



December 6, 2025

VaYishlach

16 Kislev, 5786

Where Are You?

In 1798, Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi was imprisoned on charges, put forth by the opponents of Chassidism, that his teachings undermined the imperial authority of the czar. For fifty-two days he was held in the Peter-Paul Fortress in Petersburg.

Among the Rebbe's interrogators was a government minister who possessed broad knowledge of the Bible and Jewish studies. On one occasion, he asked the Rebbe to explain the verse (Genesis 3:9), "And G-d called out to the man and said to him: 'Where are you?'" Did G-d not know where Adam was?

Rabbi Schneur Zalman presented the explanation offered by several of the commentaries: the question "Where are you?" was merely a "conversation opener" on the part of G-d, who did not wish to unnerve Adam by immediately confronting him with his wrongdoing.

"What Rashi says, I know," said the minister. "I wish to hear how the Rebbe understands the verse."

"Do you believe that the Torah is eternal?" asked the Rebbe. "Do you believe that its every word applies to every individual, under all conditions, at all times?"

"Yes," replied the minister.

Rabbi Schneur Zalman was extremely gratified to hear this. The czar's minister had affirmed a principle which lies at the basis of the teachings of Rabbi Israel Baal Shem Tov, the very teachings and ideology for which he was standing trial!

"'Where are you?'" explained the Rebbe, "is G-d's perpetual call to every man. Where are you in the world? What have you accomplished? You have been allotted a certain number of days, hours, and minutes in which to fulfill your mission in life. You have lived so many years and so many days,"— here Rabbi Schneur Zalman spelled out the exact age of the minister — "Where are you? What have you achieved?"

Told by the Lubavitcher Rebbe on 19 Kislev, 5718 (December 12, 1957), on the occasion of the 159th anniversary of Rabbi Schneur Zalman's release from prison.

Biographical notes:

Rabbi Schneur Zalman Boruchovitch of Liadi, also known as the "Alter Rebbe" and "The Rav," was born in Liozna, White Russia, in 1745. In 1764 he became a disciple of Rabbi DovBer of Mezeritch, the second leader of the chassidic movement after the Baal Shem Tov. In 1772, Rabbi Schneur Zalman established the "Chabad" branch of Chassidism. For twenty years he labored on his Tanya, which, published in 1796, became the "bible" of Chabad Chassidism, upon which hundreds of works and thousands of discourses by seven generations of Chabad rebbes and their disciples are based. The nineteenth of Kislev, the day on which he was released from czarist imprisonment in 1798, is celebrated to this day as the "New Year for Chassidism," for that event marked the start of a new period of expansion for the movement. Rabbi Schneur Zalman passed away while fleeing from Napoleon's armies in December 1812.

(from www.chabad.org)



How to Enjoy This World

At the beginning of this week's Parashah, Yaakov sends a message to his brother Esav: "Im Lavan garti / I have sojourned with Lavan." Based on the fact that "Garti" (Gimmel-Reish-Tav-Yud) has the same Hebrew letters and Gematria (613) as "Taryag," Rashi z"l explains Yaakov's message: "I kept the Taryag / 613 commandments and did not learn from Lavan's evil ways."

Why would Esav care if Yaakov kept the Mitzvot while living with Lavan?

R' Nachum Mordechai Friedman z"l (1874-1946; Tchoortkover Rebbe in Vienna, Austria and Eretz Yisrael) explains: Esav maintained that this world belongs him and only the World-to-Come belongs to Yaakov. By what right then, does Yaakov enjoy this world also? The Mishnah (Pe'ah 1:1—recited every morning following the blessings over Torah learning) teaches: There are Mitzvot whose "fruits" we "eat" in this world, though the primary reward is reserved for the World-to-Come. Yaakov was saying, explains the Tchoortkover Rebbe, "I performed those Mitzvot, too, so I am permitted to enjoy this world."

Alternatively, the Tchoortkover Rebbe explains, there are multiple ways to defeat the Yetzer Ha'ra. One way is to deprive oneself of the pleasures of this world. A higher level, however, is to sanctify the pleasures of this world. When one truly enjoys this world for the sake of Heaven, the Yetzer Ha'ra is fooled: it sees a person enjoying this world, so it is satisfied, but it does not realize that this pleasure is actually an expression of holiness. [Yaakov was saying: "True, I keep enjoying this world, but I kept all 613 Mitzvot. My enjoyment of this world is actually an act of sanctity, which does not infringe on your rights."] (Doresh Tov)

(by Rabbi Shlomo Katz from Project Genesis at www.torah.org)

We happily wish Mazel Tov to
Mr. Yesacher and Mrs. Chani Fishman
 on the **Birth of their Daughter,**
Avigal Merav.



Kol Hanaarim – every Friday evening during the winter at **7:30 p.m. in The Shul**. Cholent and pastries are served. Each session is 'topped off' at the end with a fascinating story by Rabbi Eli Itzkowitz. For any questions, please see Rabbi Itzkowitz.

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DAVENING AND SHIURIM SCHEDULE

Friday, 12/5 — 15 Kislev

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Shabbat Candles — 4:25 p.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:25 p.m.

Shabbat, 12/6 — 16 Kislev

Shacharit 9:00 a.m.
 Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:32 a.m.
 Minchah — 4:15 p.m.
 Shiur — after Minchah
 Shkiah — 4:43 p.m.
 Ma'ariv — 5:27 p.m.

Sunday, 12/7 — 17 Kislev

Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:30 p.m.

Monday, 12/8 — 18 Kislev

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday Yud-Tes Kislev, 12/9 — 19 Kislev

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, 12/10 — 20 Kislev

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:30 p.m.
 Tanya Shiur: 2nd part of Tanya Shaar HaYichud
 V'Emunah which deals w/the nature of creation
 and the unity of Hashem — Cancelled this week.

Thursday, 12/11 — 21 Kislev

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:30 p.m.

Friday, 12/12 — 22 Kislev

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Shabbat Candles — 4:25 p.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:25 p.m.

Chabad Lubavitch of Baltimore cordially invites the
community to a seudas mitzvah in honor of

י"ט כסלו

פארבריינגען

סיום הש"ס • סעודת מצוה

19 Kislev, 5786

TUESDAY » DEC 9 » 8:00PM

KOL TORAH HALL

2929 Fallstaff Rd



Seforim
Sale



Fleishig
Meal



Live
Music



Guest Speaker

**Rabbi Eliyahu Nossan
Silberberg Shlita**

ראש ישיבת אור אליהו שיקאגא
מח"ס "לקט ביאורים" על מסכתות הש"ס

דברי תורה וברכה מרבני העיר

For Men Only
Free Admission