

# מתי יגיעו מעשי למעשה אבותי?

{תנא דבי אליהו-  
רבה, סרק כ"ה}

גדולי ארץ ישראל



TORAHUMESORAH





הרב שמואל סלנט  
1816-1909



# הרב שמואל סלנט

*Born in Poland*

*Learned by Reb  
Itzel Volozhin*

*Married Daughter of  
Reb Zundel Salant*

*Rav Harashi of the  
Yishuv Hayashan*

## Harav Shmuel Salant

zt"l was born 200 years ago in Bialystok, Poland. He was a brilliant person, a man who was completely immersed in Limud Hatorah. He became known as the "Iluy of Kadon". Rav Shmuel Salant learned in the famous yeshiva of Volozhin in Europe, under the leadership of Reb Itzel Volozhin. He merited learning in Volozhin at the same time as famous Gedolei Yisroel, such as the Beis Halevi and the Netziv.

Rav Shmuel Salant married the daughter of Reb Zundel Salant, who was the Rebbe of Reb Yisroel Salanter. Reb Zundel Salant decided to move to Eretz Yisroel in 1840. Reb Shmuel and his family joined him and they left Europe to settle in Eretz Yisroel.

Eretz Yisroel at that time did not have frum communities set up as they are today. Reb Shmuel Salant worked hard to establish Yerushalayim as a thriving, frum Torah



community. He was responsible for every aspect of living in Yerushalayim. (The yishuv, all minhagim, etc.) He devoted a lot of time to the collection of funds in Lithuania and Poland to help all of the impoverished people of the old Yishuv of Yerushalayim. Rav Shmuel Salant founded the Rabbi Meir Baal Haneis Salant Charity Fund to help provide for the poor people of Yerushalayim. He was also instrumental in founding the Bikur Cholim Hospital. Rav Shmuel Salant became Rav Harashi (Chief Rabbi) of the "Yishuv Hayashan" in the old city of Yerushalayim in 1871. Nothing happened in Yerushalayim without Rav Shmuel Salant! He diligently led the community in every aspect of its growth for almost seventy years! The Jewish population in Yerushalayim grew from 5,000 to 30,000 during the period of Rav Shmuel Salant's leadership of the city.

Rav Shmuel Salant founded Yeshivas Eitz Chaim for boys, which exists until today. Until that point, only the boys whose parents could afford a private Melamed were able to learn. Rav Shmuel Salant realized this and worked hard to establish a formal school system where all children can learn Torah together in one organized location. Rav Shmuel Salant looked after all the needs of the Talmidim, always making sure that they had enough food and proper clothing.

Reb Shmuel Salant was a brilliant man who was able to lead the city of Yerushalayim for close to seventy years until he was niftar in 1909.

## Pay The Debt

Rav Shmuel Salant was notorious for his outstandingly sharp mind and his amazing perception. One Shabbos, Rav Shmuel Salant approached Reuvein, a resident of Yerushalayim, and said to him: "I know that Shimon owes you money. Go to his house on Motzoei Shabbos as soon as you possibly can to get the money from him. Don't let him leave until he pays the debt..." Reuvein was taken aback by Rav Shmuel Salant's instructions. He asked Rav Shmuel Salant

1816



how he knows that Shimon is leaving town. Rav Shmuel Salant answered, "I saw Shimon in shul. He was asking for an Aliya. This means that he plans to leave town. I thought of your plight immediately and I therefore gave you this suggestion."





הרב יהושע לייב דיסקינד  
1818-1898



# הרב יהושע לייב דיסקין

*Born in Horodna,  
Lithuania*

*Rav of  
Yerushalayim*

*Established first  
Yishuvim in Eretz Yisroel*

## Harav Yehoshua Leib

zt"l was born in Horodna, Lithuania. His father, Rav Binyomin Diskin, was the Rav of the city. Rav Yehoshua Leib's brilliance was already apparent as a young child. He loved to learn Torah diligently and in great depth.

Rav Yehoshua Leib's father Rav Binyomin was serving as the Rav of Lomza when he passed away. The people of Lomza begged Rav Yehoshua Leib to assume his father's position. He accepted the offer and became an extremely beloved and respected Rav at the age of 25. The people of Lomza noticed that Rav Yehoshua Leib's face lit up from his constant Torah learning. They therefore called him "The Malach".

Rav Yehoshua Leib served as Rav in many other cities as well, such as Mezritch, Kovno, Shklov, and Brisk in Lithuania. Rav Yehoshua Leib became known as the "Brisker



Rav' after he assumed the position as the Rav of Brisk.

Years later, in 1878, Rav Yehoshua Leib moved to Eretz Yisroel where he was warmly welcomed. He settled in Yerushalayim for the next twenty one years. He became recognized as the leading Rabbinic authority in Yerushalayim. He was widely known among the Gedolim of that generation for his ability to answer all sorts of complicated halachic questions. He also established the Ohel Moshe Yeshiva where his astounding brilliance in Torah was appreciated by all of his talmidim.

Rav Yehoshua Leib Diskin worked very hard to help all those around him in need. He helped to establish the first Yishuvim (settlements) in Eretz Yisroel. He is thus very well known for his countless acts of chesed that he performed for his fellow brethren in Eretz Yisroel.

Rav Yehoshua Leib founded an Orphanage Home in Yerushalayim in 1881 for children who did not have a home. He remained very dedicated to this cause, and this home became known as The Diskin Orphan Home.

Erev Rosh Chodesh Shevat (in 1898))was an incredibly sad day for all of Yiddishkeit, especially for those living in Yerushalayim. The beloved Rav and Tzaddik of Yerushalayim, Rav Yehoshua Leib Diskin, was niftar. Rav Yehoshua Leib's unique greatness in Torah and Chesed had a tremendous influence on all who merited being in his presence.

## Tears At The Kosel

It is known that Rav Yehoshua Leib Diskin did not visit the Kosel Hamaaravi to daven, as all others in Klal Yisroel do. Why was this?

Rav Yehoshua Leib decided that it would be best if he did not go to the Kosel because of what happened when he went there for the first time after arriving in Eretz Yisroel.





Upon arriving at the Kosel, Rav Yehoshua Leib completely broke down, crying bitter tears for the loss of the Bais Hamikdash. Rav Yehoshua Leib could not be consoled!! The sight of the Kosel Hamaaravi evoked such intense emotions in Rav Yehoshua Leib that he decided it would be better if he did not go to the Kosel again until the coming of Moshiach!

## Lost And Found

The 'Maggid' of Yerushalayim, Rebbe Yisroel Binyamin Lempert, once went to visit Rav Yehoshua Leib on his way home from davening at the Kosel. They sat down together and began speaking Divrei Torah together. Shortly after, the Maggid discovered that the silk belt that he was wearing had fallen off, probably on the way to the Kosel.

"Oh, I must have lost my silk belt on the way to the Kosel", exclaimed the Maggid, visibly upset.

"Stay in my house for a while and maybe your belt will be found", answered Rav Yehoshua Leib. Without the Maggid noticing, Rav Yehoshua Leib summoned one of his family members to quickly go and buy a new belt for the Maggid. They then immersed themselves again in Limud haTorah...

A while later, the family member returned with a new silk belt and subtly put it on the floor near the table where Rav Yehoshua Leib and the Maggid were learning.

"Look, your silk belt has been found!" exclaimed Rav Yehoshua Leib as he pointed to the floor.

"Baruch Hashem! Thank you for finding it!" answered the Maggid.

Rav Yehoshua Leib had a special ability to make everyone happy and to figure out how to help people solve their problems.





ה'תרצ"ב

הרב יוסף חיים זוננפלד

רב של ירושלים 1849-1932



# הרב יוסף חיים זוננפלד

*Born in Hungary*

*Rav of Yerushalayim*

תלמידו של  
הרב דיסקין זצ"ל

ספר "שלחת חיים" -  
תשובות על גמרא, תורה, ש"ס

**Harav Yosef Chaim  
Sonenfeld** זי"ע was born in Hungary in 1849. Reb Yosef Chaim was really named Chaim at his Bris. However, he was once sick as a young man. His Rebbe, Rabbi Yehoshua Leib Diskin, the Gaon of Brisk, added on the name "Yosef" as a zechus for his refuah shelaima. "Yosef Chaim" literally means "He will add life", meaning that Hashem listened to everyone's tefillos and added on many more years to Reb Yosef Chaim's life! As a young boy, he loved to learn Torah. His hasmadah and grasp in learning far surpassed his young years!

Rav Yosef Chaim had a very deep yearning to live in Eretz Yisroel. He left his hometown as a young man to go and live in Eretz Yisroel. Rav Yosef Chaim became the Rav of Yerushalayim. He was also the mohel of many children in Yerushalayim.

Reb Yosef Chaim was involved in every aspect of the frum community in Eretz Yisroel.



He worked tirelessly with great tenacity to preserve yiddishkeit in Eretz Yisroel. Despite being so busy, Reb Yosef Chaim always made himself available to do chessed and to give support and advice to all those in need.

## Drawing Water

One morning, Reb Yosef Chaim was returning home from Shacharis. He noticed two young boys, ages six and seven, struggling to draw water from a well and pour it into pitchers to bring home for their families. Reb Yosef Chaim stopped and took over this task. He felt that it was too dangerous for the little boys to be leaning over the well in order to reach the water.

This story is just one of many examples of Reb Yosef Chaim's warm heart and keen sensitivity to the needs of children and adults!

## All In A Name

One year on Purim, Reb Yosef Chaim brought Mishloach manos very early in the morning to his Rebbe, Rav Yehoshuah Leib Diskind. His Rebbe praised Rav Yosef Chaim for being such a "Zariz" and coming so early on Purim morning, stating happily: "zerizin makdimin l'mitzvos"! Reb Yosef Chaim smiled and explained:

"It was you,

my Rebbe, who turned me into a 'zariz'... Reb Yosef Chaim was referring to the time many years before that Rav Yehoshua Leib Diskin had added "Yosef" to his name, thus becoming "Yosef Chaim". The gematria of "Yosef Chaim" is equivalent to the gamatria of 'ZARIZ'!!!

1849  
1932









הרב אברהם ישעיהו קרליץ  
1878-1953 The Chazon Ish



# הרב אברהם ישעיהו קרליץ

*Born in Lithuania*

תלמידו של רב איסר  
גלמן מליז

מחבר ספר חזון איש

מייסד הישיבה החרדית  
בבני ברק

Harav Avrohom  
Yeshayahu Karelitz <sup>zt'l</sup>, was  
born in 1879 in the town of Kosova, Lithuania.  
His father, Harav Shmayahu Yosef, served as  
Rav of the town. As early as his childhood, the  
Chazon Ish exhibited outstanding diligence  
in Torah, Middos, and Yiras Shamayim. The  
Chazon Ish made a lifelong commitment on  
the day of his Bar Mitzvah to learn Torah  
"lishmah" (strictly for the sake of the mitzvah)  
for the rest of his life!

In 1911, the Chazon Ish published his  
first Sefer. He called it Sefer "Chazon Ish".  
"Ish" was an acronym for his name, Avrohom  
Yeshayahu - אברהם ישעיהו. That is why  
Harav Avrohom Yeshaya Karelitz became  
known as the "Chazon Ish".. חזון איש

In 1933, the Chazon Ish moved from  
Vilna in Lithuania to Eretz Yisroel. He settled  
in the town of Bnei Brak. He lived in a tiny two  
room apartment, yet his home was "large"  
enough to be open to everyone at all times.



The Chazon Ish's diligence in Torah, Middos, and Yiras Shamayim had a remarkable influence on everyone around him. He became accepted as one of Klal Yisroel's greatest authorities in Halacha of all times. The Chazon Ish was truly a leader of the generation. People seeking his counsel and brachos flocked to his humble home in Bnei Brak from all over the world. His brilliance in Torah and Halacha, his exceptional warmth, and his countless acts of tzedakah and chessed made him the beloved and revered Gadol that he was.

All of Klal Yisroel benefitted greatly from the life work of the Chazon Ish. He dedicated himself to the building of Torah in Eretz Yisroel in the post-war era. He set up the new Yishuv of Bnei Brak as a center of Torah. He also became a strong Torah authority for Klal Yisroel. The Chazon Ish worked very hard toward the complete observance of Shemittah in Eretz Yisroel. He succeeded in reawakening the Jews of Eretz Yisroel to keep this special Mitzvah!

The Chazon Ish was niftar in 1953. Although he was not blessed with children, his famous and widely used seforim are his namesake!

## The Linen Store

The wife of the Chazon Ish, Basya, ran a linen store. The Chazon Ish would sometimes go to the store at night to help his wife complete the store's paperwork. One night, the Chazon Ish had a certain bad feeling. He sensed that the Police would come to his wife's store and stir up trouble for them. (The Russian Police very often hurt the Jews in many ways and were not friendly to them at all!) Because of these feelings, on that night, as a precaution, the Chazon Ish and his wife moved all of their merchandise from the store into their house. Lo and behold, the police arrived the next day only to



find the store empty. The Chazon Ish and his wife were miraculously spared much anguish!

## Impressions

The Chazon Ish frequently visited Reb Chaim Ozer Grodzenski in Vilna. Reb Chaim Ozer was the leader of the Torah world at that time. He noticed a Sefer on his table called "Shaarei Tevunah". The Chazon Ish read the Sefer and he really liked it. The Chazon Ish found out that the author was Rav Yaakov Yisroel Kanievsky, who later became known as the Steipler Gaon. He proposed a shidduch to Rav Yaakov Yisroel, his own sister, Miriam Karelitz, without even meeting him! They got married!





הרב אריה לויז  
1885-1969



# הרב אריה לוינ זצ"ל

*Born in Poland*

*Learned in Volozhin*

*Tzaddik of Yerushalayim*

מנהיג של ישיבת  
עץ חיים

**Rarav Aryeh Levin** zt"l was born in 1885 in Urla, a small village in Poland. He spent many years learning in various great yeshivos, including Slonim, Slutsk, Volozhin and Brisk. In 1905, at the age of 19, Reb Aryeh came to live and learn Torah in Eretz Yisroel.

In 1917, Reb Aryeh became the Mashgiach of the great Yeshivas Eitz Chaim, where Reb Isser Zalman Meltzer was the Rosh Yeshiva. Reb Aryeh Levin took care of every aspect of his talmidim's development; their learning, their middos, their physical needs (shoes, clothing, food...), and all of their problems. Reb Aryeh was well known for his outpouring of Rachmanus for others no matter who they were, and for his tremendous Ahavas Yisroel.

Reb Aryeh Levin cared very much for all the people around him. Beginning in 1927, he took a great interest in the plight of Jewish prisoners in Yerushalayim. These prisoners were being held for various unfortunate reasons in a



jail known as the "Russian Compound". He visited them frequently, davened with them and also brought messages back and forth to their families. Reb Aryeh treated the prisoners with love and compassion, and would sit with them and offer them soft words of encouragement. Reb Aryeh Levin was well known as the "Father of the Prisoners".

Every single Friday night, Reb Aryeh would go and visit sick people in the hospital. He would bring along his friendship, comfort, and the food that his Rebbetzin Chana had lovingly prepared. Reb Aryeh Levin became known as the "Tzaddik of Yerushalayim", because a "Tzaddik" he truly was!

## The Greatest Gift Of all

Reb Aryeh Levin married Tziporah Chana Shapira, the daughter of Rav David Shapira, a Rav in Kovno. Rav Aryeh was very poor and he had a very simple wedding. He very badly wanted to give his Kallah a present after the Chuppah, just as other Chassanim do. However, he was so poor that he could not even buy for his Kallah a small gift. Rav Aryeh thought of a great gift to give his Kallah that wouldn't "cost". He presented her with the unique gift of these words: "I will always say that you are right if we may ever disagree". This was a gift that was priceless, the gift of being "Mevater". Lo and behold, his Kallah, Tzipporah Chana, gave him the same "gift" in return!

The story is told that one time Reb Aryeh Levin's Rebbetzin hurt her foot. Reb Aryeh accompanied her to the doctor. When the doctor asked what was wrong, Reb Aryeh Levin responded; "My wife's foot hurts US"! Such was Reb Aryeh Levin's sincere empathy for his Rebbetzin and for all of Klal Yisroel!

## The Zechus Of Chesed

One day, Reb Aryeh Levin's Rebbetzin, Tziporah Chana, left her house to go to the





grocery store. She asked her sons to watch her baby, Shaina Chaya, for the few minutes that she would be away. When she came down to the street, an old man approached the Rebbetzin and asked her for a drink. She quickly ran back up the flight of stairs to get a drink for the thirsty man. She noticed upon entering her house that her sons, who were supposed to be watching the baby, were busy playing. Shaina Chaya was missing. She searched the house for her and found her drowning in the bathtub! She rushed to take her out of the water and take care of her. Afterwards, the Rebbetzin ran downstairs to give the poor old man a drink and to thank him. The man had disappeared... The Rebbetzin's act of chessed to the thirsty man had saved her baby's life! This baby grew up to become the mother of Rebbetzin Batsheva Kanievsky a"h!





הרב יוסף שלמה כהנמן  
1886-1979



# הרב יוסף שלמה להנצח

*Born in Lithuania*

*Learned With Reb  
Elchonon Wasserman*

*תלמידו של החפץ חיים*

*Rosh Yeshiva of  
Ponevezh*

Harav Yosef Sholom Kahaneman zt"l was born in 1886 in the town of Kuhl (Lithuania). He became known as the "Iluy of Kuhl" even as a young child. He went to learn in Telshe Yeshiva at the tender age of fourteen. He spent seven years learning there, and he developed close relationships in Telshe with Rav Eliezer Gordon zt"l and Rav Shimon Shkop zt"l. He then went on to learn in Novardok for a short while. Following that, Rav Yosef Shlomo went to Radin. He learned in the Chofetz Chaim's Yeshiva for three years, and developed a close relationship with the Chofetz Chaim zt"l and Rav Naftoli Trop zt"l. His Chavrusah there was Harav Elchonon Wasserman zt"l.

Harav Yosef Shlomo Kahaneman eventually became the Rav of Ponevezh in Lithuania, an extremely prestigious position. From then on, he became known as the Ponevezher Rav. During the years that he spent in Ponevezh, Rav Kahaneman established Yeshivos, a Girl's school, a Hospital, and an Old Age Home.

Rav Yosef Shlomo was the embodiment of Ahavas Yisroel. He was a kind, angelic man, full of drive and energy, with a mission to help Klal Yisroel. He led his community for twenty years until the years of the Holocaust approached. He managed to escape the war, but he sadly lost his wife and all but one of his sons in the Holocaust.

Upon arriving in Eretz Yisroel, Harav Yosef Shlomo set out to rebuild Torah from the ashes of Europe and to rescue his stricken fellow brethren. He bought a large piece of land in Bnei Brak. Rav Yosef Shlomo Kahaneman worked hard to establish in Bnei Brak the "Kiryat Hayeshiva", along with the huge Ponevezh Yeshiva that we all know of today!

Harav Yosef Shlomo Kahaneman's son, Harav Avraham Kahaneman, took over his father's position and serves as the Rosh Yeshivah of Yeshivas Ponevezh today.

## Lessons From The Torah

The Ponevezher Rav traveled very often in order to raise funds for Ponovezh Yeshiva in Eretz Yisroel. Rav Kahaneman was once in New York City on a fundraising trip. He took a subway to reach his destination. He had with him a briefcase loaded with cash, and he decided that it would be the safest if he sat on the briefcase while on the train. Two men on the subway spotted the Ponovezher Rav sitting down and they were carefully observing him. The Ponovezher Rav figured this out, and understood that he might be in danger. He planned in his mind a way to protect himself from being robbed by these men!

The Ponevezher Rav approached the two men and asked them for directions to his stop. They were more than happy to instruct him where to get off! When the subway approached the stop





that they had spoken about, the two robbers happily got off. Yet, the Ponevezher Rav very smartly stayed on the train! He was saved from being robbed by those men!

The Ponovezher Rav related this incident to many people. He explained an amazing insight. He said that when learning in Radin, the Chofetz Chaim taught him that the Torah is a blueprint for EVERYTHING in life - even for those mundane events in regular daily life! Therefore, the Ponovezher Rav, at the time of this impending robbery, was thinking Torah thoughts. He thought of Yaakov and Eisav; how Yaakov had told Eisav, "Go ahead of me!" (בראשית ל"ג: י"ד). And so, Rav Yosef Shlomo Kahanamen lead the "Eisavs", the robbers, to go ahead of him, right off the train!

## Eliyahu Hanavi

Harav Mordechai Schwab zt'l used to say over the following story. One time when Rav Yosef Shlomo Kahaneman was learning in Radin, he came to the Chofetz Chaim to speak to him. The Chofetz Chaim was behind closed doors. Rav Yosef Shlomo Kahaneman waited together with many others for the Chofetz Chaim to come out.

After some time, the Chofetz Chaim came out with an "old man" that he walked to the door.

When the Ponevezher Rav went in to speak to the Chofetz Chaim, he asked the Chofetz Chaim, "Who was that man that you walked out the door?"

The Chofetz Chaim looked very very surprised and responded, "You saw him?? Why didn't you ask him for a Bracha??"

The Chofetz Chaim was insinuating that this "old man" was none other than Eliyahu Hanavi, who no one else standing there saw, besides for the Ponovezher Rav!



# The Gift Of Vilna Shas

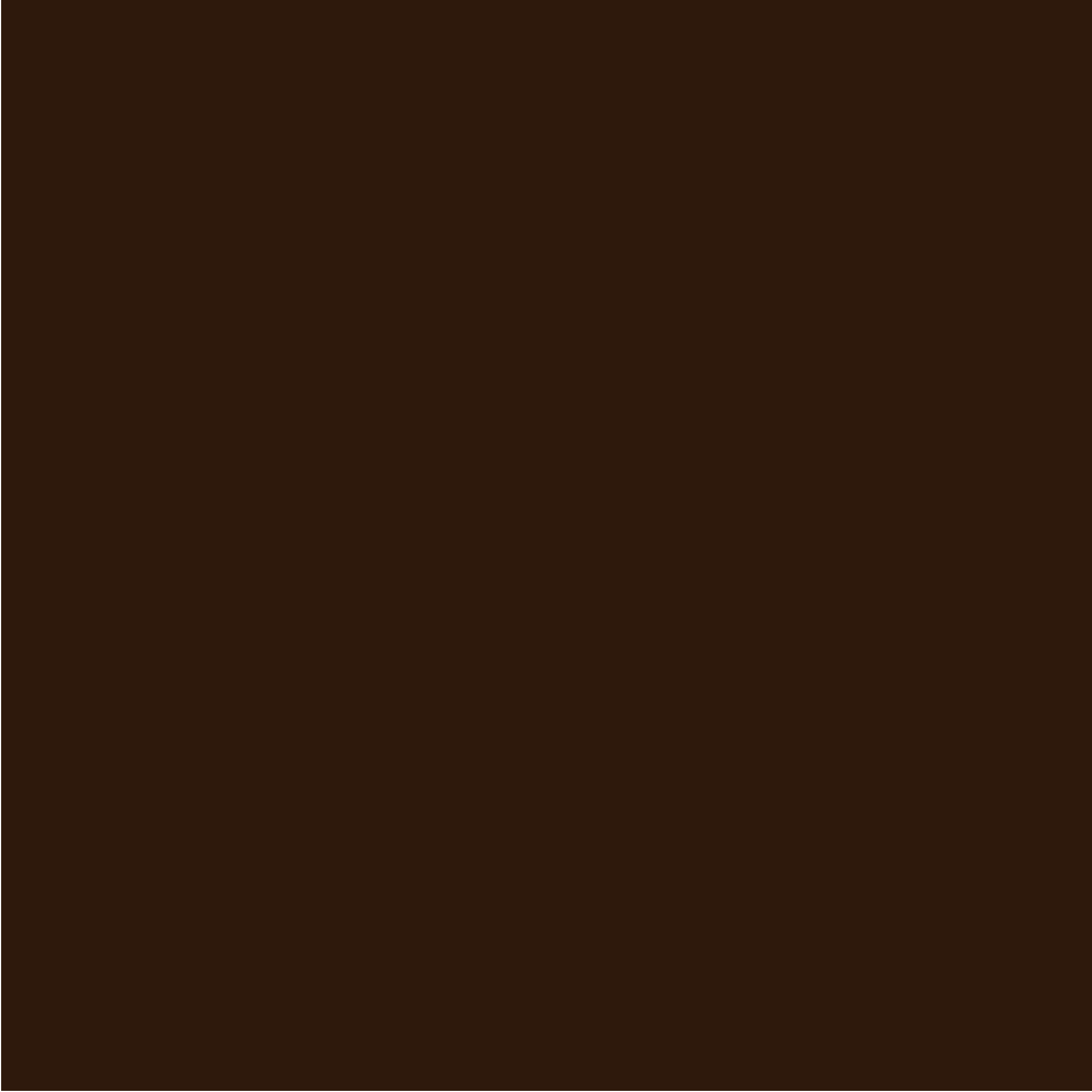
Rav Matisyahu Soloman Shlita relates this story.

Many admirers of the Ponevezher Rav wonder where his deep love and appreciation for Torah stem from. When the Ponevezher Rav was a young child, the well-known Vilna Shas was published. The Vilna Shas was a tremendous innovation to learning Gemara. The Vilna Shas included many, many Medroshim. It was proofread many times and did not contain any mistakes at all. The Vilna Shas also had a perfect binding, bound to last even with heavy usage. The Vilna Shas proved to be a true Kavod Hatorah!

One year on Purim, the city of Kuhl in Ponevezh (Europe) wanted to give their Rav, Rav Yosef Shlomo Kahaneman, a meaningful Mishloach Manos gift. They presented him with a brand new set of the Vilna Shas. This gift of "Kavod Hatorah" gave the Ponevezher Rav the inspiration and drive to painstakingly build Torah worldwide.











הרב אליעזר מנחם מן שך  
1894-2001



# הרב אלעזר מנחם מז שך זצ"ל

*Born in Lithuania*

תלמידו של רב איסר  
זלמן מליץ

כתב ספר אבי עזרי

*Rosh Yeshiva  
Ponovezh, Bnei Brak*

## Harav Elazar Menachem Mann Schach

zt"l was born in 1894 in Vabolnik, Lithuania. His father, Reb Ezriel, was a Rav and a Dayan. At a young age, Reb Ezriel sent his son to learn Torah in Ponovez (in Lithuania) under the guidance of Reb Itzele Ponovezher. From there, he went on to learn in Slabodka and Shtetl under the guidance of Reb Isser Zalman Meltzer.

Rav Schach served as the Rosh Yeshiva in Kletzk in Poland and also in Karlin-Stolin. During these years, Rav Schach visited Radin many times to learn with the Chofetz Chaim. He acquired many lessons from the Chofetz Chaim as to how to become a great leader!

In 1941, Rabbi Schach escaped from the war in Europe and arrived in Eretz Yisroel, where he settled and lived for the rest of his life. He was a Maggid Shiur in a few Yeshivos: Tel Aviv, Lomza, and Rechovot. In 1951, Rabbi Schach was called by the Ponovezher Rav, Rav Yosef Shlomo Kahaneman, to become the Rosh Yeshiva of Ponovezh in Bnei Brak.



(Ponovezh is from the largest Yeshivos in the world.) He accepted the position and remained there for nearly 50 years! Rav Schach produced thousands of talmidim and became a worldwide leader of Klal Yisroel.

Rav Schach was zocheh to live a very long and accomplished life of almost 107 years! He left behind a generation of talmidei chachomim as well as his well-known classic works of sefarim titled "Avi Ezri".

## Crossing The Street

Rav Schach zt"l was well-known for being completely immersed in his Torah learning at all times. His sharp focus on the sugyah "at hand" never wavered!

One morning, Rav Schach entered the Beis Medrash of Yeshivas Ponovezh clasping a little girl's hand. His talmidim looked on curiously as Rav Schach prepared for his Shiur, flanked by this little girl whom they had never seen before. One bochur asked the question that was on everyone's mind: "Is this the Rosh Yeshiva's granddaughter?"

Rav Schach looked at his talmid, not comprehending why he was asking such a question. He then followed the talmid's eyes and realized that he was holding this obedient little girl's hand!

Rav Schach smiled and explained, "This little girl asked me to take her across the street... I guess my mind was so involved in the sugya that I forgot that I was holding her hand, and she kept walking along with me!"

### The Missing Baal Tefillah

Rav Schach was a gadol who exhibited intense love and understanding for his fellow Yidden. One year, on the first day of Rosh Hashana, it was an hour before Mincha. A neighbor noticed Rav Schach leaving his

1894  
2001

apartment. The neighbor was curious as to where Rav Schach was headed at this hour, and decided to follow the Rosh Yeshiva from a distance. After a very long walk, Rav Schach was seen entering a building, climbing up many steps, and knocking on a door. A man opened the door and was visibly shocked and awed by his visitor! This man, whom Rav Schach was visiting, was the legendary Baal Tefillah of Yeshivas Ponovezh. He had suffered a heart attack shortly before Rosh Hashana and was forced to rest at home this year and not daven for the Amud as he usually did. Rav Schach painstakingly came to tell him how much he was missed in Ponovezh and how everyone truly yearned to hear his beautiful heartfelt tefillos.

Rav Schach displayed to all how important it is to be sensitive and caring to each member of Klal Yisroel!

It is no wonder that 400,000 people attended Harav Schach's levaya.





הרב יעקב ישראל קניבסקי  
1899-1985 The Steipler Gaon



# הרב יעקב ישראל קניבסקי

*The Steipler Gaon*

*Born in Ukraine*

כתב ספר קהילות יעקב, שערי  
תבונה, ברכת פרץ, חיי עולם

*Married Chazon Ish's  
Sister Miriam*

*Rosh Yeshiva of  
Novhardok*

**Harav Yaakov Yisroel  
Kanievsky** zt"l was born in the Ukraine.

His parents moved to Hornsteipel , a town in Russia, when he was a young boy. Reb Yaakov Yisroel became known as the "Steipler" because he came from Hornsteipel. Rav Yaakov Yisroel became sick with typhus as a young child. He miraculously survived, but was left hard of hearing. This disability did not deter Rav Yaakov Yisroel from achieving greatness throughout his life! He lost his father at the young age of eleven. Although it was so difficult for his mother to part with her beloved great son, she sent him to learn Torah in Novhardok, where he remained for many years. At the age of 19, Rabbi Yosef Yoizel Horowitz, the Rosh Yeshiva, sent him to set up a branch of the Novhardok Yeshiva in Rogochov. It was during those years in Rogochov that the Steipler was conscripted into the Russian army. He was "moser nefesh" to fully adhere to Torah and mitzvos when he was in the army, despite the



great hardships and sacrifices that he had to make. Fortunately, after some time, the Steipler managed to get discharged from the army. He then moved to Bialystok in Poland where he learned Torah under Rabbi Avraham Yoffen.

The Steipler wrote and published his first sefer, Shaarei Tevunah, in 1925. This sefer gained wide acclaim by everyone in the Torah world! The Chazon Ish (Rav Avrohom Yeshaya Karelitz) read the sefer as well. He was so impressed with it that he asked Rav Yaakov Yisroel to marry his sister Miriam without even meeting him first!! Rav Yaakov Yisroel indeed got married to the Chazon Ish's sister Miriam. He became the Rosh Yeshiva of Novhardok in Pinsk, Poland. The Chazon Ish moved to Eretz Yisroel and settled in Beni Brak in 1932. He encouraged the young couple, Rav Yaakov Yisroel and his wife Miriam, to move to Eretz Yisroel as well. The Steipler and his family listened and moved to Eretz Yisroel in 1934. He became the Rosh Yeshiva of Novardok in Bnei Brak.

The Steipler eventually completely dedicated himself to the study of Torah, and became known worldwide as a Gadol B'Yisroel. He wrote many important seforim, such as the famous sefer "Kehillas Yaakov". The Steipler devoted his entire life to Limud haTorah and Mitzvos. He hardly ever slept because he stayed up so late at night learning Torah. His love for Torah caused him to not even notice his lack of sleep! Additionally, there were always throngs of people from all over the world who came to see the Steipler and bask in his greatness. They would learn from him, seek his wise advice and help, and beseech him for Brachos.

Rav Chaim Kanievsky Shlita is the son of the Steipler Gaon, Rav Yaakov Yisroel Kanievsky.



## The "Warmth" Of Torah

When the Steipler was a young man, he went to learn in Homel, Russia under the guidance of the Alter of Novardok. In 1917, he was forced to become a soldier in the Russian army. One time, during the winter, the Russians sent him to stand outside throughout the night and guard the camp. They gave him a warm coat to wear, but the Steipler refused to wear it! He was afraid that the coat contained Shatnez (that it was made of wool and linen mixed together), and he did not want to transgress this Mitzvah.

As the night wore on, the Steipler started to feel very cold, but he would not put on the coat to warm himself up. Instead, he started to think about all the Torah that he had learned. He became so deeply immersed in his Torah thoughts, that he forgot how cold he was!! This made the time pass quickly. Before the Steipler knew it, the night was over!

## "Music" For Baby Chaim

The Steipler got married to Miriam Karelitz, (the Chazon Ish's sister) in 1926. They settled in the city of Pinsk where the Steipler gave shiurim to hundreds of talmidim in the Novardok Yeshivah. In 1928 (5688), a son was born to Rav Yaakov Yisroel and his wife. They named him Shmaryahu Yosef Chaim, named after two different grandfathers. This baby became known as Chaim. The Steipler would rock baby Chaim to sleep at night while he stayed up learning and singing Divrei Torah. The Steipler tied a rope to the baby's cradle so that he could rock him without having to stand up and disturb his learning!

One time, the Chazon Ish, who was the baby's uncle, came to visit. He heard Chaim singing all the Mesechtos in Shas exactly in his father's tune. The Chazon Ish was amazed! He was able to do so because he had been absorbing this Limud Torah in his environment since the day he was born. Chaim was not even two years old at the time!! The Chazon Ish commented that "Chaim is already a 'Baki B'Shas'". This comment was literally a "nevuah" of the Chazon Ish. The "baby" in this story was none other than Rav Chaim Kanievsky Shlita!





הרב יוסף שלום אלישיב  
1910-2012



# הרב יוסף שלום אלשיך זצ"ל

*Born in Lithuania*

*Posek Hador*

קובץ תשובות,  
ישיב משה

*Married Reb Aryeh  
Levine's Daughter*

Harav Yosef Shalom Elyashiv zt"l was one of the leading Poskim of our generation. He lived in Yerushalayim. His opinions and advice were sought after from all over the world. Rav Elyashiv was a huge Masmid who learned Torah uninterrupted for as long as twenty years straight!

Rav Elyashiv was an only child born to Rav Avrohom and Chaya Musha Elyashiv in 1910 in Lithuania. Rav Yosef Shalom's father, Rav Avraham Elyashiv, was a close talmid of the Chofetz Chaim. He was a Rav and Posek in Homel and in Eretz Yisroel. He was known as the "Homeler Rav". The Chofetz Chaim once came to Homel when Rav Yosef Shalom was five years old. He met with his father, Rav Avrohom, and he gave a special bracha to his son Yosef Shalom that he should grow up to love Torah and Mitzvos.

Reb Yosef Shalom moved with his parents to Eretz Yisroel when he was twelve years old. Rav Yosef Shalom never learned in a formal Yeshiva. He diligently learned one on



one with his father for many hours a day. He benefitted greatly from listening firsthand to his father's answers to halachic inquiries. This precious time spent with his illustrious father is what made Rav Elyashiv so befitting later on of becoming the Posek Hador. His father Rav Avrohom also founded the Beis Medrash Tiferes Bachurim in Meah Shearim.

Later on, when Rav Yosef Shalom Elyashiv was twenty years old, he married Reb Aryeh Levin's daughter, Shaina Chaya. Rav Elyashiv had 12 children; five sons and seven daughters. His oldest daughter was Batsheva, who later on married Rav Chaim Kanievsky Shlita. Rav Elyashiv took over his father's nightly shiur in Tiferes Bachurim after his father was niftar suddenly at the age of sixty one.

Rav Elyashiv became the leading Posek of our generation, and was zocheh to live for 102 years! Rav Elyashiv's Piskei Halacha are found in a four-volume set of Seforim titled "Kovetz Teshuvos". There are many more Seforim that have been published with Rav Elyashiv's Chiddushim on Gemara, Agadah, and the Haggadah shel Pesach.

## Remaining Silent

Rav Elyashiv's parents did not have children for 17 years. His mother, Chaya Musha, used to cry to Hashem, begging for a child. Chaya Musha had a neighbor who was at times very nasty. One day Chaya Musha had just finished hanging out on the clothesline all the laundry that she had painstakingly hand-washed. Her nasty neighbor walked by and cut the clothesline. All of the clean clothes fell onto the muddy ground and got ruined! Chaya Musha remained silent. She picked up her laundry, and started all over again. She did not tell anyone about this incident, not even her husband, Rav Avrohom Elyashiv!

Later on, the neighbor knocked on her door to apologize. She begged for mechila. She cried that her son became sick with a dangerously high fever,

1910  
2012

and she felt that this was a punishment for being so mean to Chaya Musha. Chaya Musha forgave her and davened for the neighbor's child. The boy recovered. One year later, Chaya Musha, gave birth to a baby boy! He was named Yosef Shalom.

## Repaying Kindness

One time, Rav Elyashiv took off time from his busy schedule to attend a Levaya in Yerushalyaim. Rav Elyashiv said over this story:

The niftar at this Levaya was Rav Elyashiv's neighbor many years before. One day, this neighbor noticed that Rav Elyashiv looked like he was disturbed about something. He inquired from Rav Elyashiv as to what was bothering him. Rav Elyashiv explained that he was about to get married, and although he was a very happy Chosson, he was extremely worried that no Bachurim would attend his wedding. He felt that since he never attended a regular Yeshiva, he did not create friendships with other Bachurim who could join him at his wedding. (Rav Elyashiv learned privately with his father Rav Avrohom.)

"Who will come and dance at my wedding?" He asked.

The neighbor immediately understood Rav Elyashiv's predicament and thus got to work. He gathered together a huge crowd of Bachurim who came to sing and dance at the wedding.

Rav Elyashiv came to the levaya of this old, caring neighbor as an ode of Hakoras Hatov for the tremendous Chesed that he had done for him so many years before!





ה'תש"ס

הרב חיים פינחס שיינבערג

1910-2012



# הרב חיים פינחס שיינבערג

*Born in Poland*

מנהיג ישיבת חפץ חיים  
ראש ישיבה תורה אור

*Wore at least  
300 pairs of Tzitzis*

מחבר טבעת החסן,  
מנחת חיים

Harav Chaim  
Pinchos Scheinberg *zt"l* was  
born in 1910 in Poland. He moved to America  
when he was nine years old. Rav Scheinberg  
married Basha, the daughter of Rabbi Yaakov  
Yosef Herman, in 1929. They lived in Mir in  
Poland for the first five years of their marriage.  
Rav Scheinberg also learned in the Kaminetz  
Yeshiva, and received Semicha from HaRav  
Baruch Ber Leibowitz.

In 1935, Rav Scheinberg and his family  
returned to America. Rav Scheinberg served as  
Mashgiach of Yeshivas Chofetz Chaim in New  
York for 25 years. Rav Scheinberg was well  
known for the warm and caring relationships  
that he had with all of his Talmidim, and for all  
the Chesed that he and his Rebbetzin did for so  
many people in their midst.

In 1965, Rav Scheinberg moved to  
Eretz Yisroel with his family to open up his  
own new Yeshiva, Yeshivas Torah Ohr. The  
Yeshiva settled in the brand new neighborhood  
of "Kiryas Mattersdorf". He was a devoted  
and beloved Rosh Yeshiva to hundreds upon



hundreds of talmidim. Aside from his complete devotion to his talmidim, Rav Scheinberg's home was open to all those who came to seek his counsel and brachos. Rav Chaim Pinchos Scheinberg was a world known Posek. His clarity in Halacha earned him great respect from all rabbanim, including R" Shlomo Zalman Auerbach zt"l. Rav Scheinberg lived in Eretz Yisroel with his family until he was niftar in 2012,. He lived to be 101 years old!

Rav Scheinberg was famous for the many (at least 300) pairs of Tzitzis that he wore every single day. He also always wore his Tefillin the entire day.

## Signatures

Rav Scheinberg zt"l used to do a lot of traveling around the world in order to collect funds for his Yeshiva in Eretz Yisroel. He was still traveling for the Yeshiva when he was already well into his eighties! Several years ago, the Rosh Yeshivah went to Cleveland, Ohio to fundraise. A man approached him there with a very brazen request. He explained that his son, who is an artist, drew a beautiful lifelike drawing of Rav Scheinberg. The man asked the Rosh Yeshiva if he would be willing to sign the drawing, explaining that the money derived from the sales of this drawing would benefit Yeshivas Torah Ohr in Yerushalayim. As soon as Rav Scheinberg heard that his Yeshivah would benefit, he took a pen out of his pocket and signed all the copies of the drawing!

## Tzitzis

Rav Scheinberg was famous for the many (up to 300) pairs of tzitzis that he wore every single day. He also always wore a pair of Tefillin on his head from morning until nightfall! Interestingly, the Rosh Yeshiva had two pairs of Tefillin; one very valuable pair that he would make a bracha on each morning and then take off, and another pair that he wore all day.

Rav Scheinberg never offered anyone a reason

1910  
2012



for his wearing so many pairs of Tzitzis, but he occasionally did hint to some. He once told someone that each pair is "another mitzvah".

One time, a non-frum Jew came to visit Rav Scheinberg. He asked Rav Scheinberg why he wears so many pairs of tzitzis.

"Do you wear Tzitzis?" Rav Scheinberg asked.

"No," admitted the man.

"So one of these pairs is for you!" said Rav Scheinberg.

Apparently, Rav Scheinberg took upon himself to wear as many pairs of Tzitzis as he possibly could in order to compensate for those who don't wear them at all!





הרב שלמה זלמן אורבך  
1910-1995



# הרב שלמה זלמן אורבך

*Born in Shaarei Chesed,  
Yerushalayim*

*Rosh Yeshiva  
Kol Torah Yerushalayim*

*תלמידו של רב איסר  
גלמן מלצר ובוסק הדור.*

*מחבר מאורי האש, מעדני ארץ,  
מנחת שלמה ופרוש שב שמעתא*

**Harav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach** zt"l was the Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshiva Kol Torah in Yerushalayim. He was the son of Harav Yehuda Leib Auerbach, the founder of Yeshivas Hamekubalim Shaar Hashamayim in Yerushalayim. Rav Shlomo Zalman was born in the Shaarei Chesed neighborhood of Yerushalayim. Harav Shlomo Zalman became known as the great Iluy (genius) of Yeshivas Eitz Chaim in Yerushalayim. He was very beloved by his Rosh Yeshiva, Rav Isser Zalman Meltzer. At the young age of twenty two, Rav Shlomo Zalman wrote a commentary on "Sheiv Shimatasa", a Sefer authored by Rav Aryeh Leib Heller zt"l. At the age of twenty five, he put out the Sefer "Meorei HaAish".

Rav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach was offered many positions of leadership in Eretz Yisroel. He accepted the position as Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshiva Kol Torah. He guided thousands of Talmidim there. Rav Shlomo Zalman also became known as one of the most prominent Torah authorities in the world, and his halachic decisions are widely accepted. He



wrote the sefer "Maadanei Eretz" related to the halachos of Shviis and Terumos.

Rav Shlomo Zalman was niftar in 1995. Hundreds upon thousands attended his Levaya. His own children follow in his footsteps and are all leaders of Klal Yisroel.

## Mah Nishtana

Rav Shlomo Zalman was known to always display a keen sensitivity to the feelings of children. He developed this sensitivity from an incident that happened to him when he was a very young boy. One year, on the first day of Pesach, the young Shlomo Zalman accompanied his father to daven at the Kosel HaMaaravi. They happened to meet on their way Rav Yosef Chaim Sonnenfeld, the Rav of Yerushalayim. The Rav bent down to little Shlomo Zalman and affectionately asked him if he asked the Mah Nishtana at the Seder.

"Of course," he answered.

Rav Yosef Chaim then asked him if he also asked the Mah Nishtana last year.

"Yes," was little Shlomo Zalman's reply.

Rav Yosef Chaim then responded in a joking fashion, "If your father answered for you the mah nishtana last year, why did you ask them again this year??"

Little Shlomo Zalman took him seriously, not realizing that the Rav of Yerushalayim was kidding with him. He burst out crying. The Rav patted his cheek and tried to calm him down....

Many years later, Rav Yosef Chaim Sonnenfeld wrote a beautiful Haskama for a

1910  
1995



Sefer that Rav Shlomo Zalman's father wrote, the Sefer Chacham Lev. The Rav included in his Haskama that the Sefer includes enlightening comments from the author's "outstanding son", Rav Shlomo Zalman. Rav Yosef Chaim wrote these lines in his Haskama in order to bring further comfort to Rav Shlomo Zalman, just in case he was still hurt by the comment that he had made to him so many years before on the first day of Pesach!

Rav Shlomo Zalman was very affected by Rav Yosef Chaim's sensitivity to his feelings. It left a strong impression on him, and it served as a lesson for him to always display extraordinary sensitivity to the feelings of children!

## Hasmodah

Rav Shlomo Zalman was known for his outstanding Hasmadah in Limud Hatorah, even at a very young age!! One day, while sitting and learning in Yeshiva, news got out that the first automobile ever will be shortly rolling down Rechov Yaffo in Yerushalayim. All of the boys in the Yeshiva wanted to see the first "horseless" wagon ride through the streets of Yerushalayim for the first time! All except for the young Shlomo Zalman, who remained glued to his chair in the bais medrash!!





הרב מיכל יהודה לפקוויטץ  
1914-2011



# הרב מיכל יהודה לפקוויטץ זצ"ל

*Born in Volozhin*

כתב חידושי שלמה, מנחת  
יהודה, המקח והמכר

תלמידו של  
רב שלמה היימן זצ"ל

Harav Michel Yehudah Lefkowitz zt"l was a renowned and respected leader of Klal Yisroel and a Rosh Yeshiva for over seventy years. He was born in Volozhin in 1914. As a young Bachur, he learned in Vilna under Reb Shlomo Heiman zt"l, whom he became very close with. Rav Michel Yehudah moved to Eretz Yisroel in 1936 and lived in Bnei Brak. He developed a close relationship there with the Chazon Ish zt"l, who later was his shadchan. Rav Michel Yehuda served as a Maggid Shiur in his father in law's Yeshiva, Yeshiva Tiferes Zion, beginning in 1940. (His father in law was Rav Avrohom Gershonowitz.) Rav Michel Yehudah also served as the Rosh Yeshiva of Ponovezh L'Tzeirim (High School) beginning in 1954 together with Rav Aharon Leib Shteinman Shlita, for over fifty years. (Ponovezh is one of the largest Yeshivos in the world.)

Rav Michel Yehudah had thousands of talmidim. He was very close to each and every one of them! He was mechanech his talmidim with warmth, love and acceptance.



Rav Michel Yehudah zt"l was known for his humility, the warm smile that he always had, and for the respect that he showed to each and every person that he encountered in his life. Rav Michel Yehudah wrote many Seforim. He also published "Chidushei Shlomo", the teachings of his beloved Rebbe, Reb Shlomo Heiman.

## Achilas Matzoh

A few years ago, on the last day of Pesach, Rabbi Michel Yehudah Lefkowitz discovered that he had an entire unopened box of Matzah that was left over. Rabbi Michel Yehudah Lefkowitz was overjoyed with this discovery, because, according to the Vilna Gaon, each Kazayis of Matzah that a person eats on Pesach is equivalent to an extra Mitzva!

Rav Michel Yehudah sat down on Yom Tov afternoon and ate the entire box of Matzah. He was in his nineties, and understandably, this would not be easy for anyone, let alone for a man his age! It took Rav Michel Yehudah two hours to eat the Matzah. He smiled with every bite. His face radiated the pure joy that he felt for doing the Mitzvah.

## Kavod

Reb Michel Yehudah grew up in Volozhin and learned there. One time, the great Chofetz Chaim came to Volozhin. It was an historical and special visit. Everybody in Volozhin was eager to greet the Chofetz Chaim!

All the talmidim of the Yeshiva left the Bais Medrash to see the Chofetz Chaim. All except for Reb Michel Yehudah Lefkowitz. Why would he not join the crowds and go? Did he not want to see the Chofetz Chaim?

He certainly did. He yearned to be in the presence of such a Gadol Yet, Reb Michel Yehudah

1914  
2011



did not want to leave the Bais Medrash empty. He felt that it was not Kavod for the Bais Medrash that it would be completely emptied out. He therefore stayed behind to keep the Bais Medrash "full" with his Torah learning!

## The Esrog Tree

The Chazon Ish zt"l once gave Rav Michel Yehuda zt"l seeds that were taken from his own Esrog and instructed Rav Michel Yehudah to plant them. The Chazon Ish promised him that he would have a lot of Bracha from this future Esrog tree. Rav Michel Yehudah diligently watered this plant, and, sure enough, the Bracha of the Chazon Ish came to fruition. The seeds grew into a beautiful flourishing Esrog tree which bore hundreds upon hundreds of magnificent Esrogim. All of the Gedolim (including the Chazon Ish, the Steipler Gaon) used Esrogim from Reb Michel Yehudah's tree.

The beauty of Reb Michel Yehudah's esrog tree was very well-known across Eretz Yisroel and across the entire world. Additionally, hundreds of esrogim orchards, known as "Pardesim", originated from Reb Michel Yehudah's special Chazon Ish Esrog tree. Under normal circumstances, an Esrog tree produces fruit for 5 to 7 years. However, Rav Michel Yehudah's Esrog tree produced hundreds upon hundreds of clean, high quality fruit for over 50 years!!

Reb Michel's greatness had breathed life and vibrancy into this unique Esrog tree for as long as he lived. Sadly, after Reb Michel Yehudah was niftar, his famous Esrog tree stopped bearing fruit.





הרב אהרן לייב שטיינמץ

1914



# הרב אהרן לייב שטיינמאן

*Born in Brisk, Lithuania*

מ'סר ישיבת גאון יעקב

כתב ספר אילת השחר

**Harav Aharon Leib Steinman** zt"l was born in 1914 in the town of Brisk, Lithuania. His great uncle was the Dayan of Brisk, Rav Simcha Zelig Reiger. In the mid 1930's, Rav Aharon Leib, who was then a young Yeshiva Bachur, was challenged with the problem of being drafted into the army. He decided to flee from his hometown rather than being conscripted into the army. Rav Aharon Leib fled to Switzerland together with his friend Rav Moshe Soloveitchik. Rav Aharon Leib got married when he was in Switzerland. He moved to Eretz Yisroel at the beginning of World War Two.

Rav Aharon Leib settled in Bnei Brak. He became very close to the Chazon Ish. The Chazon Ish recognized great potential in the young Rav Aharon Leib as a future leader of Klal Yisroel.

The Ponevezher Rav, Rav Yosef Shlomo Kahaneman, opened a yeshiva in Bnei Brak. He chose Rav Aharon Leib Steinman together



with Rav Michel Yehudah Lefkowitz to be the Roshei Hayeshiva. The Ponevezher Rav also appointed them as Roshei Hakollel of the Ponevezher Kollel in Bnei Brak.

Rav Aharon Leib opened his own Yeshiva thirty five years ago, Yeshivas Gaon Yaakov. He also authored the multiple-volume, widely used Sefer titled "Ayeles Hashachar" on Gemarah.

Approximately twenty years ago, when Harav Schach became too weak to lead Klal Yisroel, Rav Aharon Leib Steinman took over Rav Schach's responsibilities of leadership. He was then eighty years old! Despite the fact that this task was huge and required enormous strength, Rav Aharon Leib graciously accepted this enormous responsibility for the Klal. It is known that Rav Chaim Kanievsky Shlita refers many complex she'eilos to Rav Aharon Leib whom he is very close with and who lives nearby.

## A Matter Of "Time"

Rav Aharon Leib Steinman was the Rosh Yeshiva of Kfar Saba during World War II. These were hard financial times for the Yeshiva, and there was absolutely no money! The Yeshiva was not able to pay Rav Aharon Leib's salary. Rav Aharon Leib lived in desperate poverty during this difficult time.

Many years before Rav Steinman was settled in Eretz Yisroel, he lived in Lita (Lithuania). During the 1930's, when times became difficult in Lita, Rav Steinman escaped to Switzerland in order to avoid having to join the army. Rav Steinman learned the watch trade during this period of time that he was living in Switzerland.

Now, in Kfar Saba, Rav Aharon Leib took advantage of his previously acquired "skill"! He would fix watches in order to compensate for not getting paid from his position as Rosh Yeshiva. This work was enough to help him cover the basic needs of his family.

1914



Years later, when the yeshiva in Kfar Saba's financial situation improved, they wanted to give Rav Steinman "back pay". He refused to take any money. He had managed to get by during those difficult times by fixing watches...

## A Good Diet...

Rav Aharon Leib's life is completely immersed in Torah. He lives with very, very little Gashmiyus, and he lives in great simplicity. In fact, Rav Aharon Leib is known to sit on a chair that does not even have a back to it!

Rav Aharon Leib eats very little each day. Rav Elya Svei zt"l once said about Rav Aharon Leib, "Whatever a regular person eats in one day, Rav Aharon Leib eats in thirty days. What a regular person learns in thirty days, Rav Aharon Leib learns in one day!!"

Rav Chaim Kanievsky shlita recently said that the Chazon Ish had such reverence for Rav Aharon Leib, who was much younger than him, that he used to escort Rav Aharon Leib to the door as Kavod haTorah for his outstanding Limud haTorah!





הרב חיים קניבסקי  
1928



# הרב חיים קניבסקי

*Born in Pinsk*

*Son of the Steipler  
Gaon zt"l*

*Married Reb Elyashiv's  
daughter Elisheva*

*The Lederman  
Shul*

*מחבר ספר "נחלת אליהו"*

**Harav Chaim  
Kanievsky** zt"l shlita lives in Bnei Brak.  
He began learning in Kollel Chazon Ish shortly  
after  
his marriage to Batsheva Elyashiv in 1951,  
and he continues to learn there to this day!  
Reb Chaim Kanievsky shlita is well known  
worldwide for his Limud Hatorah and his  
superior understanding, knowledge, and careful  
observance of all Mitzvos!

Rav Chaim Kanievsky is the son of the  
Steipler Gaon, Reb Yaakov Yisroel Kanievsky  
zt"l. He is also the son in law of Rav Yosef  
Shalom Elyashiv, and he is the nephew of the  
Chazon Ish. Rav Chaim was born in 1928  
(5688) in the city of Pinsk. His father, the  
Steipler Gaon, was offered the position of  
Rosh Yeshivah in Novardok in Bnei Brak. He  
departed from Pinsk with his family in 1934  
and travelled by boat on a three week journey to  
Eretz Yisroel. They lived in close proximity to  
the Chazon Ish. This had a very strong impact  
on Rav Chaim and his entire family. Rav Chaim  
merited to be able to learn with the Chazon Ish on  
Shabbos and Yom Tov as well as during some  
hours of the week!



Rav Chaim learned in Yeshivah Tiferes Tzion in Bnei Brak, which was founded by the Chazon Ish. After his Bar Mitzvah, Rav Chaim began learning in the Lomza Yeshivah in Petach Tikvah. He became very close with Rav Elya Dushnitzer zt'l, the Mashgiach of the Yeshivah. When Rav Elya was niftar, Rav Chaim published a Sefer of Rav Elya's Chiddushim on Mussar and Gemara. He called the sefer "Sefer Nachalas Eliyahu". Rav Chaim also heard Shiurim in Lomza Yeshivah from Harav Shach zt'l and Harav Michel Yehudah Lefkowitz zt'l.

Rav Chaim married Batsheva, the daughter of Rav Yosef Shalom Elyashiv zt'l, in 1951 (5712). They settled in Bnei Brak shortly after their marriage, and Rav Chaim learned in Kollel Chazon Ish. They eventually settled into an apartment on Rechov Rashbam 23, right near the famous Lederman shul. Rav Chaim shlita still lives there! They raised eight children in this humble apartment. The Kanievskys also took in to their home a three and a half year old orphan. They raised him as their own child, and even married him off!

Rav Chaim is always very careful to try and have someone present who can say 'Amen' to all of his Brachos. His Rebbetzin, Batsheva a"h, would happily answer "Amen" to Rav Chaim's Birchos HaTorah and Birchos HaShachar even though Rav Chaim davens very early in the morning!

Both Rav Chaim shlit"a and his Rebbetzin spent many hours during the day with 'Kabolos Hakahal', inviting into their humble home throngs of people from all walks of life who were coming for all kinds of help, advice, and Brachos! Rebbetzin Batsheva Kanievsky a"h was so beloved by all women in Klal Yisroel! She cared for everyone so genuinely with her heart and soul. She davened for everyone who came to meet her, and helped thousands of women with her countless acts of Chesed until her last days in this world. Rav Chaim shlita is still busy with Kabolos Hakahal today. His daughter, Rebbetzin Leah Kolodetski, receives all of the women who come, just as her mother Rebbetzin Batsheva a"h had done for so many years!

Rav Chaim possesses a love for writing seforim. He acquired this unique affinity from his father, the

1928



Steipler Gaon, who taught him the importance of writing Chiddushei Torah so that it can be shared with the next generation of Klal Yisroel. He wrote "Kuntresim" even at the young age of 16 when he was learning in Lomza! Rav Chaim also spends a lot of time each day responding to hundreds of letters that are sent to him from all over the world. Rav Chaim's son, R' Yitzchak Shaul, is currently working on compiling more than 100,000 letters that his father has answered over all the years. He is also putting together many of Rav Chaim's responses in a multi-volume sefer called "Daas Noteh".

## Grasshoppers

Rav Chaim Shlita was learning certain Halachos related to grasshoppers. Rav Chaim felt that he needed to see a real live grasshopper in order to clarify a certain Din. Surprisingly, a short while later, a grasshopper actually flew inside through the window of Rav Chaim Kanievsky's study! The grasshopper was caught and Rav Chaim was able to examine it and ascertain the Halachos that he was learning! Rebbetzin Kanievsky, who witnessed this story happen, often said that this story stands out in her mind as one of the most outstanding experiences that she had as being the Rebbetzin of Rav Chaim Kanievsky.

## Under Construction

Rav Chaim Shlita is deeply immersed in his Torah learning throughout the day. He is completely oblivious to what is going on around him when he is learning! Many years ago, a neighbor of the Kanievskys approached the Rebbetzin with a request. This neighbor was planning to do construction in their apartment, which would involve disturbance to the neighbors from the noise of drilling. The neighbor asked Rebbetzin Kanievsky when she thinks it would be the best time to drill so as not to disturb Rav Chaim and the Rebbetzin. Surprisingly, the Rebbetzin answered that the best time to drill would be when Rav Chaim is learning! This is because he becomes so involved in his learning that no noise could possibly distract him.



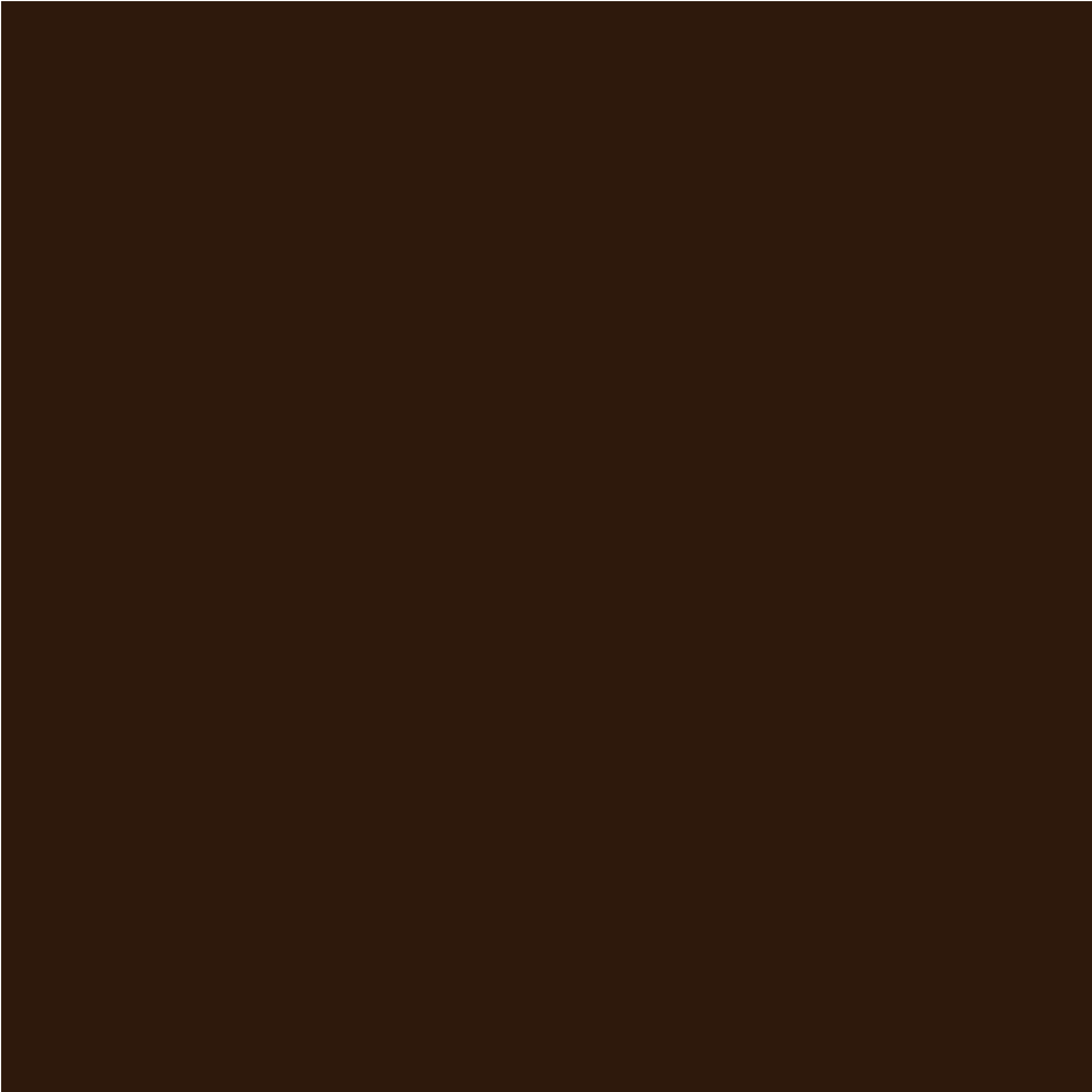
However, the Rebbetzin asked the neighbor not to drill during Rav Chaim's short daily nap...

## A Special Brocha

Rav Chaim Kanievsky would go each year to the Chazon Ish Matzah Bakery, where he would bake Matzos for his family as well as for his father in law, Rav Elyashiv. Before departing to the bakery, Rav Chaim would ask his Rebbetzin for a Brocha that the Matzos should come out good. One year, he forgot to ask the Rebbetzin for a Brocha, and the Matzos did not come out good at all, with some halachic problems as well. After that, Rav Chaim's son, Reb Avraham Yeshayah, would make sure to ask his mother for a Brocha before they left to the Matzah Bakery, just in case Rav Chaim forgot to ask! Since then, there were no problems with the Matzos.

1928









הרב נתן צבי פינקל  
1943-2011



# הרב נחמן צבי פינקל

*Born in Chicago, Illinois*

*Learned by his Uncle.  
Reb Leizer Yudel Finkel*

*Rosh Yeshiva of Mir*

Harav Nosson  
Tzvi Finkel <sup>zt"l</sup> was born in 1943  
in Chicago, Illinois to Reb Eliyahu Meir and  
Sarah Finkel. He was named after his great  
grandfather, the Alter of Slabodka. The Alter  
of Slabodka was one of the leaders of the  
Mussar Movement in Europe and the founder  
of the Chevron Yeshiva in Eretz Yisroel.

Rav Nosson Tzvi arrived in Eretz Yisroel  
at the age of 15 to spend the summer learning  
Torah in his uncle's Yeshiva, the Mir Yeshiva,  
headed by Reb Leizer Yudel Finkel. That one  
summer in Eretz Yisroel in 1958 stretched on  
for another 50 years, and produced a Gadol  
baTorah that was so beloved by all Yidden  
across the globe!

As a bochur, Rav Nosson Tzvi stayed in  
Reb Leizer Yudel Finkel's apartment. He merited  
to absorb in his heart Reb Leizer Yudel's intense  
love for Torah and his unquenchable thirst for



learning and teaching Torah. Rav Nosson Tzvi once witnessed Reb Leizer Yudel awaken in the morning. The first thing Reb Leizer Yudel did was go over to his bookcase and lovingly extend his arms over his set of Shas and kiss their worn covers. This left an indelible impression on Rav Nosson Tzvi and sparked an outstandingly strong love of Torah!

Rav Nosson Tzvi learned with great intensity in the Bais Medrash of Mir Yeshiva eighteen hours a day for thirty years. He had many chavrusos, as everybody wanted to learn with him!

In 1990, Rav Beinish Finkel, the Rosh Yeshiva of Mir, was sadly taken from Klal Yisroel. The leadership of the Yeshiva was passed on to Rav Nosson Tzvi Finkel. Rav Nosson Tzvi worked hard to build up the Yeshiva. He traveled across the world to raise funds for the Yeshiva. He oversaw new construction and renovation of the Yeshiva buildings. He built up Mir Yeshiva to be the largest Yeshiva in the world, 6,000 talmidim!. Despite the large size of the Yeshiva, Rav Nosson Tzvi maintained a personal relationship with each and every Talmid. He never forgot anyone's name! Rav Nosson Tzvi's sudden petirah left the entire Klal Yisroel mourning. He was truly the father of thousands upon thousands of Talmidim who benefitted from his tremendous mesiras nefesh for the building of Torah. Rav Nosson Tzvi's son, Rav Leizer Yudel Finkel, became the successor of his father's position, and continues to lead the Mir Yeshiva in Yerushalayim in his father's path.

## Wealth

Rav Nosson Tzvi spent weeks and months each year traveling around the world to collect funds for the Mir Yeshiva. One time, a very wealthy businessman asked Rav Nosson Tzvi an interesting question. He wanted to know why Reb Nosson Tzvi built such a giant institution that is so hard to support. The businessman remarked, "Aren't 1000 students good enough for you? Why do you have 6,000?"

Rav Nosson Tzvi replied, "I could ask you

1943  
2011



the same question. How much money do you have in your possession? One hundred million dollars? Why aren't you satisfied with 5,000?..." Rav Nosson tzvi answered his own question; "BECAUSE JUST AS YOU WANT A LOT OF MONEY, I WANT A LOT OF TORAH!!"

## Sealed Rooms

In early 1991, Saddam Hussein was causing a lot of trouble in Eretz Yisroel. He was sending many scud missiles into Eretz Yisroel. Upon hearing sirens, the residents of Eretz Yisroel had to run for shelter into their safe sealed rooms. One time, a siren went off in Yerushalayim. The Talmidim of Mir Yeshiva scrambled to run into the sealed rooms. Of course they were scared, and they were all reciting Tehillim throughout the sounding of the siren. Suddenly, there was a knock on the door of the sealed room. When the Talmidim asked who it was, the response was "Nosson Finkel".

The Rosh Yeshiva left the safety of his own home and rushed to take a taxi over to the Yeshiva in order to be with his own talmidim. The talmidim were amazed and awed at their Rosh Yeshiva's concern for them. They were inspired by his own sacrifice at such a time just to show his talmidim how much he cared for them!

## Hakoras Hatov

A good friend of Rav Nosson Tzvi once made a Sheva Brachos for one of Rav Nosson Tzvi's sons. From that day on, Rav Nosson Tzvi constantly showed this friend Hakaras Hatov for "doing him such a big favor." Fifteen years later, Rav Nosson Tzvi was still displaying Hakaras Hatov to his old friend, Rabbi Yosef Halpern, for making him a sheva brachos for his son! As difficult as it was for him, Rav Nosson Tzvi Finkel traveled to Bnei Brak to be Menachem avel Rabbi Halpern's children when they were sitting Shivah for their father. Rav Nosson Tzvi's Hakaras Hatov knew no bounds!



