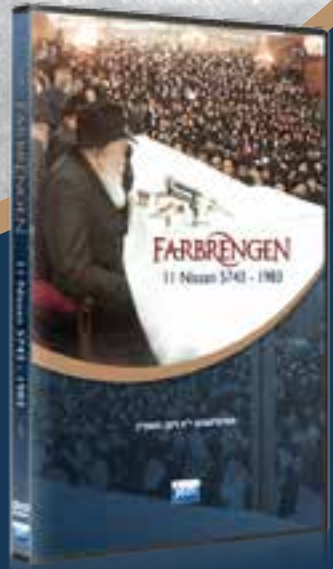


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פארברענגען

FARBRENGEN



YUD-ALEPH NISSAN 5743

It's a day of celebration for each and every Yid in the generation. The birthday of the nossi—הנשיא הוא הכל. And they came. In the thousands. The Rebbe leads the celebration with a special farbrengen. Drawing on the inspiration of the time, the place, the gathering of people, the Rebbe encourages further action in the year to come. The topics covered at the farbrengen are many; from the declaration of President Reagan, to the story of a wealthy Jew on his yacht, and the importance and impact of the mitvtzoim. The time in between the sichos is filled with hearty niggunim

and l'chaims to the Rebbe, and a joyous yom-tov like atmosphere prevails throughout. In honor of Yud-Aleph Nissan this year, JEM has released the full video recording of this memorable farbrengen on DVD. Watching the farbrengen, we can relive the way Chassidim celebrated this day with the Rebbe and learn the timeless lessons of the day from the Rebbe himself. Below are just a few highlights:

WHAT ARE WE ABOUT?

Elaborating on the significance of this gathering, the Rebbe began by summarizing the objective of why we get together here: to strategize and make *hachlatos* to finally and completely reveal Hashem's presence in this lowly world.

How is this accomplished? By way of Torah and mitzvos, and by teaching and spreading G-dliness to all the inhabitants of the world, along with the observance of *sheva mitzvos b'nei Noach*.

Every Yid can and must involve himself with this task. As the next story shall demonstrate.

THE JEW AND HIS YACHT

There was a Jew ("He is here now," the Rebbe said. "May he enjoy many long years together with his family.") who Hashem blessed with great wealth and many possessions, including a yacht. When it came time to daven as he was out at sea, he approached the captain of his yacht and asked which direction was east. He wanted to daven properly, facing Yerushalayim. After this incident repeated itself a few times, a conversation ensued and the Yid told his non-Jewish captain about his prayers to Hashem.

The Yid's words made a strong impression on the captain, who in turn resolved that he, too, must think more about G-d.

"Let this serve as a lesson for each and every one of us," the Rebbe concluded the story. "Every single Jew, even the least sophisticated, can and must influence his surrounding neighbors to observe the *sheva mitzvos b'nei Noach*. This story proves that doing so is simpler than ever. Even merely going about our personal Yiddishkeit proudly will automatically have an effect on others."

A "CHANCE" ENCOUNTER

With this, the Rebbe brought in the next subject: the power of *mitzvaim*.

There are those who ask: what is the value of a one-time mitzvah?

And besides, when standing in the streets you always need to ask the passersby if they're Jewish or not. If they aren't Jewish, you've made a fool of yourself!

After giving a lengthy explanation on the infinite value of even one single mitzvah, the Rebbe said:

Even if the passerby turns out to be a non-Jew, you never know what you can accomplish by merely asking him your question, "Are you Jewish?" It can affect a transformation in his heart and lead to the observance of *sheva mitzvos b'nei Noach*, especially since the question is asked sincerely and from the heart.

ALL ABOUT CHINUCH

Expectedly, a sizable part of the farbrengen is dedicated to discussing the importance of education.

"This time of year is opportune for *chinuch*," the Rebbe explained. "The yom tov of Pesach is all about *chinuch*; teaching our children."

Which brings on the next subject: the need to institute a "moment of silence" in public schools.

If Pesach is an opportune time ("יומין זכאין") to focus on education, then these past few years have been an opportune time to focus on instituting a moment of silence in public schools. The sitting president of the United States has made his view clear that education must be rooted in belief in G-d. If the President has done so, it remains for us to take advantage and act on this endorsement from the highest office in the land and work towards achieving the moment of silence in public schools.

THANK YOU ALL

The Rebbe thanked everyone who sent their birthday wishes in honor of Yud-Aleph Nissan, especially the President, who also sent his wishes. "Not on my personal account," the Rebbe clarified, "but on account of all those who follow in the ways of Chabad, whom I am privileged to represent."

The Rebbe concluded by wishing the President continued success in his important job, most notably in deterring the opposition against ensuring peace and stability in the Holy Land.

ALL THOSE LISTENING

Just before leaving, after reciting the *bracha acharona*, the Rebbe announced that he will distribute dollars to all the participants through the "*tankistin*," asking that each person should only take one dollar, for quantity is of no significance in this matter.

"Those who are listening in through the 'hook-up' or the like, should also give one dollar to tzedakah, either tonight or tomorrow—or at least before Pesach." **T**

Watching the farbrengen on video today, we can be certain that the Rebbe had us in mind as well; those listening on the "hook-up or the like"—as we connect with the Rebbe by studying his Torah, and all the more so by learning his Torah from the Rebbe himself.

There could be no better way to properly celebrate Yud-Aleph Nissan than joining with the Rebbe in this newly released farbrengen.

May we merit to celebrate this Yud-Aleph Nissan with a "new" farbrengen together with the Rebbe, and learn "new" Torah with the coming of Moshiach, "תורה חדשה מאתי תצא".