

THE DIFFICULT NINE DAYS OF A CHASIDIC MASTER

The 'Nine Days' leading up to Tisha b'Av weighed heavily over the holy Rabbi Baruch of Mezhibuz, grandson of the Baal Shem tov.

During these nine days Rabbi Baruch would not see his followers. It's said that each year he sets out on a personal "exile," to feel, the bitterness that our ancestors experienced after the destruction. He would reappear on the eve of Tisha B'Av, ready to read Eichah -- the Book of Lamentations.

That year, Rabbi Baruch disappeared at the beginning of the Nine Days. He chose to pose as a wagon driver because he felt weak in his legs.

As he stood near his wagon, a Polish nobleman approached and hired him for a trip to a city about 70 kilometers away. The Rebbe knew that he would have time to reach there and return before Tisha B'Av, with an extra day in case of delays.

Rabbi Baruch set off with the nobleman.

They spent two nights at roadside inns. "The wagon driver" did not have a private room like the nobleman. Each night he slept on straw beside his horse. At the first rays of dawn, he would rise and strap on his tefillin so he could resume the journey while it was still early in the morning.

Nothing noteworthy happened on the way there. But on their first night returning, the nobleman got drunk. Before going to bed, he boasted to anyone who would listen about the deal he had made in the city. As is often the case there were men nearby who were waiting for such an opportunity. They were ready to deal with the wealthy traveler and relieve him of his money.

The next morning, when Rabbi Baruch awoke, he had to dress the nobleman and carry him to the wagon. They soon entered a dense forest, empty at that early hour. There were no people or wagons, as the sun had only just begun to rise.

Suddenly, someone threw a sack over Rabbi Baruch's head. He regained consciousness tied to a tree. Opposite him, the unconscious nobleman was also tied to a tree. Were it not for the rope he would have collapsed to the ground. It became clear that bandits had ambushed them, and made off with their money, the wagon and horses.

Rabbi Baruch noticed his tefillin and prayer book lying in the grass. His heart filled with joy at the sight, and he thanked G-d for sparing his life. But the troubles were only beginning.

Rabbi Baruch struggled to loosen the ropes. He picked up and kissed his tefillin and placed them in his travel pouch.

Rabbi Baruch untied the nobleman, who remained unconscious on the ground, barely clinging to life. The Rabbi could easily have left the man behind, but the thought never crossed his mind. He searched for water, to wash the man's face and try to revive him. After a few hours, the nobleman began to awaken from his stupor. When he came to, Rabbi Baruch told him what happened.

When he mentioned that they had been robbed, the nobleman sprang up like a man bitten by a snake and cried out, "My money! Where is my money-the ten thousand rubles that were in my pocket?"

After a while, he began casting suspicious glances at Rabbi Baruch, who was deep in prayer.

When Rabbi Baruch finished praying, he asked the nobleman, "Are you strong enough to walk to the inn?"

They began walking, but hadn't gone far when they heard voices-it was a group of hunters passing by. The nobleman recognized some of his friends among them. He told them what happened adding that he suspected the wagon driver of collaborating with the bandits.

"How else could the thieves have known I was carrying so much money?" he asked. "Let's shoot him!" one of them suggested.

The leader of the group, an older nobleman, thought otherwise. He proposed, "Let's tie the wagon driver to a tree and wait. If he's one of the thieves, his comrades will come to help him. If not-let G-d help him."

"Indeed, G-d will help me," thought Rabbi Baruch.

The hunters left him alone in the forest. Night fell.

"It must be midnight," Rabbi Baruch said to himself, seeing the moon directly overhead. With hot tears streaming down his cheeks, he began reciting Tikun Chatzot, the midnight lament for the destruction of the Temple, something he recited every night.

Never had he felt the pain of exile so deeply as he did now, amidst anguish and suffering. It was as though the entire forest echoed his voice as he poured out the Psalms from his broken heart. Strangely, with every verse he recited, hope returned and found a place in his heart.

It was as if the trees of the forest had joined together in a great choir mourning the destruction of the Temple, and the moon and stars above were trying to whisper that salvation was drawing near.

A low voice interrupted Rabbi Baruch's prayer belonging to the old nobleman, the leader of the hunters, who had earlier objected to shooting him.

Rabbi Baruch saw the man approaching, accompanied by a group of others. "I wanted to see what became of you," the nobleman said. "I just couldn't believe you were one of the thieves. Meanwhile, we caught the robbers at the inn where you spent the night. They admitted that our friend had drunkenly revealed how much money he was carrying. So I came back to help you."

Rabbi Baruch thanked G-d for the sudden salvation, and expressed appreciation to the old noble as well, for his thoughtfulness. The old nobleman gave him a horse, and left one of his servants to escort Rabbi Baruch home.

It was late at night when Rabbi Baruch arrived. He found his chassidim waiting anxiously for him. They had almost resigned themselves to the idea that the Rebbe would not return. Then they heard the sound of horse hooves, and in strode Rabbi Baruch-accompanied by the nobleman's servant.

That night, Rabbi Baruch and his chassidim read the Book of Eichah and Kinot with profound emotion, deeper than they had ever experienced before.



SHAVUON WEEKLY NEWS

11 AV 5786 7/25/26

SHABBOS VAESCHANAN/NACHAMU

Our **86th**
Anniversary Year

Rabbi Emeritus
Manfred Gans z"l

Rabbi
Yossi Mendelson

President Emeritus
Herbert Jaffe z"l

President
Yehoshua Perl

Please join us following services for Shabbos Kiddush in the newly renovated Kent Auditorium sponsored by Boaz & Rebecca Mechanic in honor of his brother Asher ben Avraham's yahrzeit



Ladies, please join us this afternoon!

The Sisterhood of CMC invites all women to a special

Shabbos Nachamu Program

featuring Rebbetzin Mushky Mendelson and Neva Hellman

with the Rabbi Sacks Parsha Group
Shabbos afternoon, July 25th, 5 PM

Sponsored by Mira Polvanova and Miriam Jacobs

CONGREGATION
MACHANE CHODOSH
67-29 108th St
Forest Hills, NY 11375
718-793-5656
MachaneChodosh.org

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SHABBOS VAESCHANAN/NACHAMU

Friday, July 24th

Candle lighting.....	7:00 PM
Mincha/Kabbolas Shabbos.....	7:00 PM

Shabbos, July 25th

Shacharis	9:00 AM
Children's Program.....	9:30 AM
Moshiach: Just the Facts	6:35 PM
Mincha/Shalosh Seudos	7:35 PM

Pirkei Avos Chapter 3

Shabbos Ends	9:05 PM
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WEEKDAY SERVICES

Shacharis

Sunday.....	8:00 AM
Monday & Thursday.....	7:05 AM
Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday.....	7:15 AM
Mincha/Maariv 7/26 - 7/30	8:05 PM

SCHEDULE OF TORAH CLASSES

Moshiach Shiur for all.....	Shabbat, 1 hour prior to Mincha
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SHABBOS EIKEV

Friday, July 30th

Candle lighting	7:00 PM
Mincha/Kabbolas Shabbos	7:00 PM

Shabbos, August 1st

Shacharis	9:00 AM
Children's Program.....	9:30 AM
Moshiach: Just the Facts	6:25 PM
Mincha/Shalosh Seudos	7:25 PM

Pirkei Avos Chapter 4

Shabbos Ends	8:57 PM
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IN OUR SHUL

The Sisterhood is grateful to Zalman Kogan for running the popular Guns & Moses movie on Sunday, July 12th. Close to 20 people were in attendance, enjoying the compelling story with delicious snacks among friends. A special thank you goes to Sisterhood President Iris Goldberg for her tireless efforts on behalf of our Shul and Sisterhood.

The annual shul membership meeting was a success! Mazal tov to David Sroka and Robin Burger who were elected to join the board.

Tisha B'av was commemorated with the traditional Eichah reading by Rabbi Mendelson. The Tisha B'Av video program featured a special presentation by amazing women who shared about how they face hardship. were well received and very insightful. We thank all those who helped setting up the shul with the Tisha B'av boxes and books.

The Sisterhood thanks Mira Polvanova and Miriam Jacobs for sponsoring the refreshments for the Shabbos Nachamu Sisterhood event.

HELP KEEP OUR SHUL SAFE!

The security team is looking for weekly volunteers to monitor those entering the shul. You do not need extensive security training to greet our worshippers at the door, just a smile! Please be in touch with Dr Perl if you can volunteer for a 30 minute slot on Shabbos morning.

IN OUR FAMILY

Mazal tov to Robin Burger on the birth of her new granddaughter Eve Michelle/Leylah Carmel born to Tamar & Yossi May.

A MESSAGE FROM SYLVIA WIENER

Thank you to Rabbi Mendelson and the staff at Machane Chodosh, Rabbi Kerbel and the Queens Jewish Center, and to Herb Schonhaut for organizing a tribute on my hundredth birthday. Thank you to everyone who contributed and attended. Thank you to all who thought of me. Good health and happiness “ad meah v’esrim”!