



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

### Seuda Shlishis Parshas Chukas

In the month of Tamuz, three *tzadikim* left this world. Each of them in his own way, worked for, and cared for every individual Jew in Am Yisrael.

The third of Tamuz is the *yahrzeit* of the *manhig Yisrael*, Harav Hakadosh of Lubavitch zy" a. Even if we were to write for years, we wouldn't be able to chronicle his holy endeavors for each and every Jew. He stayed in his small house in America, yet constantly sought to benefit Jews around the world, no matter where they lived. He did much, and inspired many others to draw Jewish hearts close to Hakadosh Baruch Hu.

Such extraordinary leadership hadn't manifested itself for many generations. He was a leader whose heart was *lev ha'am*, attuned to the hearts of all Jews. His *avodah* was selfless. It is well known that on hundreds of occasions, he warned and instructed his followers not to mention his involvement, in cases where a project would be more successful if his connection remained anonymous. He cared for, and did all he could to help all of the different communities in Am Yisrael, even those who opposed him.

The seventh of Tamuz is the *yahrzeit* of Harav Hakadosh of Gur, the Lev Simcha zy" a. After the Lev Simcha was *niftar*, I asked R' Elazar Hendeles z"l, a chassid and close confidant of the Lev Simcha for decades, to share something about the Rebbe. R' Elazar asked if I wanted to hear a story about the Rebbe's *mofsim* (wonderous acts), or a story about his guidance and leadership. Obviously, I asked him to tell me both.



[1]

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He told me that in the *chatzer* of the Gerrer Chasidim, people weren't amazed by the miraculous events that took place during the leadership of the Lev Simcha. They occurred so frequently, that people became accustomed to such things. Nonetheless, he told me that he would share one astounding story that he himself experienced.

One morning, R' Elazar (who was quite elderly) bent down to tie his shoes. The muscles of his back locked, and he was unable to straighten up. He sat there for a long time, bent over and unable to move. Finally, he managed to straighten up. At that moment his phone rang. When he answered the phone, he heard the voice of the Lev Simcha who asked, "נו אלעזר, סאיז דיר שוין בעסער?!" (Nu, Elazar is it already better?!).

R' Elazar was shocked. How could the Rebbe have known? A few days later, when he came to speak with the Lev Simcha, he boldly asked the Rebbe how he knew about the problem with his back. The Rebbe answered, "מיר זענען דאך גוטע פריינד" (We are after all, good friends). He seemed to feel that it was obvious that he should be aware of his good friend's predicament.

He proceeded to tell me a story of the Lev Simcha's guidance and leadership. The Lev Simcha was very concerned about the high price of housing in Eretz Yisrael. He tried very hard to find and implement solutions, as he did to lower prices and limit expenditures in many other areas. (For example, he implemented *takanos* setting limits on the amount of money spent on *simchas*). He wanted to create a revolution in Israel's housing market by encouraging the construction of thousands of apartments that would be dedicated for the rental market.

He sent R' Elazar to speak with various government officials about different plans to lower housing prices. After R' Elazar sat in meeting after meeting, negotiating with one official after another, an agreement was reached. R' Elazar returned to the Lev Simcha and triumphantly informed the Rebbe that his hours of hard work had resulted in a great



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accomplishment. A few hundred subsidized apartments would be designated for Gerrer *chassidim*!

The Lev Simcha's face darkened, and he expressed his pain. "I'm surprised at you R' Elazar. How could you have mistakenly thought that I am concerned about, and working for the benefit of my *chassidim*?! I want every young man in Israel to be able to marry and get an affordable apartment. If a non-observant soldier finishes his army service and feels that he won't be able to afford housing when he gets married, he may leave Eretz Yisrael. Who knows what will be with his Yiddishkeit? That is why I have fought so hard for affordable rental apartments to be built."

R' Elazar said that for quite a while afterwards, the way the Rebbe looked at him indicated that he was still hurt that R' Elazar could have thought that he cared only about his own community.

The Ninth of Tamuz in the *yahrzeit* of the Shefa Chaim, the Rebbe of Sanz-Klausenberg zy" a. He was the leader who rose from the ashes of the crematoria, after having lost his wife and children and enduring the *gehinnom* of the concentration camps.

As soon as the war was over, he devoted himself to rehabilitating, strengthening and encouraging his fellow survivors. He brought countless Jews back to a life of Torah and *mitzvos*, and presided over the marriage of hundreds of men and women who managed to survive. All the days of his life were one continuum of Torah and *gemilus chasadim* for each and every Jew.

He devoted much of his precious time and energy to establishing the Laniado hospital in Netanya. He was *moser nefesh* to build a beautiful hospital which would provide the best treatment possible while running entirely according to Halacha. There was never the inkling of a thought in his mind that he established the hospital for his *chassidim*. It was a project that he undertook for the benefit of all Klal Yisrael.



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This is how we should follow in the footsteps of our leaders. Rather than caring about our own benefit, or even that of our particular community, we must care about the welfare of every single Jew. We must avoid arrogance and the feeling that our community is better than another. We must strive to see the *maalos* of our friends and not what they are lacking.

ואני ואתה נעבוד את ה', והכל מסייעים לעבודת המלך אכי"ר



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