



SIMCHAT SHMUEL

BY RABBI SAM SHOR

Program Director, OU Israel Center

The Chasidic Masters refer to this *Shabbat* following *Shavuot* as *Shabbes Noch Shvuiss - Shabbat that is still Shavuot*. On this *Shabbat* following *Shavuot*, we must continue to channel that renewed spiritual inspiration we felt on *Shavuot*, as we recalled the wondrous event of *Kabbalat HaTorah*.

Rabbi Yaakov Friedman, the *Ohalei Yaakov* of *Husiyatin/Tel Aviv zy'a*, lovingly referred to as the 'Zionist Admor of Tel Aviv' was one of the great unheralded religious personalities of the pre-State *Yishuv* and early years of *Medinat Yisrael*.

In 1938, The *Rebbe* points to numerous *Maamarei Chazal*, that liken the *yom tov* of *Shavuot* to the proverbial wedding day between *HaKadosh Baruch Hu* and *Am Yisrael*. Indeed, in certain communities among the *Eidot HaMizrach*, there is a *Ketuba* that is traditionally read on *Shavuot* morning before *Kriat HaTorah*.

The *Rebbe* explains that if the *yom tov* of *Shavuot* is the proverbial wedding day, then so too the following *Shabbat* is like the proverbial *Shabbat Sheva Brachot*. Just as the week of *sheva brachot* is a time where family and friends continue to rejoice with the happy couple, so too the inspiration and

joy that we feel on *Shavuot* should carry over into the week that follows.

Then the *Rebbe* gives us a powerful glimpse at this critical period in Jewish History:

Just as we must see and experience Shavuot as the loving marriage between Hashem and Am Yisrael, we must also realize that our right to settle here in Artzeinu HaKedosha is not dependant on England or any other nation, but rather is a manifestation of the love Hashem feels for the Jewish People.

Yehi ratzon, may the joy, inspiration, spiritual clarity, and most of all, unity, that we experienced on *Chag Matan Torah* carry us into this coming *Shabbat* and throughout the entire year, and may this beautiful message provide us with continued clarity and faith, even in trying times. ■

Rabbi Sam Shor at a recent visit to the Kever of the Rebbe of Husiyatin/Tel Aviv



Wills • Probate • Nuptial Agreements
Durable Power of Attorney (Finance/Healthcare)

Halachic Estate Planning
Tirtza Jotkowitz, Esq.

tirtzaj@gmail.com • 052-509-3356 • (02) 625-6475
US & Israel: 845-425-8871 / 694-7645 / 596-5733