



HIS SACRIFICE CONTINUES TO BEAR FRUIT Farbrenge – 20 Menachem-Av, 5745-1985

The Rebbe's father, Rabbi Levi Yitzchak Schneersohn, served as Chief Rabbi of Yekatrinoslav-Dniepropetrovsk.

In 1938 he was arrested by the Communists for spreading Judaism. He passed away in exile, on the 20th of Av, 5704 - 1944.

This gathering commemorates my father's Yahrzeit. As mentioned many times: Although this may seem to be a personal occasion, however, since so many Jews have come together, it becomes a communal event.

Also, since he was a Jew who gave his life for the community – his life was shorter than it otherwise would have been, as a result of his work on behalf of the Jewish people. For this he was arrested, imprisoned, and subsequently exiled, where he suffered great hardships. These were the physical causes for his untimely passing, – for naturally, he would have lived longer. This underscores that his Yahrzeit is, in fact, a public event.

Moreover, we see the fruits of his self-sacrifice in the USSR brought forth additional results. Quite literally: His work resulted in people who study Torah and fulfill Mitzvot on a daily basis, notwithstanding the danger involved at that time, and in the years that followed.

This is the reason for commemorating a Yahrzeit, in general.

The Talmud states that when a person passes away, it is like "a Torah scroll being burned." The question arises: How could this be? We know that G-d Himself fulfills the Torah.

So how can G-d cause a person to pass away, "a Torah scroll to be burned," something that is prohibited by Jewish law?! The answer: His passing, in a way, saves lives.

The ascent of the Tzaddik with his passing brings blessing to the world. This overshadows the terrible circumstances, the passing which we commemorate today.

This also explains the observance of Yahrzeit, and certainly, one of a great Jewish leader, how much more so, one who gave his life for others, – and his self-sacrifice was accepted; he passed away for it.

His passing does not diminish his accomplishments in spreading Judaism. On the contrary, the fact that he subsequently gave his life, that he sanctified G-d's name in his passing, by literally giving his life for these activities this increases the effect of his activities to



disseminate Judaism for each person he affected, and those he continues to influence through his printed works.

So through this added study, year after year, his activities, and their results, continue to increase.

This also explains why after commemorating the Yahrzeit last year, when we each resolved to improve, as much as possible, we now commemorate his passing once again, with the same enthusiasm, – and since we must “grow in holiness,” with even more enthusiasm.

One of the simple reasons is, that his achievements have grown. In the past year his teachings were studied even more and they led to action, and “action is the main thing.” Obviously, this all causes his soul to be elevated.

This also explains why we celebrate it with joy, with song and saying “L’chaim,” – or as some Chassidim call it, ‘Tikkun.’ At the same time, though, we must mention and remember that this is a ‘passing.’

My father-in-law, the Rebbe, explains in his talks on the topic, that it is similar to the statement that “G-d passed from the worlds.” It does not mean, G-d forbid, that G-d departed from the worlds; rather, He is here, “in a transcendent manner.” Not only does He fill the universe, but the G-dliness that transcends the world is here, effecting the world, and bringing salvations within this world.

