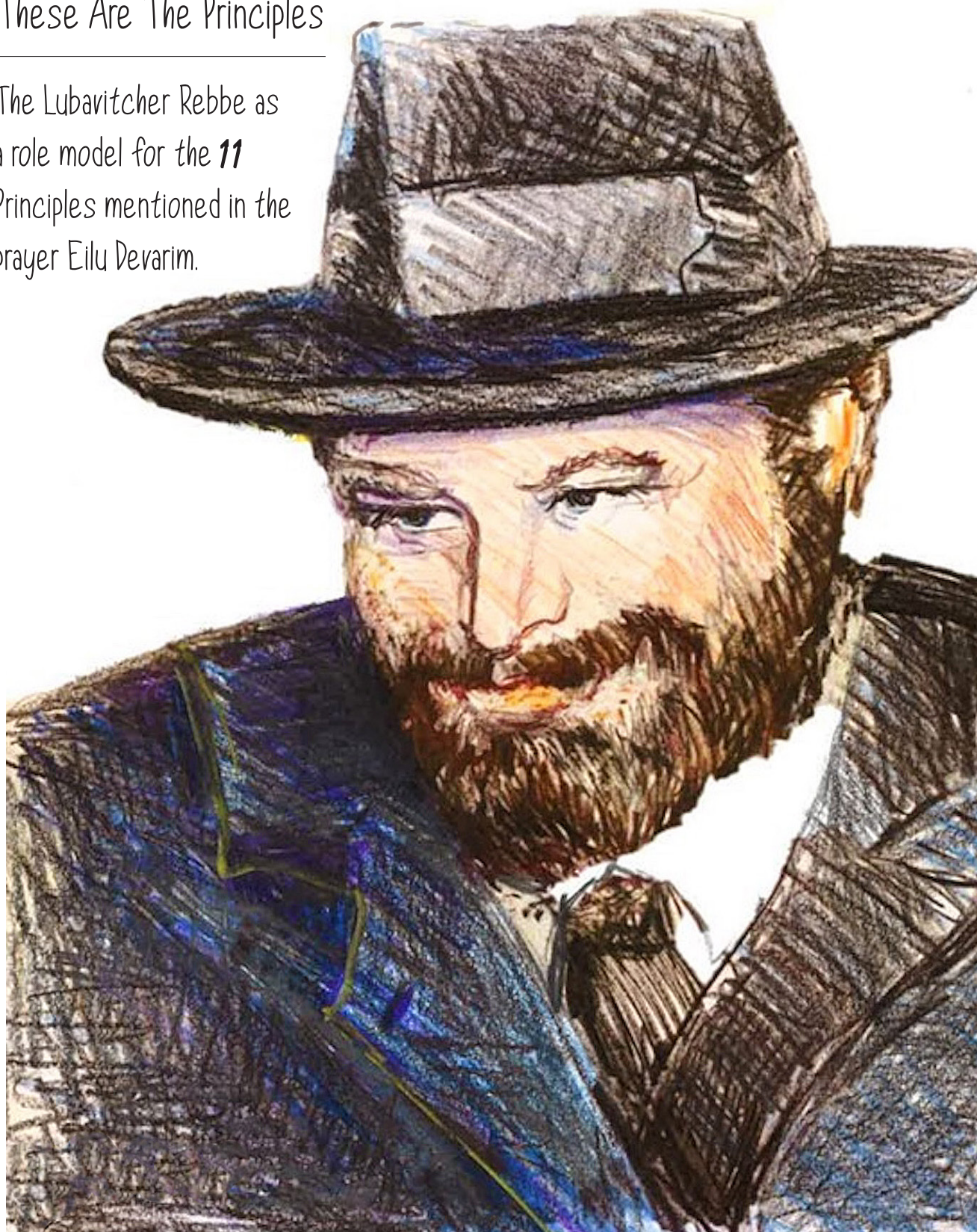


# Eilu Devarim

These Are The Principles

The Lubavitcher Rebbe as  
a role model for the **11**  
Principles mentioned in the  
prayer Eilu Devarim.



**Dedicated to the memory and honor  
of those who perished, and those wounded,  
in the massacre on July 4, 2022  
in Highland Park, Illinois.**

**\* \* \***

**With gratitude to the Rebbe's Shluchim and all others  
who helped in its aftermath.**

# Eilu Devarim

These Are The Principles

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Published by Shanu Midothai

The Lubavitcher Rebbe as a role model  
for the 11 Principles mentioned in the  
prayer Eilu Devarim.

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In cooperation with Lubavitch Chabad of Highland Park, Illinois

## Preface

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Every morning we recite a paragraph in our Siddur called "Eilu Devarim".

In this paragraph it speaks of certain practices which bring reward in the World-to-Come and in this world as well.

Chassidut explains that what this means is, that not only do these practices have a transcendent (מקיף) effect on our souls, but they also have an internal impact (פנימי) on our souls.

This book attempts to illustrate how the Lubavitcher Rebbe was a role model for these practices.

The Rebbe would often quote his ancestors who said, "We must first master our emotional traits before we acquire our intellectual ones.

The Rebbe writes in Hayom Yom; "Every story must bring forth fine character traits".

It is our hope that this book will help refine our character and bring delight to the Rebbe's soul on High and help bring the redemption אמן.

(The stories here were collected from reliable sources, though verification of details was not always possible.)

Chai Elul 5782



# Eilu Devarim

These Are The Principles

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1. Honoring your father and mother
2. Doing acts of kindness
3. Coming to the *Beit Hamidrash* for *Torah* study early morning and evening
4. Hospitality
5. Visiting, helping and encouraging people who are sick, sad, and/or in danger
6. Helping bride and groom get married (dowering the bride)
7. Escorting those who have passed away
8. Concentrating on prayer
9. Making peace between people
10. Making peace between spouses
11. The study of *Torah* is equivalent to them all (the *Mitzvos*)

1.

# Honoring Father and Mother



כבוד אב ואם

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# Story

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Rebbetzin Chana Schneerson (1880-1964) was a very special woman. When her husband the great Rabbi Levi Yitzchak Schneerson was arrested by the Russian Police for teaching Judaism, he was sent into exile far, far away. Rebbetzin Chana accompanied her husband and always stood by his side. She was always completely devoted to him and made sure he had everything he needed. Unfortunately, Rabbi Levi Yitzchak passed away in that faraway place, and Rebbetzin Chana was left all alone.

With G-d's help Rebbetzin Chana was able to escape Russia in 1947 and got to Paris, France. As soon as her son, who was in New York, heard that his mother had made it to France, he got on a plane to Paris, and stayed with her for three months until she was able to obtain her visa to come to America.

Rebbetzin Chana lived with her son and her daughter-in-law, until she got her own apartment at 1418 President Street in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn NY.

Despite his enormously busy schedule, Rebbetzin Chana's son would visit his mother every single day. He would pour her a cup of tea and they would talk. At the end of the visit, he would walk out facing his mother. He never turned his back to her. When he would leave, he would say "*Kol tuv* - All the best, Mama", or he would say "May we merit to greet *Moshiach*, Mama". This son later became known as the great "Lubavitcher Rebbe".

After the *davening* on Shabbos morning was over, Rebbetzin Chana would visit her son, the Rebbe, in his room at the Shul and wish him "Good *Shabbos*". The Rebbe would walk his mother out, holding her by her arm. The Rebbe would then wait at the outer door until his mother had turned the corner of Eastern Parkway where he couldn't see her anymore.

The Rebbe, also, honored his father's memory. He would often explain his father's teachings to crowds of people and would dance to his father's song on the holiday of *Simchat Torah* among other things.

After the Rebbe's mother passed away many people named their daughter's "Chana". Many also named their son's "Levi Yitzchak" after the Rebbe's father, which made the Rebbe proud.

\* \* \*

## Teaching

Honoring parents is like honoring G-d.

*Kiddushin* 31

## Lesson

The Rebbe always honored his parents. We all should try and do the same.

## Question

Can you think of more ways you can honor your father and mother?

2.

## Doing Acts of Kindness



גמילות חסדים



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# Story

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A man by the name of Meir Singer, who later moved to Eretz Yisroel, related how in the 1940's his parents sent him from Scranton, Pennsylvania to study at 770 Eastern Parkway (the Lubavitch Yeshiva) in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn N.Y. In those early days even elementary school children studied at 770. Meir was around Bar Mitzva age at the time and he dormed with other out of town boys, in a house a few blocks away from 770.

One wintery day Meir contracted the flu. He felt like he had a high fever. He felt weak. He was thirsty and hungry. However, all his roommates had already left for the Yeshiva and seemed to have forgotten about him and did not even notice that he hadn't shown up at the Yeshiva.

As time went on, Meir felt hungrier and thirstier. He decided he was going to have to do something about it. Since the Yeshiva kitchen was in the basement of 770, he decided to walk there, in spite of the heavy snow and the sickly state he was in.

As Meir approached 770, a man walked out, stopped, took a look at Meir and asked him what was wrong? Meir told the man that he was not feeling well and that he hadn't eaten yet that day. The man immediately took Meir by the arm, walked him downstairs to the kitchen, poured him some hot cocoa, and made sure Meir was well fed. He also asked an older *Bochur* to look after Meir. A few years later that man became the seventh Rebbe of Chabad-Lubavitch!

\* \* \*

## Teaching

*Gemilut Chassadim* - Acts of Loving Kindness is done with money and with body, to the poor or the wealthy, to those who are alive and to those who have passed on.

*Tractate Sukkah* 49

## Lesson

We too should do "acts of kindness", not only with our money, but with our body as well, not only to the poor but also to the not so poor etc.

## Question

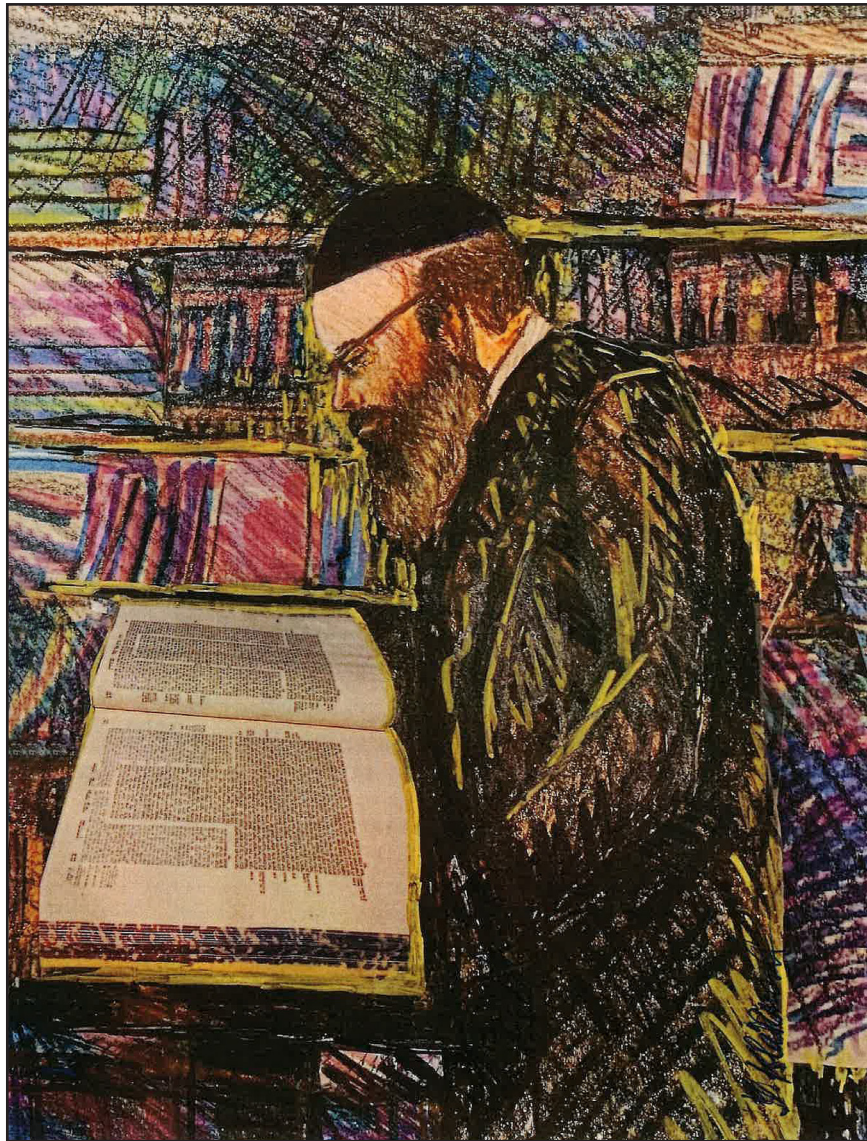
Can you think of ways to help others with your body?

3.

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## Coming to the Beit Hamidrash - Place of Torah study early morning and evening

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השכמת בית המדרש שחרית וערבית

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# Story

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The Rebbe would study Torah day and night. However, he also wanted to help the tens of thousands of people who turned to him for blessings, prayer, advice and inspiration. Time was precious to the Rebbe, not to be wasted. Those who were close to the Rebbe say that he slept less than four hours a night and even those hours, not all at once.

His father-in-law, the previous Rebbe once said about the Rebbe "At 4am my son-in-law is always awake, either he hadn't gone to sleep yet, or he's already up for the next day.

A prominent person from Eretz Yisroel who had an appointment with the Rebbe at 2-3 o'clock in the morning asked the Rebbe why he doesn't sleep, and the Rebbe answered "Because others are sleeping"! (Meaning that the Rebbe had to do what others should have been doing.)

Another Rabbi who also had an appointment with the Rebbe in the early hours of the morning asked the Rebbe "How are you not tired Rebbe?", to which the Rebbe responded: "My question is how can YOU be tired if you carry the responsibility for members of your community?"

A group of elderly Chassidim once approached the Rebbe and begged him to watch his health and make sure to get a good night's sleep. The Rebbe answered: "How can I sleep if someone far away in Australia is having problems making a living...?"

They say that before the Rebbe took his "nap" he would set aside a Torah book to be studied, or letters from people to be answered, as soon as he awakens.

We also know that the Rebbe never took a vacation.

\* \* \*

## Teaching

By seeing you study Torah early mornings and evenings  
bad people will become good people.

*According to Gittin 7.*

## Lesson

We too should value our time and use it to study Torah as much as we can.

## Question

Do you make time to study Torah in the early mornings and evenings?



4.

# Hospitality



הכנסת אורחים



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# Story

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There is an old custom that one should be in the presence of one's Torah Teacher, especially during holidays, in order to reboot and be inspired to come close to G-d. So, every year particularly during *Rosh Hashanah*, *Yom Kippur*, *Sukkot* and *Simchat Torah* many people would come from all over the world, especially from Israel, to be with the Rebbe. During their stay, these guests would Daven with the Rebbe, listen to his *Torah* teachings at *Farbrengen* gatherings and even receive a private audience with the Rebbe.

The Rebbe was extremely appreciative of a man by the name of Rabbi Moshe Yaroslavsky who took upon himself all the arrangements needed to feed the many guests and find places for them to sleep. Very often the Rebbe would visit the Sukkah where these guests ate. He would ask R. Yaroslavsky to lead the way (some say they saw R. Yaroslavsky holding on to the Rebbe's *Gartel*). The Rebbe would then give him and all the guests a very special *Brocho* (Blessing).

At the end of the holiday season these guests left with feelings of encouragement and inspiration that would last until their next opportunity to be with the Rebbe. For many years, before the guests traveled back to the airport at the end of their visit, the Rebbe would come outside of the 770 *Shul* to say goodbye.

The people leaving would go into an emotional dance and the Rebbe would clap along. Many people would cry having to leave the Rebbe, but they knew the Rebbe wanted them to return to where they lived and do what Hashem wants them to do in their places of residence.

\* \* \*

## Teaching

"Welcoming guests is greater than encountering the face of the *Shechina* - Divine presence.

*Tractate Shabbat 127*

## Lesson

We too should do our best to make guests and newcomers feel welcome and befriended!

## Question

Have you ever had a chance to make a guest or a newcomer feel welcome and how did you do it?

5.

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## Visiting, Helping and Encouraging people who are sick and/or in danger

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בקור חולים

The Rebbe would receive many requests to *daven* for people who unfortunately weren't well. If a patient was hospitalized ל"ר, the Rebbe would receive updates on the patient's condition and how they were doing. The Rebbe would bless them and often say that he would pray for them at the *Tziyun* where his holy father-in-law is buried. The Rebbe was also overheard mentioning the names of people in need, to himself during the singing intermissions of farbrengens/public gatherings.

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## Story

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There was a man by the name of Mordechai Chesny who owned a Kosher butcher shop on Nostrand Avenue in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn. Mr. Chesny was a Holocaust survivor. Once while he was in his butcher shop, he heard a commotion and a loud noise coming from the store next door. He immediately dropped everything and ran next door. To his shock and disbelief, he saw a robbery taking place. He ran straight up to the robber to try and stop him. Unfortunately, the robber had a gun and shot Mr. Chesny ח"ו. An ambulance came and rushed Mr. Chesny to the hospital. While Mr. Chesny was in the hospital the Rebbe sent a delegation of dignified elders to visit him, encourage him and convey the Rebbe's blessings, prayers and best wishes.

When Mr. Chesny was finally released from the hospital, he came to see the Rebbe for a *Yechidus* (private audience). As soon as Mr. Chesny entered the Rebbe's room, the Rebbe stood up for him, and the Rebbe said to Mr. Chesny, "Do you know what kind of Mitzva you did? You did a Mitzva in the Torah (that very few people do).

**The Mitzva of "לא תעמד על דם רייעך"**  
**Don't stand (and do nothing) when another man's blood is in danger.**

The Rebbe then gave Mr. Chesny a gift, a special edition of the holy book Tanya. Mr. Chesny has grandchildren and great grandchildren who follow in *Hashem's* ways as exemplified by their special *Zeidy* of blessed memory.

\* \* \*

### Teaching

If you make a person who isn't well, comfortable it's as if you brought them back to life.

*Tractate Nedarim* 40.

Sustaining another person in need is as sustaining the entire world.

*Tractate Baba Batra* 11.

### Lesson

We should visit and encourage people who aren't feeling well.

### Question

Have you ever had a chance to make a sick person feel good?



6.

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## Helping bride and groom get married (dowering the bride)

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הכנסת כלה



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# Story

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As is known the Rebbe was strongly involved in every marriage that took place among his followers and others who came to him for guidance. Before the 1980's every *Chatan* and *Kalla* would have an opportunity to have a private audience with the Rebbe.

The Rebbe advised, encouraged, blessed and sent a letter of good wishes and greetings to every bride and groom who sought his prayers. These numbered in the tens of thousands and perhaps even more.

On occasion and when needed, the Rebbe would help the bride and groom monetarily to help cover the wedding expenses. The Rebbe would often suggest that the focus of the wedding should be on the spiritual rather than the material.

A story is told about R Shmuel Zalmanov who was an editor of books on Chassidic music and teachings. Rabbi Zalmanov once asked the Rebbe if he could review and approve of something that R Zalmanov had written. The Rebbe said he could not do it that day because a wedding would be taking place. Rabbi Zalmanov asked, "but the Rebbe is not officiating at the wedding?" The Rebbe answered "but I'm there spiritually and that takes more effort than if I was there physically.

It is said that when a *Chupa* ceremony would take place in front of the Rebbe's room, the Rebbe would listen to the blessings recited and say *Amain!*

\* \* \*

## Teaching

Helping a bride and groom get married, is doing just as G-d did when he brought Eve to her husband Adam"

*Avot d'Rabbi Natan* 4:3

## Lesson

We too should value every person celebrating a simcha, help when needed, greet and give them our heartfelt wishes and add to their joy.

## Question

Have you ever had the opportunity to bring joy to a bride or groom getting married, and how did you do that?

7.

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## Escorting those who have passed away

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הלווית המת

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# Story

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When Moshiach comes there will be no more suffering but The Rebbe was always there for people who experienced losses heaven forbid. Unfortunately, many many funerals ליע would pass by the Shul/Synagogue/770 and the Rebbe would come out of his room unto the street and follow the vehicle carrying the ארון/casket for about 1/2 block. The Rebbe's lips would move while he was walking (perhaps he said some Tehillim/Psalms or other holy prayers).

The Rebbe would then wait at that spot until all the cars following the 1st vehicle to the Beis Hachaim/cemetery could no longer be seen. Only then would he return to 770. The Rebbe would wash his hands and then go inside 770 and say some more prayers before he returned to his room. The Rebbe would also send a letter to the *Aveilim*/mourners to comfort them and wishing that they no longer should go through pain and sorrow.

Sometimes the Rebbe would suggest that the family sponsor the printing of a holy book or support a school where children are studying Torah or give some other form of צדקה/charity in memory of the departed. People felt very comforted by the Rebbe's words and suggestions.

The Rebbe once followed a funeral procession by car all the way from 770 to the lower east side of Manhattan. The procession stopped in front of the Synagogue of the holy Tzaddik Rabbi Mordechai Shlomo Friedman, also known as "The Boyaner Rebbe". Rabbi Friedman was quite old at the time and when our Rebbe saw him coming out to the funeral, our Rebbe put his hand under Rabbi Friedman's arm supporting him and making it easier for the holy "Boyaner Rebbe" to walk.

\* \* \*

## Teaching

Comforting those in pain has no measure.

*Rambam*

## Lesson

We should always try to comfort and help people in need.

## Question

Have you ever had an opportunity to ease someone's pain? How did you do that?



8.

## Concentration in prayer



עיון תפלה



We all know how much emphasis **יידישקייט**/Judaism and Chassidus places on praying with Kavana-intent and focus. The Rebbe was once asked that if someone had to stay up all night, should they say the morning prayers right away or should they take a little nap beforehand? The Rebbe said that it depends. If the person can have full concentration without going to sleep, then the person may pray right away, but most people probably require a little nap.

The venerable Rav Zev Segal of blessed memory, head of the Manchester Yeshiva once wrote to the Rebbe about two boys who were praying very slowly but they weren't perfect in other areas. The two boys claimed they were trying to concentrate, which is why it took them so long to pray. The Rebbe advised the venerable head of the Yeshiva to allow the boys to continue, for they are trying to fight their bad habits and connect with **ה'**/G-d, eventually they will improve their behavior in other areas as well.

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## Story

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There is a story told about a young boy by the name of Shlomo Besser, who once walked into the upstairs 770 hall to pray/Daven but he couldn't find a Siddur / prayer book, because they were all being used. So he sat down next to a man he didn't know and tried to pray together in that man's Siddur. That man happened to be the Rebbe. Some of the people there began motioning to the boy to go away because they didn't think it was respectful for a little boy to sit next to the Rebbe. The Rebbe looked up and told the people to leave the little boy alone, because "I'm praying better with the little boy next to me" the Rebbe said.

\* \* \*

### Teaching

"I feel that I get what I need, when I concentrate in prayer"

*Shabbat 118b*

### Lesson

When we pray, we should do our best to concentrate and focus on our prayers.

### Question

What can we do to focus more and concentrate when we pray?

9.

## Making peace between people



הבאת שלום בין אדם לחברו

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# Story

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Unfortunately, many conflicts between people were brought to the Rebbe's attention and the Rebbe would strongly urge the people involved, to make peace between one another. On one occasion the Rebbe heard about two people who got into a fight, and he advised them to beg forgiveness of each other. He also advised them to fast two half-days and give the amount worth of the meals, for those two days to Tzedakah/charity.

The Rebbe once wrote that the first Hebrew letter Alef stands for Ahavah/Love and the second Hebrew letter Bet stands for Brachah/Blessing. The more love we have, the more blessings we will receive from Hashem.

The Rebbe once asked a man to make peace with his teacher. The man's teacher was the great Rabbi Aharon Soloveitchik OBM, who for many years lived in Chicago. The Rebbe told the man that he, the Rebbe, is giving money to charity so that the endeavor should be successful.

\* \* \*

## Teaching

"How do we know that Shalom/Peace is precious? Because the Amida-Prayer ends with "Sim Shalom" a request for Peace, and so do the Blessings of the Kohanim". Vayikra Rabbah Naso

## Lesson

Whenever we are aware of two people not getting along, we should do our best to bring them together.

## Question

Did you ever try to make peace between people fighting with each other? How did you do it?



10.

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## Making peace between spouses

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בין איש לאשתו



As we know life can sometimes come with pressures. These pressures can cause tension and disharmony in the home. Very often when issues would arise between a husband and wife, they would come to the Rebbe.

The Rebbe tried very hard to help them solve their problem and make peace among them. The Rebbe wrote many letters on this subject.

There is a story told, (this happened in the early years), of a man who saw the Rebbe and his wife the Rebbetzin, get out of their car and go inside someone's home.

The man became very curious, because he had never seen or heard of the Rebbe and Rebbetzin going into a private home besides their own. The next time he ran into the owner of that home, he politely asked what happened? Did I really see the Rebbe and Rebbetzin enter your home?

The man said "To tell you the truth, my wife and I were going through some issues. Somehow the Rebbe and Rebbetzin heard about it, and they came and helped solve the problem."

But most of all, the Rebbe and Rebbetzin themselves were role models of respect and admiration for each other.

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## Story

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One time a group of Chabad women sent the Rebbe's wife a bouquet of flowers for her birthday. A note attached to the bouquet contained requests by the women who wanted to be blessed. The house attendant who picked up the bouquet at the door handed the bouquet to the Rebbetzin and the note he handed to the Rebbe, because the Rebbe was usually the one who gave blessings. The Rebbe looked at the note, handed it back to the attendant and said, "My wife the Rebbetzin can also bestow blessings on people."

The Rebbe would come home for about a half hour every day in the early evening, and would drink tea and talk to the Rebbetzin. The Rebbe once told his doctor, Doctor Ira Weiss that the half hour he spent with the Rebbetzin made the whole day worthwhile. It is said that the Rebbe very often brought along interesting reading material for the Rebbetzin to read on Shabbos.

It is also said that whenever the Rebbe would come home early mornings after a late night "Farbrengen" or "Yechidus" meetings,

the Rebbe sat down with the Rebbetzin, who had waited up for him, and they would talk.

The Rebbe said Kaddish every year for the Rebbetzin's sister, Shaina, who together with her husband perished in the holocaust.

After the Rebbetzin passed away, someone said to the Rebbe, "I understand she was a great woman". The Rebbe answered, "Whatever praise one says about her, would be an understatement." Many people today when they go to the Ohel, the Rebbe's gravesite, to say prayers, they also stop and pray at the Rebbetzin's gravesite.

### Teaching

No vessel contains G-d's blessings as the vessel of peace.  
Mishnah Uktzin 3:12

### Lesson

Being peaceful is a wonderful thing!

### Question

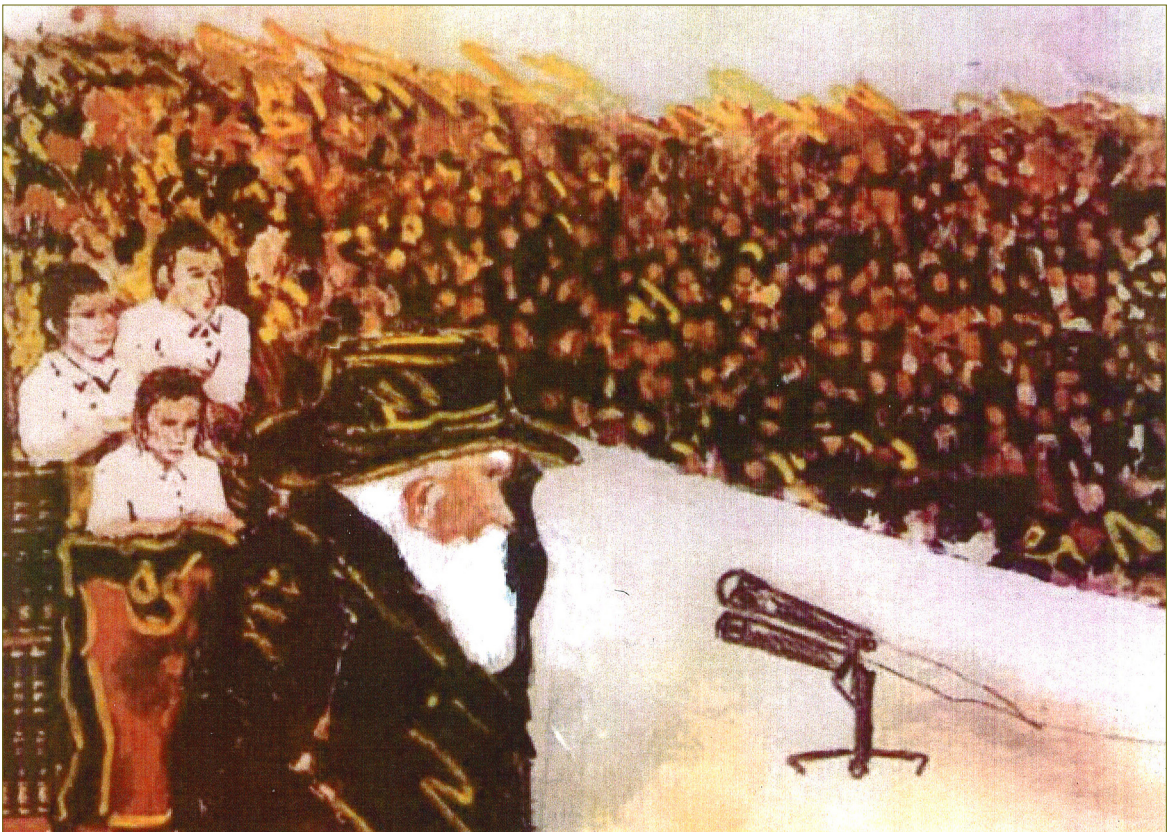
What can we do to turn ourselves into peaceful people?

11.

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**The study of Torah is equivalent  
to them all (the Mitzvos)**

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ותלמוד תורה כנגד כולם

# Facts

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- The Rebbe studied and taught Torah for thousands of hours.
- The Rebbe wanted others to do the same; study and teach.
- There are over 1,000 books containing the Rebbe's Torah teachings.
- One of the ten Mitzvos emphasized by the Rebbe, was for everyone to study Torah every day.
- The Rebbe would often wish boys and girls that they should succeed in their study of Torah.
- The Rebbe taught most of his teachings at Farbrengen/gatherings.
- Even though the Rebbe was mostly talking to adults at the Farbrengen/ gatherings, many children would sit on the floor next to the Rebbe's chair or elsewhere in the Shul to listen.
- The Rebbe would also have special gatherings just for kids, in which he would (among other things) encourage them to study a little more each day and bring pleasure to Hashem/G-d.

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# Story

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There were these three boys whose family name was Scharf.

They had a practice of sending the Rebbe their report cards which they received in their school. The Rebbe would always answer them saying something like, "Thank you for the wonderful news" or "May you continue to convey good news in the future", or "May you go from strength to strength"!

Someone once came to the Tzemach Tzedek and said, "What can I do? Whenever it comes to studying Torah, it's like I have to force myself (because I really don't enjoy it!)"

The Tzemach Tzedek responded "Your study of Torah is more precious to 'ה/G-d than my study. Because I enjoy studying, and it comes naturally, but you put in effort and force yourself therefore 'ה treasures your Torah study more.

\* \* \*

## Teaching

When we study Torah, we bond with 'ה/G-d in the strongest way.

*Tanya Ch 5*

## Lesson

Let us all study Torah with love and enthusiasm and influence others to do the same!!!

## Question

Does studying Torah come easy to you or hard? Whatever level you're at, push yourself to do more, and you will then bring more pleasure to 'ה/G-d!



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