

# SICHA STORY

PROJECT LIKKUTEI SICHOS | 5783 - YEAR OF HAKHEL



*Likkutei Sichos, Volume 16*

## Va'era, Sicha 3 (*First Sicha of the week*)

- Rabbi Yossi Nemes, Metairie, Louisiana

**לזכות חי' מושקא בת חנה לרגל יום הולדתה כ"ג טבת**

*The 'Wine of Torah' and the lesson section of the Sicha discusses why Pharaoh was addressed directly by Moshe and not through Aaron. When evil is at the height of its power, only Hashem Himself can neutralize it. Moshe, due to his absolute Bittul & lack of ego, was able to serve as a direct conduit for the Divine.*

*Similarly, there are times when our animal nature appears to have the upper hand and, in the world at large, the forces of darkness seem to hinder us from fulfilling our mission. At such times, the ability to overcome is in the realization that we are emissaries of the "Moshe" of our generation and by remaining faithful to the Divine messages our Moshe communicates.*

### **Visualize yourself in the Rebbe's room!**

In 1955, on the day after Shavous, the Rebbe addressed a conference of Chabad Principals and Teachers from beyond New York. "Each and every one of you should visualize that the Rebbe is calling you into his room like he used to do in 1941 and 1942 (Note: In those years the previous Rebbe would call in a Bachur and send them to open a Jewish school, outside of New York) and telling you, "I'm giving you a city and the children that live there so that you should influence them to be Chasidim". If you visualize this, all obstacles and difficulties will be nullified, and your mission will be successful.

## And yesterday Yisrael was so worried!

Rabbi Yisroel Deren related: We decided to celebrate the inauguration of our Chabad House in Amherst, with a grand concert.

We obtained a hall and organized everything, but to our consternation, as the date approached almost no one bought tickets. We thought the event would be a colossal failure. The Shabbos before the concert was probably one of the worst Shabbasim of my life. I went up to the second floor of the Chabad House from where I could actually see the concert hall, and as I looked at it, I was thinking to myself, "Yisrael, you see that building over there? Tomorrow that is going to be the scene of your downfall." I do not recall if I was literally crying, but inside, I was sobbing.

As I was standing there, I was reminded of a story I had heard about Reb Mendel Futerfas. Once, when at a low point in jail, he had the idea of sending a letter to the Previous Rebbe in his mind. He imagined making all the preparations, writing the letter, and posting it. A week later, his family in England received a letter from the Rebbe addressed to Reb Mendel! It began with the words, "In response to your telegram..." I thought to myself, "If only I was on the level of Reb Mendel, if only I could do something like that, I would send a letter to the Rebbe in my mind. I would write, 'Dear Rebbe, You sent me here to make a kiddush Hashem, and I am about to do the opposite. Rebbe, please save me!'"

The next day, I braced myself for the worst. But then, to our surprise (and delight), as we approached the hall, we saw huge lines of people. The concert was a great success.

Right after the event, my grandmother went to New York, where she was scheduled to enter for yechidus. She had been at the concert in Amherst, so the Rebbe sat back, and started asking questions about every detail of the concert. Did politicians attend? Was it covered by the press? Did I make an appeal? Were my parents there? Finally, the Rebbe asked, "Nu, and how many people were there?" My bubbe replied, "Over one thousand." To which, the Rebbe responded, "Over a thousand?! And yesterday Yisrael was so worried..."

## Do not get in the way of the one who sent you!

Rabbi Chadakov once called Rabbi Avraham Shemtov and requested that he build a Mikvah in a town outside of Philadelphia. At that time, Rabbi Shemtov was quite

overwhelmed with other aspects of his Shlichus and it seemed impossible for him to take responsibility to build this mikvah.

Rabbi Chadakov told Rabbi Shemtov, "Everything that you did until now, were things that you were able to do on your own? Whatever you accomplished came from the blessings and Kochos you received from the one who sent you." (Meaning: Just as you received kochos for those other things, the same will be in regard the mikva). "The main thing is that we should not get in the way..."

*(from the Shluchim Zoom Farbrengen Book, Page 13)*

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