



Adapted from the sefer חמין במוצאי שבת and חדוּתא דזעיר אנפין collections of
maamarim
given by the Tolner Rebbe shlita at Seuda Shlishis and Melave Malka

Seuda Shlishis Parshas Noach
(חדוּתא דזעיר אנפין עמוד ס"ו)

I have often quoted a frightening statement of Rav Menachem Mendel of Riminov zy"l as transmitted by the *Bnei Yisasschar* zy"l. He said that all of the terrible *gezeiros* which the nations of the world decreed upon *Am Yisrael*, began in the month of *Cheshvan*.

He certainly didn't reveal this information in order to bring us to despair and sadness when this month comes around. His wanted this knowledge to spur us to greater efforts in our battle with the *yetzer hara* and its emissaries, and to daven for Hashem to have mercy on us and save us from their evil hands.

The *Sefer Arugas Habosem* says in the name of Rav Bunim of Pshischa zy"l that this month is called *Marcheshvan* because רחשי שפתייהו - our lips still vibrate from the *tefillos* of the *Yamim Noraim*. This isn't only a description of the power of those *tefillos*. His lesson is meant to draw our attention to the unique power of *tefilla* that we have in this month. With *tefilla*, we are able to cancel all evil decrees that threaten us as individuals, and *Bnei Yisrael* as a whole.

The seventh of *Cheshvan* is the *yohrzeit* of *Hagaon Hakadosh* Rav Meir Shapiro of Lublin zt"l, who was one of *Gedolei Hador* in every area of Jewish life. His great works remain engraved in the bones of *Am Yisrael* till today. It is impossible to fully describe the lofty *madreigos* that he attained in *Torah*, *Avodah*, *Gemilus Chasadim* and every good *mida* imaginable.



[1]

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I met someone whose grandfather was a *talmid* in the *Yeshiva* founded by Rav Meir Shapiro, *Yeshivas Chachmei Lublin*. His grandfather told him the following story.

When Rav Meir was *niftar*, vast numbers of people came to the funeral. At one point in the funeral someone from the *Chevra Kadish* summoned my grandfather, who was one of the youngest *talmidim*. He told my grandfather that just before the Rav was *niftar* he vomited up a quantity of blood. That blood was saved in a container, and according to *halacha* had to be buried because it was classified as *Dam Ha'nefesh*. That container had been left in the Rav's apartment in the *Yeshiva* building. The man asked my grandfather to quickly bring the container for burial.

My grandfather ran to the *Yeshiva* (which was silent and empty since everyone was at the *levaya*). As he approached the *Yeshiva*, he saw a man standing by himself on the stairway of the *Yeshiva*. The man was *Harav Hakadosh Rav Aharon* of Kozhnitz zy"a.

Rav Aharon was clearly in a state of *dveykus* and great emotion, and he didn't even notice the young *bochur* who had arrived.

Rav Aharon began to speak to himself in a loud voice. He said that since it doesn't seem to him that the speakers had eulogized the *Gadol Hador* Rav Meir Shapiro suitably, he would now say a *hesped*.

He began by quoting the *Gemara* (סנהדרין ק"א.) which tells us that it was said about *Rabeinu Hakadosh* (R. Yehuda Hanasi) טוב אתה לישראל מטיפה "You are better for *Yisrael* than the drop of rain. He then applied this praise to Rav Meir Shapiro, who was *niftar* on the day when we begin to ask for rain in the *tefilla*.

He then added that at this very moment, the enemies of *Am Yisrael* are gathering and planning to destroy us. Rav Aharon then mentioned the statement of the *Riminover zy"a* that the *gezeiros* of the nations against *Am Yisrael* always began in the month of *Cheshvan*.



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At that point, he opened his eyes and saw the young *bachur* who was frightened by what he had just witnessed. Rav Aharon said with a smile, “*Baruch Hashem*, at least one person heard what I said.” He then went on his way.

After the war, it was discovered that on that same day, the evil descendants of *Amalek* met and devised plans that they hoped would enable them to destroy us.

The point of repeating these revelations isn't to cause us to fear and despair. Rather, this understanding of the month of *Cheshvan* should inspire us to increase our *tefillos*, beseeching Hashem to cancel all harsh decrees that threaten us.

And in the merit of learning Torah during the long nights of the winter..

נזכה לשנה טובה ומתוקה, לחיים טובים ולשלום אכי"ר



[3]

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