

Thank you for joining in our simcha
Nissi and Mushka

תשורה

משמחת נישואין של
ניסן וחי' מושקא נפרסטק
כ"ב סיון תשע"ח

A Memento from the Wedding of
Nissi and Mushka Naparstek

Sivan 22 5778
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Rebbe's Letter to Bride and Groom

By the grace of G-d,

Brooklyn, New York

Greeting and Blessing:

In reply to your notification of the date of your wedding take place with G-d's help [on]...

I send you herewith my prayerful wishes that it take place in a happy and auspicious hour, and that you build an everlasting Jewish home based on the foundations of the Torah and Mitzvos, as they are illuminated with the inner light of the Torah, that is the Teachings of Chassidus.

With blessing of Mazal tov Mazal tov.

/Rebbe's Signature/

periodically. R' Yuda Eber was the Editor for Nigleh, R' Chatche Feigin was the Editor for Chassidus and R' Shmuel Zalmanov was the general editor.

Niggunim

It is well-known that niggunim play a large part in Chassidic life. R' Yuda was known to be extremely precise to sing and teach Niggunei Chabad (Chabad melodies) exactly as they were composed. In addition he was a "Menagen Ni'ach" (wonderful composer) and composed numerous chassidic niggunim which are sung until today.

When the war broke out in 1939, R' Yuda worked tirelessly, spending much money, to save and assist in the rescuing of many students.

In the winter of 1940 the Previous Rebbe miraculously escaped from Otvo and back to Riga, Latvia. The Previous Rebbe ensured that R' Yuda, his wife Freida and children Avraham Elya and Leah Henia, joined him in Riga.

Later the Previous Rebbe desired to bring him to America, but due to the circumstances that did not prove possible.

In Kislev 1942, R' Yuda was murdered with his family and thousands of other Jews in Riga.



Undated photo, R' Yuda is circled in red



A receipt sent by R' Yuda to R' Yitzchak Dubov from Manchester, during his time as administrator of Tomchei Temimim; circa 1938

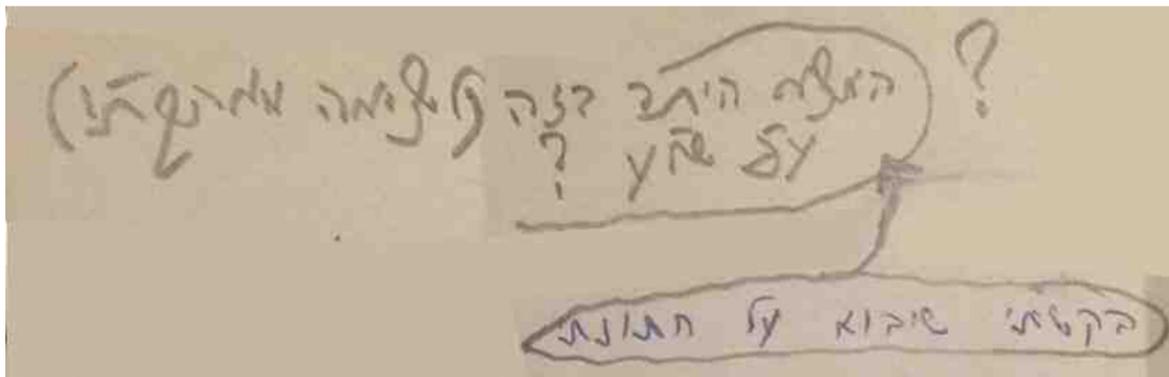


הרה"ח התמים
ר' ירחמיאל בנימין קליין
R' Binyamin Klein

grandfather of the kallah

סבא הכלה, מזכיר כ"ק אדמו"ר זי"ע הרה"ח הרה"ת ר' ירחמיאל בנימין הלוי ע"ה קליין כתב מכתב לכ"ק אדמו"ר לפני חתונתו, ובין הדברים הזכיר שאביו הגר באה"ק אינו יכול לבוא לניו יארק להשתתף בהחתונה מצד מצב בריאותו ושזה פעל הרבה על בריאותו (של אביו), הרבי הקיף תיבות "בקשתי שיבוא על חתונתי" וכתב **? המצא היתר בזה (ליציאה מאהקת"ו) ע"פ שו"ע?** [=מארץ הקודש תבנה ותכונן על פי שלחן ערוך].

ועל זה שלא יהיו הוריו ואף א' ממשפחתו בחתונתו כתב הרבי: **ע"פ דברי רבותינו נישאנו מייסדי ומנהלי תו"ת כל הת' ור"מ ור"י דתו"ת** [=תומכי תמימים כל התמימים]- (תלמידים) וראשי מתיבתא וראשי ישיבה דתומכי תמימים] **הם משפחתו.**



from the Tzemach Tzedek (through his oldest son, the "Rabash", R' Boruch Sholom).

Mesirus Nefesh to Spread Chassidus

Between the years 1918 and 1930, R' Yuda held the position of Maggid Shiur and Mashgiach in Yeshivas Tomchei Temimim in Kharkov, Poltava and Nevel. During his time in these yeshivas, he would also give classes on Tanya.

The oppressed life of Russian Jewry in those years is well-known and studying Torah in any shape or form was fraught with danger. Being a teacher of Torah, as he was, was dangerous on a whole new level and required much mesirus nefesh (self-sacrifice).



R' Yudah and his wife, Freida

R' Yuda Eber was beloved by the Previous Lubavitcher Rebbe, under whose leadership all of the branches of Tomchei Temimim functioned. The [Previous] Rebbe appointed him to carry out many secret and revealed activities on behalf, strengthening the Yeshiva network and spreading Judaism throughout the Soviet Union. R' Yuda was one of very few chassidim that the [Previous] Rebbe personally chose and entrusted to help carry out this holy mission.

After twelve years of being involved in the various branches of Tomchei Temimim in the USSR, in 1930, R' Yuda managed to escape with his wife and baby son, Avraham Elya, to Riga, Latvia. At the time, the Previous Rebbe resided in Riga.

Throughout the month of Tishrei 1930, many chassidim and a group of older students from the yeshiva in Warsaw came in to Riga to spend the month with the Rebbe. R' Yuda was appointed by the Rebbe to test all the incoming students. They all got a glimpse into his unique approach and method of learning, which he had acquired from his teacher R' Shmuel Borisover (as written above).

That same year, he was appointed by the Rebbe to be the Ra"m Roshi (Rosh mesivta/head Rabbi) in Yeshivas Tomchei Temimim in Vilna, Lithuania. From then on, the yeshiva had a whole new reputation.

Picture courtesy of Lubavitch Archives



הרה"ג הרה"ח
ר' יהודה עבער
R' Yuda Eber

great-great-great-uncle
of the chosson

Early Years and Education

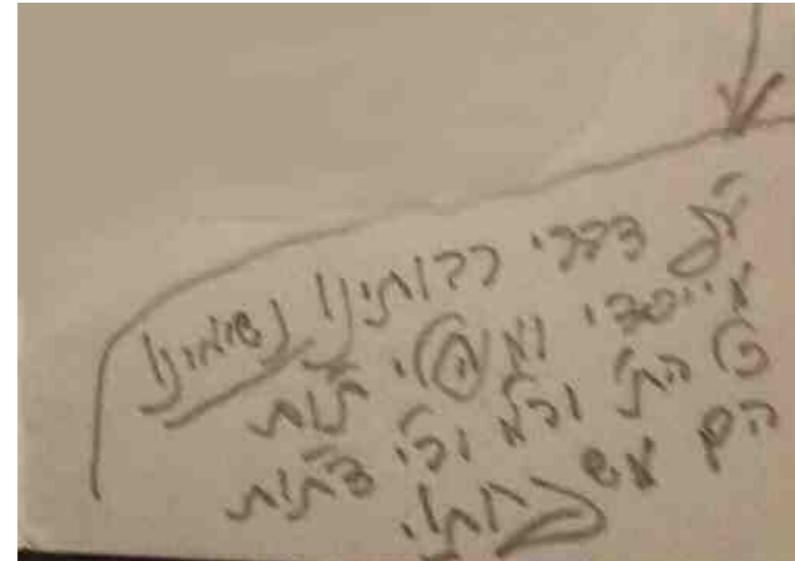
R' Yehuda (Yuda) Eber was born in a small village near Minsk, called Krasniloki, to his father, the chossid R' Avraham Yaakov the melamed. He was born on Isru Chag Pesach in the year 1901.

Already as a young child, he was recognized as being exceptionally bright and talented. When he was ten years old, he was accepted to study in the city of Lubavitch under R' Yechiel Kamiser and R' Yehuda Eresh. Four years later, when he was thirteen years old, he was accepted to study by the great chossid and teacher, R' Shmuel Borisover, from whom he received his legendary unique approach to learning, which he continued to develop his entire life.

In the summer of 1915, he began to learn in the branch of Yeshivas Tomchei Temimim in Sho'ee di n. One year later, in the summer of 1916 he was accepted to the main Zal (study hall) of Yeshivas Tomchei Temimim in the city of Lubavitch.

Marriage

Ten years later, in Kislev 1926, when he was approximately 25 years old, R' Yuda got married to Fraida, the daughter of R' Menachem Mendel Schneersohn, a descendant



Mushka's grandfather, the Rebbe's secretary, Rabbi Binyamin Klein ob"m wrote a letter to the Rebbe before his wedding noting that his father who lives in Israel is not able to attend his wedding in New York due to health conditions and that this was further affecting his health. The Rebbe responded: **'Have you found a leniency according to the Shulchan Aruch (Code of Jewish Law) to allow one to leave the Holy Land?'**

In response to his writing that he didn't have any of his family members attend his wedding the Rebbe wrote: **'According to our Rebbes, the founders and directors of [the Yeshiva] Tomchei Temimim, every student, teacher and Rosh Yeshiva of Tomchei Temimim are his family.'**



הרה"ח התמים
 ר' ראובן דובער נפרסטק
 R' Reuven DovBer Naparstek

great-grandfather of the chosson

Gimmel Sivan 5778 marked 20 years since the passing of HaRav HaChossid R' Reuven DovBer (Berel) Naparstek.

R' Berel learned in Yeshivas Tomchei Temimim in Warsaw and he was moiser nefesh to educate his children in the ways of Chassidus.

He was born on Erev Pesach in the year 1906 or 1910 in Minsk-Mezibitzk, Poland and he passed away in 5758/1998 and was buried on Har Hazeisim.

His Younger Years

R' Berel was born to his parents, R' Yechezkel Gedalya and Henia hy"d. He was the oldest child born to them and had other brothers and sisters after him. His brother was a chossid of Alexander and was a melamed for young children, some of his students still living in Israel today.

He received his Chassidic education from his father and teachers that his father hired to reach him. When he got to Bar Mi'vah age he left to golearni nt he "Bais Medrash HaGadol" (The Big Beit Medrash).

He learned there until the age of 17 when he heard about the founding of Yeshivas Tomchei Temimim Lubavitch in Warsaw. The yeshiva had a very strong reputation and students from all over Poland were flocking to learn with his walls.

Young Berel decided to follow the ancient axiom from Pirkei Avos "Exile yourself to a place of Torah," and so he picked himself up and went to learn in the yeshiva.

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When R' Berel would come to the Rebbe, R' Yisrael Shimon Kalmanson (who was the personal shochet of the Rebbe) would shecht for him too. In his later years, when R' Berel would travel to visit his son in France, R' Sholom Mendel Kalmanson would shecht for him. This was all done without any fanfare. Even at family events, a special plate was brought out for him from the kitchen, with meat/chicken that he approved of.

Throughout the years, he had an open house. If he ever found out that someone was in need and ashamed to ask for assistance, he would quietly go and arrange the necessary funds.

He was a gabbai Maos Chiedim in Kfar Chabad. He would only collect the money and left the second part of the job, distributing the money to someone else, as he did not feel comfortable to know who he was helping.



Passing by the Rebbe for dollars

R' Shimon HaTzaddik, a legendary elder chossid in Kfar Chabad, related that when he arrived in Kfar Chabad, the first person to welcome him and offer help was R' Berel Naparstek.

When he reached his eighties, he merited to fulfill the special mitzvah of writing a Sefer Torah and he hired a scribe to write a Sefer Torah. One year later, there was tremendous joy as the completed Torah was brought to the main shul in Kfar Chabad, Bais Menachem.

R' Berel merited to come to the Rebbe many times. People tell that even in his older age, he would still push among the crowds to be able to see and hear the Rebbe. Such was his devotion and desire to see and hear words from the Rebbe.

In the final years of his life, his mobility greatly deteriorated but nevertheless he would push himself to go daven with a minyan.

He passed away on Sunday, Gimmel Sivan, the first of the Shloshes Yei Hagbalah (three days of preparation [towards Shavuot]) in the year 5758/1998. He was buried on Har Hazeisim (Mount Olives) in Yerushalayim.

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Upon arriving in Israel, they became among the founders of the village, Kfar Chabad. R' Berel's three sons continued their education by going to study in the Chabad yeshiva in nearby Lod.

Three more children were born to him while living in Israel, Henia (who married R' Yisroelchak Weinberg shluchim in Vancouver), Gedalia (who married R' Shimon Golowinsky, living in Crown Heights), and R' Yechezkel Gedalya (who married Rivka Pevzner, shluchim in Paris, France).

As his children grew up and R' Berel needed more income, he began to work with the Chevra Kadisha in Tel Aviv and would take advantage of every minute to learn Torah and do mitzvot. When the Rebbe introduced him to the Yeshiva, R' Berel would make sure to use any opportunity to put Torah on and learn.

He was once asked, "R' Berel, what will you do when Moshiach comes? No one will die anymore, and there will be no need for your line of work, Chevra Kadisha!?"

R' Berel replied in Yiddish, "Work here, work there...as long as it comes..."

R' Berel's day would begin at 4:00am. He was the first one to open the mikvah and shul every day for many years. By 6:00am he began davening, never missing a minyan, and organizing many shiurim in the morning and also between Mincha and Maariv. He was very particular to set out and collect all the seforim before and after the shiurim.



R' Berel with his mechutan, R' Abba Levin

It was known that he always ran to hear and respond to Kedusha and Kaddish, saying that it was to catch up for what he missed during the war years.

He was very particular in many things. For instance, he only ate chicken that was shechted specifically for him under his watchful eye. He would buy his milk only from R' Zusha Rivkin and was careful to avoid all other dairy foods.

"Tomim Tihyeh"

Thus began a new era in his life.

The Rosh Yeshiva in Tomchei Temimim was the great scholar HaRav HaGaon R' Shimon (Shimele) m'Zelichov. He was considered to be one of the leading scholars of the time in Poland. He tested young Berel and recognized his talents and his strong will and desire to be accepted to the yeshiva.

R' Shimele accepted him to the highest class of the yeshiva with R' Boruch Friedman as the teacher. Some of his classmates were R' Moshe Pinchas Kaizer (who later became the gabbai in 770), and his chavrusa (learning partner) was HaRav Mordechai Mentlick (who later became the Rosh Yeshiva in 770).

In the year 1928, when the Previous Lubavitcher Rebbe left Russia, the chassidim in Warsaw sent the Rebbe a letter, beseeching him to come to the city. The Rebbe responded that for hidden reasons he was not able to do so, but he promised to come visit. On 11 Shvat of that year, he wrote in a letter that he would arrive for a visit by the end of the month. And so it was. The Previous Rebbe arrived in Warsaw and while there recited the maamar (chassidic discourse) "V'asu Li Mikdash" ("And you should build for Me a temple"). He said "With this I acquired Warsaw."

On the ninth of Adar, the Previous Rebbe paid a visit to the yeshiva. He visited all the classrooms, the Zal (study hall) and the dormitory. The yeshiva students then entered into private yechidus (audience) with the Rebbe. Amongst the students who had yechidus, was the young student Berel.

Later on R' Berel related that when he had left the yechidus, the first question he was asked by all the waiting yeshiva students was, "Did the Rebbe shake your hand?" This question was significant because chassidim generally will not shake the Rebbe's hand as a sign of respect. The boys wanted to know if the Rebbe accepted him as a chossid. When he replied that the Rebbe did not shake his hand, they began to dance with



R' Berel in his younger years

him, joyful that he was clearly accepted as a chossid.

The Rebbe's Wedding

In the winter of 1929, the seventh Lubavitcher Rebbe and Rebbe's daughter Chaya Mushka got married in Warsaw. As is famously known, the yeshiva students also took part in the wedding. When the Previous Rebbe arrived at the train station, the students all came to greet with much joy. Amongst them was R' Berel who related that the [Previous] Rebbe's face appeared like an angel.

The wedding feast took place in the yeshiva and there was only a select group of guests, including the students of Tomchei Temimim. The students were very privileged to be present when the Previous Rebbe delivered a special maamar in honor of the wedding, which he had already recited at the Shabbos Aufruf which took place in Riga, Latvia.

Throughout the wedding, the [Previous] Rebbe went between the tables giving out lchaim and when he got to the area where the students sat, he asked R' Alter Simchovitch (the mashgiach) to give lchaim to the students on his behalf. He then began a talk (sicha) about the concept that the Torah only exists through those who sacrifice for it.

Marriage and Surviving the War Years

In 1930, when R' Berel completed his years in yeshiva, he got married to Chaya Gita Teyblum. He had three children, R' Yisrael Aharon, R' Yechiel Yerachmiel (the grandfather of the chosson), and R' Moshe Avraham. In 1939, the World War Two broke out and shortly after, the Russian army stormed the city in which they lived. Their small village ended up between the two opposing armies of Nazi Germany and Communist Russia.

People debated what was the better of the two evils, escaping into the Russian mountainside or to remain in Poland.

Even in R' Berel's family, his parents and siblings all held different opinions on the best course of action. R' Berel's parents, R' Yechezkel Gedalya and Henia decided to remain with their other younger children. However R' Berel together with his wife and children, decided to escape to Russia.

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Once they arrived in Russia, they settled in Lvov for a short time. Once the war followed them there, they, with many other chassidim, fled first to Russia and then to Tashkent and Samarkand.

Like true chassidim, they immediately opened a cheder for the small children and a yeshiva for the older boys. Due to the war, within some time, a famine broke out and brought with it the dreaded tuberculosis, which hundreds of people succumbed to.

R' Berel volunteered and became one of the leaders of the community (Misaskim), helping the ill and thereby saving many people. Those who tragically perished, a proper Jewish burial was arranged for them, before the government could prevent it.

When the war ended in 1946, R' Berel returned with his family to Poland. They arrived in Lodz and they met many of the chassidim there. From there, they traveled to the Poking DP camp in Germany, where thousands of Jews from all over Europe gathered.

Tomchei Temimim in Poking DP Camp, Germany

Together, the chassidim opened a branch of Tomchei Temimim in Poking. They also opened a Beis Medrash for adults. In addition they established a cheder for the young boys to learn.

After 2 years in Poking, together with other chassidim, they continued on to France, with the eventual hope of continuing to the Rebbe in America. R' Berel's children accompanied his family to France under the leadership of the gaon HaRav Yosef Goldberg.

Plans were made to continue on to America and they even sent their suitcases ahead! While their belongings were en route, they received a letter from the [Previous] Rebbe that they should head to the Holy Land of Israel, and not America. This was a general instruction from the [Previous] Rebbe to all the chassidim who were there at the time.

Heading for Eretz Yisrael

As a faithful chossid, they left everything and turned instead to travel towards Israel.

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