



## TWO GREAT LUMINARIES Farbrenge – 18 Elul, 5742-1982

*18 Elul marks the birthday of the Baal Shem Tov, founder of Chassidism and the Alter Rebbe, founder of Chabad-Lubavitch.*

*Our Rebbes related that the Alter Rebbe was born with a unique, new, soul.*

A fundamental change takes place at the moment a child leaves the mother's womb and enters the world.

What is that change? When he is in the womb, he cannot affect the world.

The moment he enters the world, we hear his cry, he causes a commotion, or conversely, he causes happiness, Nachas, and the like. He has become an active force, something that impacts the world.

When does this occur; at what moment? Prior to birth, the child ate for himself. Although he ate what his mother ate, he was eating for himself alone. Although he drank what his mother drank, he was drinking only for himself. He had a heartbeat, his body functioned; he moved his limbs – but all of it, for himself.

His hair and nails grew until they were complete, but they had no effect on the world. True, they were hair and nails which rendered the child whole so-much-so, that healthy hair and nails are signs of a healthy child – but it was all for himself.

When does he begin to affect G-d's world? Even before the child can read, before he can tell right from wrong, from the very moment he enters the world, he has already affected it.

As we see: When he cries we endeavor to quiet him, and when he smiles, everyone around is excited that he smiled! And similarly many things every day, starting at the moment of birth.

However, we cannot compare the child's impact through his mere existence, without any effort, to his accomplishments through his own actions – an act of a child is an act nonetheless – or to accomplishments through thought and speech, which must wait until the child has grown.

Similarly, there's a difference between ordinary people and these great Rebbes – each has a mission.



## פרשת תבוא

In the words of the Mishna, "I was created to serve my Creator." The Talmud, Midrash, Mussar, Chassidut, and Kabbala explain that this service of G-d is through "creating a dwelling place for Him in this world;" making this world "inhabitable" by G-d.

To achieve this we must accomplish many things, Torah study, fulfillment of its Mitzvot, "all your actions should be for the sake of Heaven," and "know G-d in all your ways." The obligation to transform the world into a dwelling place for G-d is incumbent upon each and every Jew.

But, we cannot compare the responsibility of the masses to that of individuals who have been given superior capabilities, or to one who was given the greatest capability possible – a new soul, as the Alter Rebbe had.

And as a new soul, he affects the entire world! In a world where Sages of the Mishna and of the Talmud lived, and before that, Moshe Rabbeinu and the Patriarchs, a new soul descended into a body and entered this world.

At the moment this new soul was bestowed into the world, it was obvious that there was to be revolutionary change.

The soul's arrival is itself historic – similar to the birth of Moshe Rabbeinu: "She saw that he was good," at his birth "the entire house was filled with light." How do we know this? from the word "good." – "She saw that he was good," and good means light; so he illuminated the house at the very moment of his birth.

But the goal is to illuminate more than our immediate surroundings.

This is the accomplishment of these Rebbes, the Great Luminaries – they are luminaries, a source of light.

Moreover, they are called the "great" luminaries – their doings are carried out in a 'great' manner." They are "lights that kindle others lights," "giving enabling others to give." Our Rebbes have taught: The verse states "The righteous live by their faith" – instead of "live by," it should be read "cause to live." To live is only part of his mission; he gives life to others, and after that, he can grow on his own strength and effort.

And a good student internalizes the values of the teacher. This is the desire of every 'luminary,' that his students become lights unto others, enabling them too, to give.

When we talk of the founder of Chassidism in general, as well the creator and founder of Chabad Chassidut, the leader of Chabad for all generations – they wish for their students to emulate them, in all those matters to which they were dedicated, that they achieved.

