



Rabbi Avi Berman Executive Director, OU Israel

This past week was a very difficult one of Klal Yisrael. We lost two luminaries, Rav Dovid Feinstein zt”l and Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks zt”l. I feel truly blessed to have had the *zechut* to meet both of these *Gedolim*. While my words cannot do justice to their legacies and so much has been said about these two giants, I do hope we can all be inspired by my personal perspective.

In general, when I travel for OU business during the month of Elul, I make sure to return to Israel for Selichot. Last year, for a variety of reasons, I was in America the first night of Selichot and wanted to find a meaningful place to daven. After thinking about it for a bit, I realized that if I was already in New York, I should take advantage of davening with Rav Dovid Feinstein zt”l at the Mesivta Tiferes Yerushalayim Yeshiva on Manhattan’s lower east side. My good friend brought me, and I gained tremendous *chizuk* and inspiration watching Rav Feinstein zt”l, at the age of 90, daven with so much *kavana*, strength, and humility so late into the night. After Selichot I was *zoche* to shake the Gadol HaDor’s hand and receive a Bracha. While I met Rav Feinstein zt”l on multiple occasions, this was a moment I

will forever cherish. Over the years, the OU sought guidance from the Rav Feinstein zt”l for NCSY, Kashrut and other *sheilot*.

Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks zt”l is another leader of our generation who I was *zoche* to meet at several OU events. It amazed me that Rabbi Sacks zt”l had a unique ability to share the beauty of Judaism to people of all different backgrounds and walks of life. In an era when so many people are stuck in their beliefs, Rabbi Sacks zt”l was able to connect people and spread faith and unity. This was clearly not an easy feat, but it was an integral part of who this great leader was and the legacy he left behind. In particular, Rabbi Sacks’ zt”l speech at the Chabad Conference in 2011 left a strong mark on me. It is an honor and privilege to print Rabbi Sacks’ zt”l weekly Dvar Torah in Torah Tidbits. Like many of you, no matter how busy things were, I made sure to read it each week to enhance my Shabbat.

May we be *zoche* to follow in the path of these *tzadikim* – in humility, in the study of Torah, and in connecting the world to Hashem’s beauty.

יהיה זכרם ברוך

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