

Torah at Har Sinai and having the responsibility to spread its light.

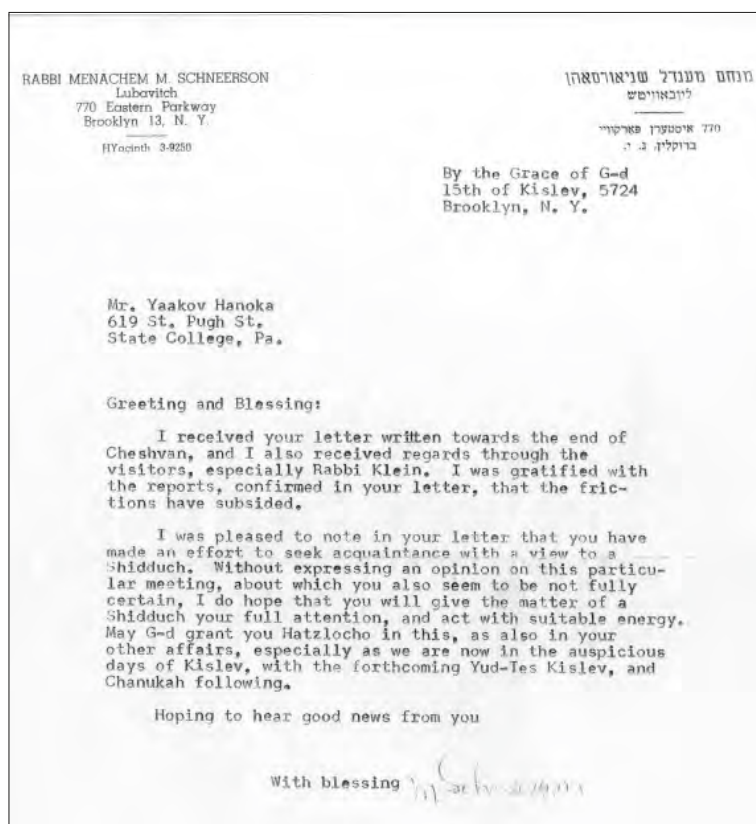
The beginning would be challenging, the Rebbe said. He should not ask himself why he was there (in yeshiva) because, for the first three (and then the Rebbe added, the first six) months, he would not be able to answer that question. The Rebbe added that he could see my father was not the type to be afraid of challenges.

As a college student, my father had resolved not to blame his parents for any of his difficulties (even though it was fashionable to do so at the time), and he pledged to view all of his future trials in life as challenges to overcome, rather than problems to be endured. My father told me that the Rebbe appreciated that approach.

The Dairy Conundrum

After my father's year in yeshiva, the Rebbe advised him to return to university and complete his degree. He also encouraged my father to pursue his scientific career in solar energy, so that he could spread Yiddishkeit in his field of expertise. My father's life's mission, it became clear, was to balance a deep commitment to Yiddishkeit and Chassidus with a successful career (registering an astounding 57 patents!) in the secular world, thereby serving as a role model to others.

My father was determined to continuing observing all the mitzvahs he had learned in Crown Heights, including Cholov Yisroel. This became a point of contention, because Rabbi G did not keep



Cholov Yisroel (it was very difficult to obtain in central Pennsylvania). My father could thus not eat the dairy in the rabbi's home, the rabbi took this difficulty. My father told the Rebbe about this, and the Rebbe instructed his secretary, Rabbi Binyomin Klein, to speak to Rabbi G on behalf of the Rebbe. Rabbi Klein told the Hillel rabbi that all of my father's Yiddishkeit was in his z'chus (merit), so he should not feel slighted.

A few years later, when my parents got married, they moved back to Rabbi G's neighborhood near Penn State while my father studied for his Ph.D. My mother was a Hebrew Studies teacher, and she taught Rabbi G's two sons. The rabbi was very indebted to my parents for living there and strengthening the community, and specifically for educating his sons. Seeing how committed my parents were to Judaism gave him a new appreciation for the importance of Cholov Yisroel. The matter was settled,