



The El Paso
CHABAD TIMES

Issue 165

A publication of **Chabad Lubavitch of El Paso**

May - June 2021 | Sivan - Tammuz 5781

6516 Escondido Dr. • El Paso, TX 79912 • 915.584.8218

CELEBRATION 3,333

SHAVUOT FESTIVE DINNER & STUDY

SUNDAY, MAY 16

LESSON 1: 6:00-6:40PM | LESSON 2: 6:55-7:35PM
MINCHA & CANDLE LIGHTING: 7:39PM | LESSON 3: - 7:55-8:25
MAARIV & FESTIVE DINNER: 8:25PM

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The Third of Tammuz - June 12-13 marks the Rebbe's 27th Yartzeit.

Observances include learning more Torah, doing another Mitzvah and giving extra charity.

Learn more at www.TheRebbe.org



Hey Kids!

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TEN COMMANDMENTS
and enjoy an
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Monday, May 17
at 11:00am
at Chabad Lubavitch

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The Rabbi’s Message



The most consequential moment in someone’s life is when they realize that they are genuinely needed. Everyone experiences this at a different time and in unique circumstances, but if you merit this realization, life will never be the same and the passion and urgency with which you approach everything in life will be accelerated to unrecognizable levels.

This month we will celebrate an important milestone: 3,333 years from when we received the

Torah at Mt. Sinai. In the presence of millions of Jews and within earshot of every human being on the planet, G-d communicated the Ten Commandments to us. This transformed us from a family of recently freed slaves into a princely nation vested with a divine mission: to bring the knowledge and awareness of G-d to the entire world.

This happened thousands of years ago and according to all the rules of nature we should have been a fleeting historical memory by now. Every other significant nation in history only survived so long as they lived autonomously in their homeland. Once they were conquered and exiled they inevitably lost their unique language, customs and culture and assimilated to the new trends.

Do you know anyone that can trace

3,333 Years Is A Big Deal!

their lineage to Julius Caesar? Can someone pinpoint the grave of their ancestor from 60 generations back? Is there a nation on earth that follows the same rules and regulations as their ancestors did over a thousand years ago?

The fact that no one else can do it is not an indictment of their past - this is the natural order of the world. The fact that we retain a direct link to the Sinai experience over the span of three millennia is a miracle of the highest order.

How did Mark Twain put it? “All things are mortal but the Jew; all other forces pass, but he remains. What is the secret of his immortality?”

The secret of our immortality is the Torah we received at Sinai and the fact that we are here to commemorate that event on Shavuot 3,333 later is the best proof you will

ever get that the world needs us.

We have the crucial obligation to share the inspiration of Torah with all humanity. To inspire the world to be more sensitive and aware of the divine purpose of creation and to consistently increase in acts of goodness and kindness.

But to project light one needs to be filled with light. To inspire the world we must be inspired ourselves. As we prepare to receive the Torah anew this Shavuot seize the opportunity to add in your Torah learning and take on a new Mitzvah. The best way to teach is by example and we are called upon to be examples to the world.

May you be blessed with a joyous Shavuot and a healthy summer.

Rabbi Yisrael Greenberg

Mazel Tov

Graduates

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Gershon Mendel

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Rabbi Abi and Rochel Naparstek

Proud Grandparents

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Tuvia Yair White

Proud Parents

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Ongoing Programs at Chabad

Synagogue Services - In Person

Shabbat

Friday Night: Mincha & Maariv: 7:00pm

Shabbat Day: Shacharit: 10:00am

Followed by Kiddush

Weekdays

Shacharit:

Sun. 9:00am | Mon. & Thurs. 7:00am

Mincha & Maariv:

Sun. Mon. Wed. Thurs. 7:00pm | Tues. 6:45pm

Torah Classes - All on Zoom

Sunday:

Tanya - 8:00am | Rebbe’s Teachings - 3:30pm

Tuesday:

Talmud - 12:00pm | Parsha - 7:30pm

Wednesday: Women’s Class - 7:00pm

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CHABAD LUBAVITCH

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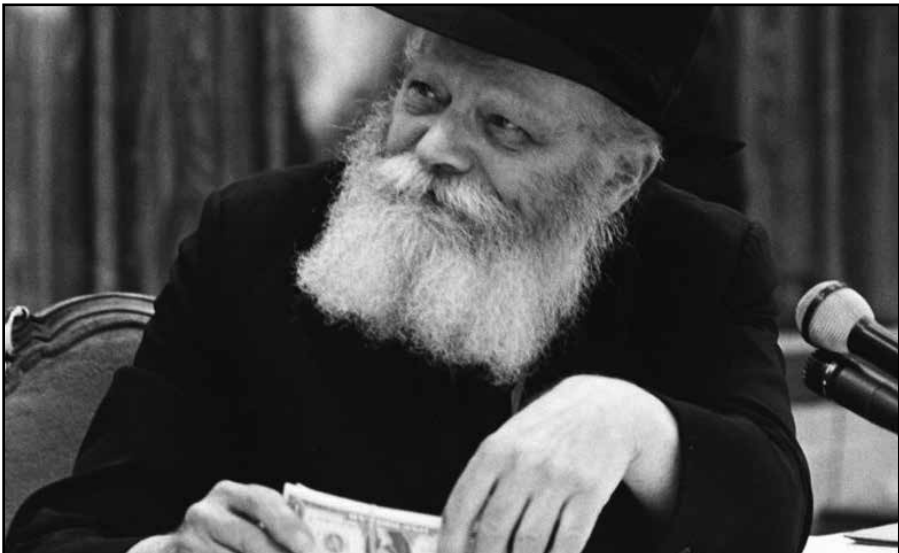
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A Message

from the Lubavitcher Rebbe



The Rebbe distributes dollar bills for charity.

Tammuz, 5710 [1959]
Greetings and blessings,

In response to what you wrote... In your circles, you have a good opportunity to become effective in fulfilling the mission for which Divine providence has led you to this place.

One should not be discouraged if it appears that only a small number of individuals allow themselves to be influenced and

even with these few, the influence is less than one would desire.

With regard to quantity: We have to understand that every individual is an entire world and it is worthwhile for the entire world to devote itself to saving even one individual Jew with regard to material matters and how much more so, in spiritual matters.

In addition, the good influence that the recipient is granted does

The Mandate to Do More

not remain sequestered in his possession. In a direct or indirect manner, he has a positive effect on the other people in his close or broad circles of influence. To speak in analogies, just as every organ is a part of the body as a whole, every individual is a part of the community as a whole.

Thus the spiritual improvement of one person strengthens the well-being of the entire community as a matter of course.

With regard to quality: There is no way we can appreciate the greatness of the good accomplished for a person when we help him lift himself up even a little bit higher!

Aside from the immeasurable worth that results from performing even one less sin and doing one more mitzvah [commandment], a sin would have led to another sin and one mitzvah leads to another mitzvah.

Moreover, with each mitzvah, one becomes more fit to properly appreciate a true Torah concept and

to have the potential to apply that concept in actual life. In practice, this means having one Jew put on a yarmulke, another, tefillin, a third, tzitzis, a fourth, inspiring him towards love for his fellow man and proper character traits, a fifth, encouraging him to observe taharas hamishpachah [the laws of family purity], a sixth, to teach his children Torah, and so on.

...It is difficult in a letter to tally all of the particular areas where you have potential to make yourself more effective. What is most fundamental is, as my revered father-in-law, the Rebbe, would say: “We have to talk less and do more.”

All of the above concerns your work with others. It is, however, with regard to one’s work with his own self that the yetzer hara [evil inclination] presents the greatest obstacles. We will leave that topic, however, for another time.

Awaiting good tidings.

SHAVUOT SCHEDULE AND CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES WITH BLESSINGS

Sunday, May 16
Candle Lighting: 7:39pm - Recite blessings 1 & 2
Study Sessions, Services & Festive Dinner: See Page 1
Monday, May 17
Shacharit: 10:00am | Ten Commandments: 11:00am
Mincha and Maariv: 7:40pm
Candle Lighting from a pre-existent flame: AFTER 8:38pm
Recite blessing 1
Tuesday, May 18
Shacharit: 10:00am | Yizkor: 11:15am | Mincha & Maariv: 7:40pm
Holiday Ends: 8:39pm

<div>1</div> <p>BO-RUCH A-TOH ADO-NOI E-LO-HEI-NU ME-LECH HA- O-LOM, A-SHER KI-DE-SHA- NU, BE-MITZ-VO-SOV VE-TZI-VO-NU LE-HAD-LIK NER SHEL YOM-TOV.</p> <p>Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments, and commanded us to kindle the Yom Tov light.</p>	<div>2</div> <p>BO-RUCH A-TOH ADO-NOI E-LO-HEI-NU ME-LECH HA-O-LOM, SHE-HEH-CHE- YOH-NU, VI-KIYE-MO-NU VE-HE-GE-O- NU LEZ-MAN HA-ZEH.</p> <p>Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, who has granted us life, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this occasion.</p>
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Advisory Committee: Dr. Sam Kupetz, Dr. Steven Lanski, Mr. Sidney Schlusberg & Mr. Ed Solomon

Texas Capitol highlights El Paso rabbi's campaign to promote charity

By Robert Moore
ElPasoMatters.org
(March 24, 2021)

An El Paso rabbi's campaign to make people aware of the importance of charity was on display Wednesday in the Texas House of Representatives.

Plastic yellow arks — charity boxes provided by the Chabad Lubavitch Centers of Texas — were placed on the desks of all House members as part of the commemoration of Education and Sharing Day. The day marks the birthdate of one of the most influential Jewish spiritual leaders of the 20th century, the Lubavitcher Rebbe Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson. He died in 1994.

Rep. Joe Moody, D-El Paso, said he learned about the arks from Rabbi Levi Greenberg of Chabad of El Paso.

"The idea is to make giving ... part of your daily life. And if you make that routine, it makes you more aware, it makes (you) more empathetic, makes you think about things that are needed and people that are in need," said Moody, who also serves as speaker pro tempore of the Texas House.

Greenberg said the idea of distributing the arks came after Moody brought a charity box to a ceremony on the House floor in 2019 marking Education and Sharing Day.

"He placed a dollar in it while we were standing there by the podium. And as he did that, the other legislators that were standing next to him, they all pulled out dollars and started to give charity as well," Greenberg said.



Speaker Pro Temp Joe Moody of El Paso speaks about Education and Sharing Day and the ARK Program in the chamber of the Texas House of Representatives on Wednesday, March 24 - 11 Nissan.

At Moody's request, the House sergeant at arms placed the arks on desks before lawmakers convened on Wednesday.

"With all the divisiveness in politics and some of the nastiness that surrounds this work, I thought this was very impactful: something we can do to have a positive impact on the members of the body. And hopefully that trickles down to the people that they interact with," Moody said.

Charity is an important tenet in Jewish tradition. Charity boxes are a feature of many Jewish homes, businesses and institutions. Schneerson famously handed out dollar bills on Sundays, with the

expectation that the recipient would give the dollar to charity.

"Jewish tradition teaches us that the whole concept of creation, the whole concept of our existence is all about charity," Greenberg said. "G-d is always being charitable to us, and G-d expects that we should reciprocate, that we should learn from G-d, and we should do the same."

The plastic yellow arks were developed in 2014 by a division of Chabad — an orthodox Jewish movement — in South Africa. The arks embody the biblical story of Noah and the flood and also represent an acronym for "acts of random kindness" or "acts of routine

kindness."

Greenberg has worked for several years to bring the ark campaign to El Paso. In partnership with the El Paso Community Foundation, he planned to distribute thousands of arks to El Paso Independent School District students in 2020, but those plans were put on hold by the pandemic.

The El Paso rabbi hopes the display of the arks in the House of Representatives — "a place that belongs to all Texans" — will be an inspiration. He hopes people "will take a little box in their home and designate it as a giving box, and they will start to give charity on a daily basis. And they will take that money and give it the charity of their choice."


Moody said Greenberg and the Chabad congregation exemplify the welcoming culture of El Paso.

"The thing that I always talk about in a positive light in El Paso is our willingness to open the door for people, to understand that people come from different places, different backgrounds," he said. "And what makes us a great community is that we're very embracing of that. Their community certainly reflects that back out into El Paso and we should celebrate that."

Watch these videos online:
Education and Sharing Day, Texas Zoom Presentation:
bit.ly/TEXASEDU
Presentation in the Texas Senate by Senator Cesar Blanco:
bit.ly/ARKTXSENATE
Presentation in the Texas House by Rep. Joe Moody:
bit.ly/ARKTXHOUSE

Education & Sharing Day

Education and Sharing Day recognizes the crucial importance of teaching our young people the values of a moral life and giving to others, a cause championed by the Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson (1902-1994), the most influential rabbi in modern history.



For more than 40 years, presidents, Congress, and state and local governments have honored the Rebbe for bringing moral and ethical education to the forefront of public discourse by recognizing his birthday as Education and Sharing Day.

The Rebbe emphasized the building of character and moral and ethical values as the foundation of a true education, accentuating the importance of teaching principled and just behavior, and personal responsibility for the betterment of society.

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THIS GIVING BOX IS AN ARK



routine
Acts of Random Kindness

Compassion and kindness are strengthened by consistency. Giving small amounts of charity every day causes one to become a giver. Having a dedicated giving box to place money every day provides a visual reminder of the importance of giving.

People are more influenced by the things they do than by the knowledge they are taught. This initiative is inspired by the Rebbe's call for all people to increase in acts of goodness and kindness.

Through nurturing the inherent goodness within everyone and cultivating the latent empathy all people possess, we can change the world around us for the better, ushering in an era of global peace and tranquility for all.



Pre Passover Experience



Lag B'Omer BBQ



On Tuesday, April 27 Consul General of Israel to the Southwest United States Gilad Katz visited Chabad Lubavitch of El Paso for Shacharit morning services.

Shavuot, Torah and Science

Dr. Alexander Friedman earned his doctoral degree in brain physiology from Bar-Ilan University (BIU) in Israel and joined UTEP last year after completing his postdoctoral training and working as a research scientist at MIT for 10 years. He also authored three major publications in the Cell journal and two major publications in the PNAS journal.

A chassidic scholar and graduate of the prestigious Chabad Yeshiva in Kfar Chabad, Israel Dr. Friedman combines a unique passion for Torah and the exact sciences.

Chabad Times: What led you to become a scientist?

Dr. Alexander Friedaman: I was born to a family of scientists in the former Soviet Union. My grandfather Dr. Olodovsky was a prestigious physicist and both my grandmothers were science professors. It was a profession many Jews preferred since it was possible to observe Shabbat with minimal hassle.

Providing a proper Jewish education in the USSR was very difficult but my parents did their best under the circumstances. I was always attracted to the sciences and after applying to several universities I was accepted to Machon Lev in Jerusalem which led me to make Aliyah to Israel.

Machon Lev combines a university education and a Yeshiva education and while earning my B.A. I caught up on my Judaic studies as well. I was introduced to Chassidic philosophy by Dr. Yaakov Freidman, a great scientist in his own right, and I decided to spend a gap year pursuing more intense Torah study at the main Chabad Yeshiva in Israel. After a year I wanted to continue full time, but Rabbi Zalman Gopin, the chief Chassidic mentor at the Yeshiva insisted that I earn my doctorate.

I enrolled in Bar-Ilan University which is a half hour drive away from the Yeshiva and divided my day between the Yeshiva and the university.

CT: Is it possible to balance these



Dr. Alexander Friedman moved to El Paso in August 2020 together with his wife Miriam and their children Raizy (5) and Itzik (3).

two seemingly opposite studies?

AF: I admit they were very long and grueling days, but they were stimulating and rewarding. Rabbi Gopin explained to me that although learning Torah full time is a privilege, with my background and education it was crucial for me to excel in science to discover and illustrate how it all blends beautifully with Torah teachings and observance. It's not the typical route for a Yeshiva student, but everyone has their journey and purpose in life. Being simultaneously submerged in both worlds was a unique experience that shaped my life work ever since.

CT: Please explain how your scientific research enhances your appreciation of Judaism and vice versa.

AF: The definition of science is discovering the principles of the organization of the universe. When studying physics, chemistry and biology you discover how complex yet astoundingly exact nature really is. Obviously none of this could happen randomly and it was certainly created by a superpower.

My field of research is brain physiology and, let me tell you, even the brain of a mouse is extremely complex. The tremendous discoveries we make in their brains help us understand the hu-

man brain which is far more sophisticated. To date we understand precious little about the nerve center of our body, yet we take for granted that there are billions of these in the world. Multiply this by trillions of other organisms, minerals and particles and you have yourself an awesome universe created and maintained by an awesome creator.

5,781 years ago, when Adam the first human being was created on the day we celebrate Rosh Hashanah, he intuitively realized this and called out to creation to acknowledge G-d's sovereignty. That's why the High Holy Days liturgy is packed with these ideas and it's the core of what Judaism is all about.

Soon we will celebrate Shavuot; 3,333 years since G-d gave the Torah to the Jewish nation at Mt. Sinai. Fascinatingly, this only happened after Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, who was also the greatest scientist and philosopher at the time recognized that G-d is the supreme power of the universe.

When the Jews stood at Sinai and heard the Ten Commandments from G-d, all humanity realized with brilliant clarity - albeit temporarily - that all of nature is truly a reflection of G-d. This was preceded by Jethro's conversion to Judaism to illustrate how this clarity

must come from within nature itself. The more we know about nature the more we know G-d.

Since then the world is progressing in its scientific knowledge and its appreciation for and knowledge of G-d so that the Sinai experience becomes a permanent reality. This is the definition of the Messianic Era; that every created being will recognize the creator. Not only Jews - everyone!

CT: Have you found this attitude in modern science as well?

AF: Certainly. Sir Isaac Newton defined scientific experiments as our way of asking G-d how to do things. In my opinion he continues to be the most important scientist of the modern era and I find it fascinating that the overwhelming majority of his works were translations of Torah scholarship. Ivan Pavlov, the father of brain physiology and the legendary chemist Dmitri Mendeleev were both deeply religious and their religious convictions impacted their scientific work.

Faith does not hamper scientific discovery. It enhances it, just like it enhances every detail of life.

CT: Do you feel this idea can be experienced by everyone?

AF: Look, such an attitude needs to be nurtured. I study Chassidic philosophy daily to keep this perspective fresh and relatable. You don't need to be a neuroscientist to appreciate how complex and awesome our world is, but to experience life in a way that allows you to discover the divine element in everything and to introduce peace and serenity into every detail of life - it's crucial to study Chassidic philosophy.

The good news is that there is so much available in multiple languages in so many formats and platforms and it's very convenient to learn it nowadays. Clearly this is another sign of the imminence of the Messianic era when, as Maimonides writes, the knowledge of G-d will fill the entire world and there will be global peace and tranquility for all.

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Shavuot Guide • Sivan 5 - 7, 5781 • May 16 - 18, 2021

SHAVUOT IS A MAJOR FESTIVAL

Shavuot, following exactly fifty days after Passover, is the second of the three major festivals. The holiday marks the giving of the Torah by G-d to the entire Jewish people on Mount Sinai 3,333 years ago.

In Hebrew, the word “Shavuot” means “weeks” symbolic of the seven weeks during which the Jewish people prepared themselves for the giving of the Torah in the desert. During these seven weeks they rid themselves of the scars of bondage and became a holy nation ready to stand before G-d.

THE GIVING OF THE TORAH

The giving of the Torah is far more than a historical event. It is a far-reaching spiritual event that touches the essence of the Jewish soul then and for all time. Our Sages have compared Matan Torah to a marriage ceremony between G-d and the Jewish people. We became His special nation and He became our G-d.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SHAVUOT TODAY

Each year, Shavuot is the special time for us to reawaken and strengthen our special relationship with G-d. One way to reaffirm our commitment is by rededicating ourselves to the observance and study of our most precious heritage - the Torah.

THE WRITTEN AND ORAL LAW

The Torah is composed of two dimensions: the written law and the oral law. The written Torah contains the Five Book of Moses, the Prophets and the Writings. Together with the written Torah, Moses was also given the oral law which is an explanation and clarification of the written law. It was transmitted orally from generation to generation and was only transcribed years later in the Talmud and Midrash.

Throughout the generations our people have studied these works, commenting upon them, clarifying their meanings, deriving practical applications of these principles and codifying the laws derived from them. Thus, a continuous chain of tradition extends throughout the generations, connecting the scholars of the present day to the revelation at Mount Sinai.

THE “BLUEPRINT” FOR CREATION

Speaking metaphorically, our Sages tell us that G-d constantly “gazes into the Torah and creates the world.” The Torah is not only a practical

guide for our behavior in daily life, but also on a deeper level it is actually the “blueprint” for creation.

Everything that happens in our lives is a manifestation of G-d’s wisdom, as expressed in His Torah. As such, Torah represents the very source of our vitality, and the key to the fulfilment of our deepest aspirations.

The Revelation at Mount Sinai was a tumultuous awe-inspiring experience. The entire universe, our Sages say, trembled with the piercing sound of the ram’s horn. Thunder and lightning filled the skies. Then silence. Not a bird chirped. No creature spoke. The seas did not stir. Even the angels ceased to fly, as the voice was heard: “I am the L-rd your G-d ...”

HEAR THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Relive the Sinai experience by hearing the reading of the Ten Commandments in the Synagogue.

When G-d revealed Himself on Mount Sinai, our entire people heard His holy and awesome voice as he proclaimed the Ten Commandments:

- 1) I am the L-rd your G-d who took you out of the land of Egypt.
- 2) You shall have no other gods before Me.
- 3) Do not utter the name of the L-rd your G-d in vain.
- 4) Remember the Sabbath to keep it holy.
- 5) Honor your father and mother.
- 6) Do not murder.
- 7) Do not commit adultery.
- 8) Do not steal.
- 9) Do not bear false witness.
- 10) Do not covet.

These ten commands range from the highest and most refined concept of the belief in the oneness of G-d, to the most basic laws which every society has found it necessary to enforce such as not killing and not stealing.

It is customary to eat a dairy meal on Shavuot. It is reminiscent of the Shavuot meal 3,333 years ago. With the Giving of the Torah, the Jews became obligated to observe the laws of Kosher. As the Torah was given on Shabbat, no cattle could be slaughtered nor could their utensils be koshered, and thus on that day they ate dairy.

TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT

The Torah was given at daybreak. Our tradition relates that the Jewish people went to sleep the night before Matan Torah, and that it was necessary for G-d Himself to awaken them. To compensate for their mistaken behavior, it is customary to stay up the entire first night of Shavuot studying Torah. This custom is called Tikun Leil Shavuot.

From the Rabbis’ Blog

www.chabadelpaso.com/blog



Rabbi Levi Greenberg

“What is your ultimate goal here, Rabbi?” A friend blurted out the question in the midst of an intense conversation about community challenges. I answered him honestly, but I continue to contemplate the question often. Whatever I am doing, is it leading to the ultimate goal?

3,332 years ago the Israelites, poised to enter the Promised Land a little over a year after being redeemed from Egypt, inexplicably demanded Moshe send spies to scout out the land before conquering it.

Reluctantly twelve representatives were sent and upon returning, ten of

Keep Your Eyes On The Prize

them declared “mission impossible.” The cities are strongly fortified, giants abound and everything about the land is so strange that attempting to take it would be certain suicide.

Two of the spies insisted their colleagues were terribly mistaken. Yehosua and Kaleiv, appalled that the people had so easily lost their trust in G-d by the foreboding report, courageously attempted to sway public opinion. After reminding them of Moshe’s credentials as G-d’s undisputed messenger, Kaleiv movingly declared, “If Moshe would instruct us to build ladders and climb them to heaven - we would certainly succeed!”

The statement about climbing ladders to heaven sounds like poetic license, but a deeper understanding of this episode reveals that Kaleiv was making a precise declaration, relevant to us today more than ever.

The Israelites were instructed to transform a land inhabited by depraved and immoral nations into a holy land. This is a microcosm of creation’s purpose; to reveal the divine brilliance

hidden within the mundane and meaningless reality of our world. To bring heaven down to earth or bring earth closer to heaven.

Ten of the spies worried that the Jews would succumb to the spirit-numbing mundane realities of life settling the land would inevitably present and disconnect from the Torah they had recently received at Sinai. “The land will consume them,” they fretted. Better to remain ensconced in the spirituality of desert life, surrounded by the Clouds of Glory, nurtured by the heavenly bread called manna while studying Torah directly from Moshe.

But Kaleiv proclaimed that since the mission of imbuing divinity into the humdrum of regular life was coming from G-d through Moshe, it was certainly attainable.

In the winter of 1951 as the Rebbe formally accepted the mantle of Chabad Lubavitch leadership, he declared our generation is charged with the urgent mission of ushering in the era of Moshiach. To cause the long awaited redemption to actually hap-

pen by revealing the divine brilliance hidden within the mundane and meaningless reality of our world. To bring heaven down to earth or bring earth closer to heaven.

Everything was imbued with this urgency, and the Rebbe educated and inspired tens of thousands of Chassidim to devote their lives to this mission and millions more to get involved as well.

As we observe the Rebbe’s 27th Yartzeit on the Third of Tammuz, (Sunday, June 13) Kaleiv’s immortal declaration serves as an inspiration for us all. Even when the job of revealing goodness in every detail of reality seems impossible and perhaps far-fetched, realize that we are truly empowered to make our world more heavenly by adding in Torah study, doing an extra mitzvah, increasing our Tzedakah giving and connecting with each other in the true spirit of Ahavat Yisrael.

The Rebbe continues to lead and inspire our way towards redemption and we need to keep climbing “the ladder” one mitzvah at a time.

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