover. True, his entire life was devoted to sublimating the ordinary and elevating the mundane. But he taught that the way to deal with the material world is not to repress or crush it, but to gently detach the upper from the lower: to extract, by harmonious and peaceful means, its lofty potentials from their lowly enmeshments.

Source:

Told by Rabbi Menachem M. Schneersohn, the Lubavitcher Rebbe *shlita*, Passover 1960.

BESURAS HAGEULO The Announcement Of The Redemption

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A special lesson must be derived from all of the above with respect to the Redemption which -- according to all the signs -- must come imminently and immediately... Since according to all the signs the Redemption should have come long ago, we must apply [the verse that describes the recitation that accompanied the bringing of the first fruits to the Temple] "you shall answer and say before the L-rd your G-d"¹ to the special supplication of "Until when"?! [In conformance with the Talmudic commentary that the recitation must be made in a "loud voice," the supplication "Until when" must also] be made in a loud voice. This request is particularly appropriate in the month of Elul when "anyone who wants has permission to greet Him and He receives them all with a gracious countenance and shows to everyone a smiling face."²... Let the Redemption occur already in actuality!

(From the talk of Shabbos Parshas Tavo, 21 Elul 5751)

1. Our parsha 26:5.

2. Likkutei Torah, Parshas Re'eh 32:1.