

THE CHABAD WEEKLY

Vol 7, #8

Chabad of North Beverly Hills, 409 Foothill Rd. Beverly Hills, 90210

beverlyhillschabad.org

Rabbi Yosef Shusterman 310-271-9063

YUD TES KISLEV

This week's Torah reading begins relating how Jacob told Esau. "I sojourned with Lavan." A sojourn means a temporary visit. Although Jacob spent 20 years in the land of Charan, he never felt that it was his place. Jacob belonged in Israel, G-d's Holy Land.

Why then did he stay so long in an alien environment? He had a multidimensional purpose.

Firstly, he was confronted by a personal challenge. In the company of deceitful people, he had to struggle to maintain his personal virtue.

Secondly, he built his family. During his stay in Charan, he married and fathered eleven of his twelve children, establishing his household. Despite the influences that prevailed in the community at large, Jacob infused his family with the spiritual heritage received from Abraham: "to keep the way of G-d and to implement righteousness and judgment."

Thirdly, he elevated the environment of Charan, bringing spiritual awareness to this foreign land. This was reflected in his acquisition of Lavan's sheep and the great wealth which he amassed.

By overcoming the personal challenges posed by his surrounding, Jacob showed that even a hostile environment could not prevent the expression of his inner spiritual potential. By raising a family, he extended his circle of influence beyond his individual sphere, enabling it to encompass others.

Jacob's acquisition of wealth - and the refinement of the environment it symbolizes - represented a greater achievement. The material possessions acquired by Jacob were previously part of an alien environment. Jacob made them his own possessions, endowing them with the holiness which permeated his household.

In this manner, he set a pattern for his descendants, for we are also "sojourning" in exile. Our people have journeyed from country to country for a purpose: to uncover the spiritual potential invested in all the different elements of existence, revealing how everything in the world exists as an expression of G-d's oneness. And when this task is finished, we will return - led by Mashiach - to Israel. (From Keeping in Touch Vol. 1)- sichosinenglish.org



The 19th day of the Hebrew month of Kislev (this year, Sunday, December 14, 2003) is celebrated as the "Rosh Hashanah of Chassidism." It was on this date, in the year 1798, that the founder of Chabad Chassidism, Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi (1745-1812), was freed from his imprisonment in Czarist Russia. More than a personal liberation, this was a watershed event in the history of Chassidism, heralding a new era in the revelation of the "inner soul" of Torah.

...In the fall of 1798, Rabbi Schneur Zalman was arrested on charges that his teachings and activities threatened the imperial authority of the Czar, and was imprisoned in an island fortress in the

Neva River in Petersburg. In his interrogations, he was compelled to present to the Czar's ministers the basic tenets of Judaism and explain various points of Chassidic philosophy and practice. After 52 days, he was exonerated of all charges and released.

Rabbi Schneur Zalman saw these events as a reflection of what was transpiring Above. He regarded his arrest as but the earthly echo of a Heavenly indictment against his revelation of the most intimate secrets of the Torah. And he saw his release as signifying his vindication in the Heavenly court. Following his liberation on Kislev 19, he redoubled his efforts, disseminating his teachings on a far broader scale, and with more detailed and "down to earth" explanations, than before.

Kislev 19 therefore marks the "birth" of Chassidism: the point at which it was allowed to emerge from the womb of "mysticism" into the light of day, to grow and develop as an integral part of Torah and Jewish life.

The Rebbe Writes

Freely translated letters

14th of Kislev, 5719 [1958]:

...The story of Yud Tes Kislev is known to you. It is as meaningful today as it was significant 160 years ago, and even more. The observance of this day, year after year, must remind and inspire every one of us, especially in the present generation, towards serving G-d more fully and more meaningfully. Such Divine service is to be attained through the study of His Torah - both in its revealed and innermost aspects (the latter referring to Chasidism) - which unifies and attunes the whole Jewish soul - and through the observance of His precepts with animation and enthusiasm.

This must be based on the love of G-d, love of the Torah and love of each and every fellow-Jew - which are all one - as fully explained in the teachings of Rabbi Shneur Zalman, the author of the Tanya and Shulchan Aruch, whose teachings triumphed and won full recognition on the 19th day of Kislev.

The Eve of Yud Tes Kislev, 5724 [1963]:

...In one of his well-known letters, the Alter Rebbe [Rabbi Shneur Zalman] declares that the happy tidings of his liberation reached him when he was reading the verse (Psalms 55:19):

"[G-d] has redeemed my soul in peace from the battle against me, for many were with me."

This Providential coincidence surely carries a message for every one of us. Indeed, every individual is in need of a personal liberation from all the difficulties and hindrances encountered in daily life that hamper the attainment of the goals that should be achieved every day, in both material and spiritual endeavors.

Thus, our Sages make the following meaningful commentary on the verse: "Said the Holy One, Blessed Be He: He who engages in Torah, and in acts of loving-kindness, and prays with the congregation, is regarded by Me as if he redeemed Me and My children from among the nations of the world" (Talmud, Berachot 8a).

In this way, our Sages emphasize that the personal redemption of every Jew, as well as of the entire Jewish people, together with G-d (so to speak), is directly linked with the dissemination of Torah, acts of benevolence ("duties toward fellow-Jews"), and prayer ("duties toward G-d").

Thus, every man or woman who is involved in these three things brings liberation and redemption to himself as well as to our people as a whole. (From: L'Chaim 5763, #745)

The Tzemach Tzedek writes: The Love expressed in "Beside You I wish for nothing," means that one should desire nothing other than G-d, not even "Heaven" or "earth" i.e. Higher Gan Eden and Lower Gan Eden, for these were created with a mere yud.... The Love is to be directed to Him al one, to His very Being and Essence. This was actual ly expressed by my master and teacher (the Al ter Rebbe) when he was in a state of d'veikut and he excl aimed as foll ows:
 I want nothing at al l! I don't want Your gan eden, I don't want Your ol am haba... I want nothing but You al one.
GOOD YOM TOV. MAY YOU BE INSCRIBED AND SEALED FOR A GOOD YEAR IN THE STUDY OF CHASSIDUS AND THE WAYS OF CHASSIDUS (From Rebbe's Hayom yom Kislev 18).

*The first thing needed to fix the world is that Jews should love each other and be united. And this can begin even without a planning committee and without funding. It can begin with you.
 From the teachings of the Lubavitcher Rebbe; rendered by Tzvi Freeman*

PARTICIPATE IN WEEKLY CLASSES

<u>Sunday</u>	8:00 AM	Gemara-Tractate SHABBOS (men)
NEW TRACTATE		
<u>Monday</u>	8:00 PM	Chumash (men and women)
<u>Tuesday</u>	8:00 PM	Gemara-Tractate Makos (men)
*NEW	9:00 PM	Tanya (men and Women) with Rabbi Wolf
<u>Wednesday</u>	8:30 PM	Halacha and Tanya (women)
<u>Thursday</u>	10:00 AM	Chassidus (women)
	8:00 PM	Class for Beverly Hills Highschool Students
<u>Daily</u>	6:45 to 7:15 AM	Chasiddus
	Between Mincha and	Halacha

**This week only: Rabbi Wolf's Tanya class will be on Thursday night at 9:00PM instead of Tuesday.*

DAILY MINYONIM:

Shacharit: Mon-Fri 6:00 AM and 7:30 AM
Sunday 9:00 AM
Mincha/Maariv: 4:40 PM

SHABBOS PARSHAS VAYISHLACH
December 12, 2003
Candlelighting:(Los Angeles) 4:26 PM
Friday Mincha: 4:40 PM

LATEST TIME FOR SHEMA: 9:18 AM

SHABBAT MORNING

- **Tanya 8:45 AM**
- **Shacharit 9:30 AM followed by Kiddush & Cholent**
- **Chumash 3:45 PM**
- **Mincha 4:15 PM followed by Seuda Shlishit**
- **Shabbat ends 5:26 PM**

Kiddush this week is being sponsored by Marty Biegel in memory of his mother's yartzheit.

Happy Birthday to Stuart Biegel, Immanuel Spira and Tzivia Malka Chodorow.

Yartzheits: Toba Biegel – Kislev 21, Ida Brodsky – Kislev 23.

Happy Annivesary to Robin and Sara Shaulian, & Jonathan and Sinaia Harkham.

Messibos Shabbos will be at 3:45 PM at the Shul

Yud Tes Kislev Melave Malka
 This Saturday night (Dec. 13 – Kislev 19) there will be a Melave Malka in Shul in honor of Yud Tes Kislev at 8:00PM
 Video – Delicious Food – Farbrengen
ALL ARE WELCOME

GOOD SHABBOS!

Sunday and Monday, Kislev 19-20 (Dec. 14-15), marks the day the Alter Rebbe, Founder of Chabad Chassidus, was liberated from prison in the year 5559 (1798)
NO TACHNUN IS SAID ON THE 19TH AND 20TH OF KISLEV.