



**RABBI AARON**

Editor, Torah Tidbits

**GOLDSCHIEDER**

As we reach the halfway point in the month of Elul we open our hearts to thoughts of teshuva and personal growth. The following anecdotes concerning the tzaddik, Rav Avraham Yitzchak HaKohen Kook zt”l remind us to place emphasis on being forgiving of others.

## The Greatest Tikun

The eminent *Admor of Talne*, Rebbe Yochanan Twersky (1906-1981) lived in Israel during his younger years and merited to forge a close bond with Rav Kook. Sadly, he often witnessed first-hand the staunch opposition and, at times, vicious attacks on Rav Kook. “What impacted me most about his personality was his ability to be *maavir al midotav*, not to hold a grudge and be entirely forgiving of others. I saw many great Rabbis and *Admorim* in my day but none possessed the heightened degree of compassion and forgiveness that Rav Kook embodied. This is an attribute we strive to emulate.”

The Talne Rebbe added this note: “It is well known that the Kabbalistic

tradition teaches that one can attain the highest states of spiritual ascent (*tikunim*) through fasting and self affliction (*sigufim*). But in my mind, all of these methods do not compare to the power of a single time that one sincerely forgives one who has inflicted pain and has been hurtful. This is the greatest *tikun* of them all. Rav Kook was a person who excelled in this most sacred *midah* (character trait).” (*Heichal Haahava*, p.241)

In a similar vein, the following episode was related by Rav Kook’s beloved friend and colleague, Rav Aryeh Levin, *the Tzadik of Yerushalayim*:



Rav Kook



Rav Aryeh Levin

Oftentimes Rav Kook was relentlessly harassed and vilified by eccentric Orthodox groups. They were intent on embittering his life. They stalked him, mocked him, and would post defamatory notices all over Jerusalem. Rav Aryeh Levin’s daughter was once standing on a balcony in *Meah Shearim* and saw Rav Kook pass below on his way to deliver a shiur in the synagogue nearby. She was horrified to see and hear a group of zealots jeering and went so far as to close him in and knock his fur hat onto the ground. “The site of this,” said Reb Aryeh Levin, “tormented her for days afterwards and she could not help

recalling this painful event.”

“I said to myself: ‘I must go and see Rav Kook and give him encouragement in the midst of this difficult and tense time.’ Knowing that Rav Kook was occupied every second of the day, I thought it would be best to visit him late at night. I entered the *beit midrash* of Yeshivat Mercaz HaRav, where I found him immersed in study, utterly oblivious to my presence. I sat on a bench and began learning while I waited. There was no one there apart from Rav Kook and myself.

“Rav Kook suddenly looked up and noticed me. He knew why I had come. ‘Believe me,’ he said, ‘It is especially during trying times that I merit a surge of Divine help in my studies and *Chidushei Torah* [new interpretations of the Law]. I see the words of *Kohelet* spring forth to life: “God seeks those who are persecuted (*Kohelet* 3:15).”

Evidently, along with Rav Kook’s ability to withstand the torment of others he utilized those moments to seek God’s closeness. He was able to transform such times of turmoil into elevated experiences that served to enrich his perceptions and enhance his spiritual growth. (‘A Tzaddik For Eternity,’ Raz, pp. 259-261) ■

בס"ד  
חברת ירושת הארץ בע"מ  
**Land Inheritance Company Ltd.**

Your trusted corporation for  
purchasing privately registered  
land in Israel at the lowest prices

**Starting at \$ 40,000 per dunam**

Moshe Keinan ✉ [mk0522867038@gmail.com](mailto:mk0522867038@gmail.com)  
☎ 052-2867038 / 03-5774277

**Shabbos Bistro**  
Premium delicious shabbes meals

**Opening hours:**  
Thursday 12:00-02:00  
Friday 7:30-13:30

We make Deliveries!

02-9964469 | 054-8777347  
Iben Shafrut 5, Rehavia, Jerusalem

מקהלת הגברים  
רינת ירושלים  
**The Rinat Jerusalem Men's Choir**

**OPEN INVITATION to  
SERIOUS SINGERS**

to join the  
**RINAT JERUSALEM  
MEN'S CHOIR**

Musical Director: Jason Rosenblatt

Program of Performances 2022-3  
Weekly practices from 8.00 to 9.30 pm

Please contact  
**Joe 058-4566905  
Paul 054-9257011**