

THE FOOTSTEPS  
OF MOSHIACH

Copyright © Shuvu Banim International

Jerusalem 2023 / 5783

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be translated, reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without express written permission from the publishers.

Cover Design / Typesetting: Jose Pepito

**[www.ravberland.com](http://www.ravberland.com)**

*Rabbi Eliezer Berland*

*One in a*  
**GENERATION**

Volume III

**Other Books from Shuvu Banim International:**

**One in a Generation Volume 1: From Haifa to Uman**

The Official Biography of Rabbi Eliezer Berland

**One in a Generation Volume 2: Into Exile**

The Official Biography of Rabbi Eliezer Berland

**Rabbi Eliezer Berland's Advice**

**Rabbi Eliezer Berland's Advice for Success and Happiness**

**Rabbi Eliezer Berland's Advice for Shalom**

Bayit - for Men Only (#1, #2 and #3)

**Rabbi Eliezer Berland on the *Parsha***

**Rabbi Eliezer Berland on Jewish Holidays**

**Rabbi Eliezer Berland's Conversations**

**Rabbi Berland's Miracles**

**Rabbi Eliezer Berland's Prayers**

**Rabbi Eliezer Berland's Prayers for Health**

**Rabbi Eliezer Berland's Prayers for Holy Children**

**Rabbi Eliezer Berland's Prayers for Shalom Bayit**

**Rabbi Eliezer Berland's Prayers for  
Shalom Bayit - for Men Only**



**Dedicated in the merit and for the ilui neshama of:**

Avraham ben Yitzhak Eizik, z'l  
Chava Tzirel bat Avraham, a'h



**Dedicated for the merit and ilui neshama of:**

SALEM BEN HAMAMA  
ISRAEL DOV BEN ZALTA  
MOSHE BEN SHAMAH  
HAYA BAT GOLDA

**And for the merit and ilui neshama of:**

Livia bat Batya



Dedicated in the *zchut of*:

**Danny and Heidi Shwer**

And their children:

**Yisrael Meir**

**Aharon**

**Yakira**

**Gavriel**

**Layve**

**Rachaeli**



**Dedicated formostly for the hatzlacha and refuah of our dear Rebbe, the Tzaddik Hador, Harav Eliezer Ben Etiyah.**

Dedicated in appreciation to Hashem for bringing us close to the Tzaddik.

May this dedication, be”H, be a zchus for *hatzlacha* in all areas, to all of us, as well as for the *hatzlacha* of our entire extended family.

**May it, be”H, also bring about an *iluy neshama* to all our ancestors:**

Reuven Pinchas Ben Sara Naomi  
Dina Chaya Bas Chana  
Gavriel Ben Dina Chaya  
Tuvya Ben Dina Chaya  
Ovadya Yosef Chaim Ben Dina Chaya  
Yocheved Esther Bas Dina Chaya  
Tzipora Batya Bas Dina Chaya  
Elisha Shalom Ben Dina Chaya

**And in honor of our parents:**

Azriel Ben Chasya  
Sara Naomi Bas Victoria  
Dovid Leib Ben Hadassa  
Chana Bas Liba





**Dedicated for the *zchut* of Rav Eliezer ben Etia.**

To B'H, bring the revelation of Mashiach, the geula hashelema, the rebuilding of the Bet haMikdash, the in-gathering of all Jews in Eretz HaKodesh and the *yeshua* of all Jews and Righteous Gentiles.

**And in particular, dedicated in the *zchut* of:**

David, Hannah, Dvora and David bnei Avraham  
Avinu and Pinchas Shmuel ben Rivka.



**Dedicated for the hatzlacha of:**

Yaakov Shalom Ben Rus, and the whole  
*mishpacha, b'ruchnius u v'gashmius.*



Dedicated by:

Josh and Yaffa Moorvitch and family



Netanel Eshaghian



# CONTENTS

Introduction.....	xvii
The Calamities Only In 200 Years' Time.....	1
Miracles From The Tzaddik.....	11
Trump's Deal of the Century.....	17
The Psak from Bnei Brak.....	24
The Power of Prayer.....	29
Redemption of the Soul.....	37
A Disease that has No Cure.....	52
The Tzaddik Returns to Prison.....	72
A National State of Emergency.....	80
The Sufferings of Moshiach.....	93
Back into Lockdown.....	112
Rosh Hashana 5781 - The Kibbutz is 'Cancelled'.....	119
Remember, and Don't Forget.....	128
Orders from High Places.....	146
The Winter of Discontent.....	158
They Wanted to Kill 100,000 Jews in 5 Minutes.....	170

The Message from the Hidden Tzaddik at Meron .....	183
Tragedy in Meron .....	188
The Disgrace of the Tzaddik .....	218
In the Blink of an Eye .....	234
The Year of War .....	261
The Death of a Tzaddik Atones .....	273
Uman Brings the Geula .....	287
The Heart of the World.....	296
The Time has Come for Ben Gvir .....	300
A Decree of Destruction.....	310
Blood Brothers .....	326
The Wars of the Jews.....	340
Arrows and Shields .....	354
Behold, Behold, Mashiach is Coming! .....	369
Epilogue .....	375
Glossary .....	377
Additional Resources.....	381

*“Now, we’re in the ‘footsteps of Moshiach’. We see now that they, mamash, want to sell out Israel to the nations of the world. The Jewish people find themselves in the midst of the most enormous suffering. “Your persecutors and destroyers will come out of yourself.”*

*The Midrash says in Parshat Shemini, that before Gog and Magog and the coming of the Moshiach, there will suddenly be some terrible things.*

*Rabbenu brings down<sup>1</sup> that it’s possible to cancel all the decrees, if everyone will join together in prayer, because the misfortune is that no-one is joining together in prayer at all!”*

– Comments made by Rabbi Eliezer Berland  
in a shiur in July 1995, two months before  
the Oslo Accords were signed.

---

<sup>1</sup> See Siach Sarfey Kodesh Part II:31.





## INTRODUCTION

This book, the third volume of the ‘One in a Generation’ series about Rabbi Eliezer Berland, begins where the last one ended - April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the day before the State of Israel went to elections.

Nobody knew then what tremendous secrets, surprises and suffering the next four years was going to hold for the world generally, the Jewish people specifically, and the Rav and his Shuvu Banim community, in particular.

Even before the last book had gone to press, the media campaigns against the Rav targeting him for performing pidyonot in hospitals for sick people had already begun, marking the next round of intensifying State-sponsored persecution of Rav Berland and his family members.

So much has happened over the last four years, it was hard to know where to start - and also where to stop - for Volume 3: The Footsteps of Moshiach.

If only some of all the stories were told, if only some of all the Rav’s pearls of wisdom were included, if the details about all the terrible persecution and hardships were included, this book would probably be at least a thousand pages long.

In the end, the decision was made to stick to the highlights and the main headlines of the last four years, heavily spiced with some of Rav Berland's most relevant Torah discourses and conversations.

Strange to say for a book about the Rav, and in contrast to the first two volumes, he is actually absent from many of the following pages. This is due to the fact that for much of the last three years, the Rav has been 'hidden away' in many different ways from his community, and from the world more generally.

Beyond the fact that the Rav was returned to prison, this time around the courts also ordered very stringent limitations on the amount of contact the Rav could have with anyone from the community, as well as severely curtailing his activities with the general public in a myriad different ways.

For these reasons, and also because this volume is being written in a climate of intensifying censorship, and State-sponsored persecution against Torah Judaism, and the Torah-observant Jews who try to follow its laws and live by its values and morality, this book has been written in a somewhat different format from the previous volumes.

The authors also want to draw the reader's attention to the fact that in some instances, we wanted to explain more, and to include more details, but we have been unable to do so, for many various reasons beyond our control. It's our fervent wish that in happier times, more of those gaps, and more of those stories, will finally be told.

But in the meantime, despite the censorship and legalities involved, we hope that you, the reader, will be uplifted and inspired and strengthened by this volume of One in a Generation. And we also pray that this book will spread a little more of the light of

the Tzaddik and help to dispel more the dark clouds gathered all over the world.

*Completed in Jerusalem, on the day of 'Yesod  
she b'Yesod' in the counting of the Omer, 5783,  
with God's help, on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023.*





## THE CALAMITIES ONLY IN 200 YEARS' TIME

*“It’s written in the holy books that Jews have been burned in all the cataclysms, in all the holocausts, throughout all the generations. Everything that happened, it’s only because we still haven’t atoned for the fact that throughout every day of the Shoftim (period of the Judges) and Malachim (period of the Kings of Israel and Judah), we were putting our children into the fire.*

*All of us are reincarnations of the people who lived in the days of the Shoftim and the Kings, and we still haven’t atoned for [that period of time], imagining that there isn’t a tzaddik who knows how to sweeten this.*

*So, to put it simply, we still need to atone for what we did then, when we put our sons and our daughters, and our fathers, and the old people before [Moloch], and we burned everyone up, 2-3000 years ago, at the time of the First Temple, and at the time of the Shoftim.*

*And now, these holocausts, these cataclysms, are meant to come again.*

*And that’s why each time, they put us to the fire, and renew this, and all of this is because we didn’t atone for the period of the Shoftim. This was a period that lasted for 350 years. It’s written that [King] Menashe just by himself used to slaughter a thousand people a day for his idol, and to throw them into the fire.”*

– Excerpt of a shiur given by Rav Eliezer Berland,  
shlita, Purim night, 5768



Back in April 2019, no-one had any idea that the previously ‘stable right-wing bloc’ governments that had been led by Benjamin Netanyahu for the best part of a decade were about to become a thing of the past.

But when we revisit some of Rav Berland’s statements from that time, we can see that the Rav truly had a much clearer picture of what was about to transpire here in the State of Israel. On April 7, 2019, when he was encouraging his followers to attend a special prayer gathering called at the Mearat HaMachpela in Hevron, Rav Berland said:

*“Tomorrow is the prayer gathering, and we’re going to nullify all the decrees of the Zionists, who want to ‘cancel’ Shabbat, so that all the malls and the stores will be open on Shabbat.*

*“They want to do the most terrible things in the world, they want to outlaw Brit Milah, they want to make it illegal to read Megillat Esther, because ‘how can the Jews have killed 75,000 people?!’<sup>2</sup> When did you ever hear of something like that?! Only the Nazis would do something like that, may we be preserved from sin....”*

At that time, still almost a year before ‘Covid 19’, it sounded far-fetched that any democratic country would ‘make it illegal to read Megillat Esther’, or act in a manner reminiscent of the Nazis... But not for the first time, the Rav was hinting at some very big secrets in his ‘casual’ remarks.

---

<sup>2</sup> A reference to Megillat Esther 9:16.

The following day, on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 10,000 people attended the prayer gathering in Hevron, where the Rav also joined the crowd to recite the Tikkun HaKlali together. At the end of that evening, Rabbi Berland announced another prayer gathering happening soon, and even gave a specific date: Thursday, June 6, 2019, Erev Shavuot.<sup>3</sup>

Again at the time, nobody thought too much about the significance. The following day, Israel went to the polls, and at midnight Benny Gantz announced that his ‘anti-Torah’ Blue and White Party had won the elections. As it turned out, Gantz’s celebration was premature. As the final counts continued into the morning hours, Israel woke up to the news that Netanyahu’s Likud and Gantz’s Blue and White were tied.

In a huge political upset, the ‘New Right’ Party of Naftali Bennett and Ayelet Shaked failed to cross the threshold required to get into the Knesset by just 1,500 votes. Nobody knew it back then, but the stage was set for months of political wrangling and endless elections, which would keep ‘the Zionists’ on the back foot over the next four years.

The prayers of the holy congregation apparently had their effect, and the decrees of the evildoers – who on election night actually believed they’d won, – seemed to be nullified.



While the politicians continued to fight amongst themselves, in April 2019 Prime Minister Netanyahu still found time to sign an agreement with Big Pharma, together with some guy no-one had heard of, Moshe Bar Siman Tov, Director General of the Health Ministry. Together, these two men agreed to ‘share’ all of Israel’s

---

<sup>3</sup> Watch livestream footage of the gathering here:

‘DNA’ and health information with Big Pharma companies, who were looking to develop innovative new medical treatments....

This was part of the State of Israel’s billion-dollar investment in ‘digital health’<sup>4</sup> - again something that no-one paid attention to at the time. But all this would come into much sharper focus as the events of the following years unfolded.



When the second volume of *One in a Generation II* was published on April 17, 2019, a big war of words was going on between Trump’s White House and Iran, after the United States designated Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a foreign terrorist organization and put even tougher sanctions on Iran.

A few days’ later, on April 21, Sri Lanka’s commercial capital, Columbo, was hit by a series of coordinated bombings, targeting churches and luxury hotels across the city, killing over 250 people and wounding 500 more.

Very shortly after those attacks, some videos came to light showing Rabbi Berland talking about ‘Colombo’ on many separate occasions in the two weeks before the attacks. Later, Rabbi Berland explained that the terrorists wanted the attacks to take place in Jerusalem, but their plans got ‘changed’.

In many ways, 2019 was a strange ‘in-between’ year for Rav Berland and Shuvu Banim. On one hand, it seemed then that the worst persecution was finally over, and that things could get ‘back to normal’.

---

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.mobihealthnews.com/news/emea/gold-mine-data-driving-israels-billion-shekel-bet-digital-health>



On the other hand, there were hints that more storm clouds were gathering on the horizon. There was still a lot of ‘din’ in the air, and harsh judgements befalling the wider Breslov community.

At the beginning of May, someone ventured to ask Rav Berland why so many young Breslov men were dying strange deaths, in a string of motorbike accidents and drownings in the Kinneret.

The questioner asked, “*Honored rabbi, why are so many young Breslov men being killed in strange ways, and how can we put an end to this awful situation?*”

Rav Berland replied:

*“[It’s happening] because of the opposition to the Rav. [The people against the Rav] have been causing young men to stumble and go against the Rav. They put stumbling blocks before the young men, and they believe them. And so, there are traffic accidents, and people drowning in bodies of water, rachmana litzlan.”*



Also at the beginning of May 2019, the Rav asked the community to read the entire book of Tehillim every day, until Rosh Chodesh Iyar, which that year fell on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Two hundred avreichim from Shuvu Banim also took upon themselves to read the whole book of Tehillim every single day, until Rosh Hashana 5780.

As happened so many times, when May 4<sup>th</sup> rolled around, it became clear what the Rav had been trying to sweeten. More than 600 rockets fell on the South of Israel in just one day, leaving three people dead and scores more wounded. For the ‘land of miracles’, that was an unusually high death toll.

But then, the rocket attacks from Gaza stopped as quickly as they started. And no-one could explain why.

A few days later, the bad news continued when Iran announced it was preparing to increase enriched uranium and heavy water production, ahead of restarting its nuclear program. On May 12, 2019, the Rav responded with the following short note to his followers:

*“Be strong and strengthen others.*

*Distribute all the prayers from Tiferet Zion, until there won't be a house in all the nation of Israel that won't have a prayer from the Rav.*

*In the merit of Rabbenu HaKadosh, the holy and awesome Rebbe, and in the merit of the holy, pure Torah.*

*Your faithful servant,*

*Eliezer Berland”*

Later that day, four oil tankers were sabotaged off the coast of the United Arab Emirates, and the international community rushed to blame Iran for it. Iran denied the accusation – but the war of words was clearly ratcheting up another level, bringing a conflict with Iran perilously closer.



At the same time, some real hopes emerged that ‘the footsteps of Moshiach’ were finally on the threshold. At a bris mila in Givat Olga<sup>5</sup>, the Rav announced:

---

<sup>5</sup> A small town close to the city of Hadera, in the North of Israel.

May 13, 2019:

*“Today, we are bringing the geula (redemption). Moshiach is already here. Today, we are bringing the geula, the Moshiach is already here. The Moshiach is going to come from Givat Olga. Now, everyone is going with the Moshiach.”*

The next day, Houthi rebels in Yemen destroyed an oil pipeline in Saudi Arabia and by the end of that week, President Trump was blowing off more steam at Iran, tweeting that:

*“IF IRAN WANTS TO FIGHT, THAT WILL BE THE OFFICIAL END OF IRAN. NEVER THREATEN THE UNITED STATES AGAIN!”*



The precarious ‘see-saw’ between *geula* and the war of Gog and Magog continued. On May 20, the dani18.com website posted two messages from the autistic young men Binyamin Goldin and Menachem, stating that Rabbi Eliezer ben Ettia was Moshiach ben David.

The announcement sparked off such a huge storm of controversy, that the site’s owner quickly decided to take the messages down, even though his own son, the autistic man Daniel, had communicated his own message that also said “Eliezer ben Ettia is Moshiach ben David.”

The next day, with Lag BaOmer 5779 (May 23, 2019) just two days away, Rav Berland said the following:

*“[O]n Lag BaOmer all the trumpets of war that are heard around us will be cancelled. In the merit of Rebbe Shimon bar Yochai and Lag B’Omer, may there be no more wars in Eretz Yisrael.*

*We are standing before that great moment when the great shofar will be blown.*

*We are standing before the most dramatic moment ever, the moment when: “And it will be on that day, the great shofar will be sounded, and those lost in the land of Assyria and those exiled in the land of Egypt shall come to Hashem, at the holy mountain in Jerusalem.”*

*The geula shleima (complete redemption) will come via this L’ag BaOmer, and we will see how the sea will split anew...”*

To our great sorrow, that didn’t happen back in 2019. Perhaps, the Rav was explaining why things needed to be slowed down again when he gave another shiur a few days later, on May 26<sup>th</sup>, where he explained:

***“The calamities will only take place in another 200 years, not now. Moshiach will come without anyone dying.***

*In the Midrashim, it’s written that: In the days that the Moshiach comes, there will be a terrible war. People will be chopped and sliced into bits, because everybody will have done so many transgressions, that it’s impossible to atone for any other way.*

*It's written that in the war of Gog and Magog all the mountains will totter and melt. All the mountains will collapse, the big mountains! They will collapse because of all the explosions. All the mountains!*

*But whoever is with Rabbenu (Rebbe Nachman of Breslov), and whoever will do an hour a day of hitbodedut<sup>6</sup>, and whoever comes to pray together with the Rav – so they have nothing to fear. Not him, and not his children, and not the children of his children, all his grandkids.*

*It's written that Hashem will bring all the 10 plagues, but this will be on the goyim (the non-Jewish nations), not on the Jews. It will only be on the non-Jewish nations.*

***We have nothing to be afraid of! These things are only going to occur in another 200 years.”***

Someone from the audience then said to the Rav, *Chas v'shalom*, that this will only be in another 200 years! This should only apply to the hard things!”

The Rav then told him:

*“The good things will happen now. All the good things will start to happen now.”*



Immediately after Rav Berland said these words, he took very seriously ill again, and was hospitalized. Prayer gatherings were

---

<sup>6</sup> The practice of talking to Hashem in your own words.

organized for him all over the country, where people undertook to read the whole book of tehillim for his recovery.

In the meantime, the Rav had emergency heart surgery at the Hadassah Ein Kerem hospital in Jerusalem. At almost exactly the same time, the Knesset was dispersed, and new elections were called for September 2019, as part of Netanyahu's machinations to prevent Benny Gantz from being the next designated Prime Minister.

Jerusalem, the heart of the world, was in turmoil, and the Tzaddik, the heart of the Jewish people, was also in pain.



## MIRACLES FROM THE TZADDIK

**F**or years, Gavriel Lavie had been walking in and out of the Old City via the Damascus Gate, to learn at the main Shuvu Banim yeshiva in the Muslim Quarter or attend prayers at the Kotel.

That fateful day, on May 31, 2019, when Lavie walked out of the Old City through the Damascus Gate, an Arab terrorist was waiting for him with a knife. Lavie was stabbed more than 40 times, in many of the most critical and vital areas of the torso. After losing 70% of his blood in the attack, his life was literally hanging by a thread, and the doctors gave him just hours to live.<sup>7</sup>

At that point, some of his friends clubbed together to do a *pidyon nefesh* for him with the Rav. Barely 10 days later, Gavriel was well enough to give a press conference along with some of the doctors who attended him at Shaarei Tzedek Hospital.

Here's what Gavriel had to say about his ordeal, and miraculous recovery, on the Breslov Hotline. He began:

*“Mamash, we are talking about miracles from the tzaddik, and we really feel all the prayers that were said for us by Am Yisrael,”*

---

<sup>7</sup> <https://ravberland.com/back-to-life-after-being-stabbed-over-40-times/>

Someone then asked him how he was doing, and he replied,

*“Baruch Hashem, I feel good, although there will be things we’ll have to learn to manage as we go along. But generally, I simply went from death to life.*

*Several ambulance crew members who came to attend me and to treat me after the attack told me, ‘You taught us a real lesson for life, never to give up! You were in critical condition, and it looked like it was terminal.’*

Instead, just 10 days later Gavriel was talking, moving around and back on his feet. He continues his story: *I’d been in the yeshiva the whole week, and I’d also been learning in the Chatzot (midnight) Kollel of Rav Meir Sa’adeh, shlita, one of Rabbi Eliezer Berland’s students, shlita. I’d prayed the morning service with the vatikin (dawn) minyan by the Kotel, and I was hurrying back home, via the Damascus Gate, to try and get there in time to see my children before they left for the Talmud Torah.*

*I was close to the Gate’s exit when I felt someone pull my hat off, but I still hadn’t registered what was really going on. At the time it was all happening, it’s very hard to comprehend that you’re actually experiencing a terror attack.*

*The terrorist attacked me from behind and started stabbing me. It took me a couple of seconds to realize what was happening, until I turned around and found myself face-to-face with the terrorist.”*



Gavriel continues:

*“I didn’t run away, and I did whatever I could [to defend myself]. Whatever happened, it was all from Hashem Yitborach. I decided to accept that this could be the last few seconds of my life. I was stabbed no less than 40 times, in every part of my body. I started to recite the Shema prayer as I fell onto my knees.*

*I fought with the accursed terrorist with every drop of my strength for a minute and a half, until I could feel that all my energy was used up, and I fell to the ground and passed out. For the next 10 minutes, I just lay unconscious on the floor, and not a single one of the people who were around me there called for help.*

During this crucial time, I lost an awful lot of blood, which led to me deteriorating into a critical, almost terminal condition. I understood that I was hovering between life and death. But in the merit of the pidyon nefesh that my friends from the yeshiva did for me [with Rabbi Berland], the whole situation turned around for the good.”

Gavriel concluded the interview by saying:

“We will of course continue to travel via the Damascus Gate, and to not be afraid. And to follow the words of the Tzaddik Rabbi Eliezer Berland, that we shouldn’t be afraid of anything or anyone, apart from the Creator of the world.”

His story was so incredible, that on June 12, 2019, Lavie found himself giving a press conference to a bunch of reporters at

Shaarei Tzedek Hospital, together with his doctors. When the doctors themselves described the unprecedentedly fast, miraculous way Gavriel had recovered, the story went viral, creating an enormous Kiddush Hashem.<sup>8</sup>



At that point, it looked like the see-saw had tipped up again, into ‘geula’. On June 2, 2019, the Rav was released from the hospital after his heart surgery and returned home. Once back in the Homa HaShlishit, he released another message urging everyone to attend the prayer gathering in Hevron, scheduled for four days’ time.

The Rav said:

*“In this prayer gathering, [people] will be healed from all the diseases. From the age of 3 and up, everyone is obligated to come, without any exceptions. Everyone who comes to the gathering will immediately start functioning normally again. They will function normally, and they won’t have any more suffering, not for even a second.”*

Again, thousands of people heeded the call of the Tzaddik, and attended the gathering on June 6, 2019.

But as the month wore on, it looked like things were tipping back into horrible wars and ‘Gog and Magog’-type calamities again. On June 13, two more oil tankers from Japan and Norway came under attack in the Gulf of Oman, and the West once again blamed Iran for it.

---

<sup>8</sup> Watch Gavriel telling his story in his own words here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vf8AxdJJx68>

Then on June 17, the Pentagon authorised the deployment of 1,000 additional troops to the Middle East, while Iran announced that it was just 10 days away from passing the limits set by the nuclear deal on its stockpile of low-enriched uranium.

The very next day, Rav Berland was back in Hadassah Ein Kerem Hospital in Jerusalem after experiencing serious difficulties breathing. On June 20, 2019, the Rav released the following message from his hospital bed, that explained a little more of what was really going on:<sup>9</sup>

*“The Tzaddik sees awful gezeirot (decrees) that could come to be on Am Yisrael. A war with Iran and America, that will harm Israel – millions will be killed. The Iranians have no end of weapons!*

*So, the Tzaddik is taking upon himself death, mamash. To fast without a break from Shabbat to Shabbat. There was a collapse on Tuesday, in the night, but there will be a continuation of no eating, very simply, only the sustenance that comes via a drip.*

*The Tzaddik is prepared to die for Am Yisrael.”*



That very same day, something incredible happened. Iranian forces shot down a US military drone, and the ‘neo-con’ war-mongers in the US urged Trump to respond firmly. The next day, June 21, Trump announced that the US had been on the verge of launching a military strike on Iran the night before.

---

<sup>9</sup> <https://ravberland.com/massive-day-of-prayer-scheduled-today-june-202019/>

The American planes were already in the air when President Trump, inexplicably, called them off, once again narrowly avoiding a war. It looked like the Rav's self-sacrifice had literally turned the tables at the last minute, to ensure that 'the calamities will only be in 200 years.

At least, the calamities connected to the wars of 'Gog and Magog'. But before then, there were still a bunch of other trials and tribulations to deal with.



# TRUMP'S DEAL OF THE CENTURY

Evil King Armelius will arise and tell Edom: "I am your messiah! I am your god!" The people will immediately believe in him and unite under his leadership. He will say to Esav's descendants worldwide: "Bring me the Torah I gave you!"

Every nation will present its religious law. Armelius will declare: "I gave you this law. I am your god." He will likewise summon the Jewish people and say: "Bring me your Torah and declare me your god!" The Jews will be shocked and frightened...

Nechemiah will say: "You are not God, but the Satan!" He and thirty thousand mighty Jews will battle Armelius and kill 200,000 of his soldiers. Outraged, Armelius will mobilize an international army and wage a terrible war against the Jewish people. Thousands of Jews will be killed, including Nechemiah, who will die in the afternoon....

The Jewish survivors will flee into the wilderness. For forty-five days, they will survive on grass.

Moshiach ben David and Eliyahu HaNavi will reveal themselves to the Jews hiding in the wilderness and restore their spirits. The people will know God has saved them. As it is said, For God has redeemed Yaakov, and ransomed him from the hand of one stronger than he (Yirmeyahu 31:10), and those lost in the land of Assyria and the outcasts in the land of Egypt will come (Yeshayahu 27:13).

The nations will fear God. Heretofore scattered, the Jewish people will return to Israel with Moshiach. Uniting in the Judean desert,

the Jews will go to Jerusalem. Remnants of the house of David will rise up from the ruins, and Moshiach will rule.

Armeliush will assemble an international army to fight Moshiach and the Jewish people. God will fight for his nation, telling Moshiach: "Sit at my right hand..." (Tehillim 110:1). Moshiach will say to the Jews, "stand firm, and see God's salvation," (Shemot 14:13).

God will immediately do battle for them.

**- From the 'Midrash Heichalos'**

*President Trump is the greatest President for Jews and for Israel in the history of the world, not just America, he is the best President for Israel in the history of the world...and the Jewish people in Israel love him like he's the King of Israel. They love him like he is the second coming of God... But American Jews don't know him or like him. They don't even know what they're doing or saying anymore."*

**- Tweet from President Donald Trump, August 21, 2019.<sup>10</sup>**

**K**abbalistic texts including the Sefer Zerubavel and the Nistarot d'Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai tell us that at the End of Days, the Satan will come in the form of 'Armilus' to wage one last battle against the Moshiach. This Armilus will try to kill Moshiach - and he may even succeed in killing Moshiach ben Yosef - before ultimately being defeated by Moshiach ben David.

Meanwhile, the Zohar<sup>11</sup> talks about "*a person who is not suitable to be king,*" shortly before Moshiach is revealed, explaining "*it will be given to him that he should rule.*"

<sup>10</sup> <https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/1164138796205654016>

<sup>11</sup> <https://ravberland.com/unpacking-the-zohar-on-the-end-of-days/>

The Zohar continues: *“And this same king, who rules with sweet talk, will govern with great anger, and with rage and with force, against the holy people.”*



In June 2019, President Donald Trump was hitting headlines all over the world, in a big push to seal his ‘Deal of the Century’ in Israel.

But thanks to the political deadlock that had developed around the elections, there was no-one on the other side of the table in a position to negotiate - and so the ‘Deal of the Century’ effectively got blown out of the water.

So much has happened since then, it’s hard to recall that less than four years ago, Trump and his son-in-law, Jared Kushner, were making some very serious attempts to create another Palestinian State, and to force the Jewish people to relinquish parts of the Holy Land as part of his ‘Peace to Prosperity’ plan.<sup>12</sup>

According to media reports floating around at that time, top-ranking Saudi diplomats were being publicly quoted as saying that the plan included a “clear path leading to complete Palestinian independence”.<sup>13</sup> I.e, we were back to an updated version of the Oslo Accords Mark II - just repackaged as the ‘Deal of the Century’ and the ‘Peace to Prosperity’ Plan.

Kushner was quoted as saying:

---

<sup>12</sup> [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle\\_east/trump-administration-touts-mideast-peace-plan-at-kushners-bahrain-workshop/2019/06/25/b13a0136-9692-11e9-9a16-dc551ea5a43b\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/trump-administration-touts-mideast-peace-plan-at-kushners-bahrain-workshop/2019/06/25/b13a0136-9692-11e9-9a16-dc551ea5a43b_story.html)

<sup>13</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trump\\_peace\\_plan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trump_peace_plan)

*“The Palestinian leadership have to ask themselves a question: Do they want to have a state? Do they want to have a better life? If they do, we have created a framework for them to have it, and we’re going to treat them in a very respectful manner. If they don’t, then they’re going to screw up another opportunity like they’ve screwed up every other opportunity that they’ve ever had in their existence.”*

*On another occasion, Kushner explained why this was a ‘two state solution’ in everything except name. He said:”If you say ‘two-state’, it means one thing to the Israelis, it means one thing to the Palestinians. We said, ‘You know, let’s just not say it. Let’s just say, let’s work on the details of what this means.’”*



As well as wielding the stick, Trump was also dangling the carrot, promising that Israel would get America’s ‘permission’ to annex 30% of the so-called ‘West Bank’. So, while Netanyahu went into the elections due to be held on September 17, 2019, promising to ‘annex 30% of the West Bank’, as per Trump’s ‘Deal of the Century’ (with no mention about what was going to happen to the other 70%....) the Rav was continuing to warn that Blue and White’s ‘secular revolution’ was still the biggest danger facing the people of Israel.

In comments made on September 9, 2019 the Rav said:

*“Benny Gantz, together with Lapid, they want to uproot all the chareidim. They want to throw all the chareidim onto some island in the Caribbean, so that they’ll build*



*new houses there. So that Yosef Shor<sup>14</sup> will start to build houses, instead of being a mohel.*

*Also on the [Grand] Bahamas Island, all the buildings were destroyed. They are blaming Shuvu Banim for all of this. Now, there are planes here, ready to bring the whole of Shuvu Banim to the Bahamas.”*

The same day the Rav was saying this, Jason Greenblatt, the main architect of the Trump administration’s ‘Deal of the Century’, unexpectedly resigned.

The next day, Trump fired John Bolton, his National Security Advisor, and one of the key figures in his administration who had been continually pushing the US to start a war with Iran.



After the morning prayers on September 11, 2019, the Rav returned to the political situation, saying:

*“Next week, we will find out if Gantz will win, together with Lapid and Lieberman. They want to do it together; they will even accept the Arabs [the Arab parties]. The ikker (whole thing) is that they will have 61 [seats]. Here, we talk about 61. 61 is the magic number.*

*“Whoever brings 61, he will be the king.”*

The next day, the Rav dropped another clue, saying:

*“The Tzaddik can sweeten every single thing in the world.”*

---

<sup>14</sup> One of the best-known mohels in the Shuvu Banim community.

And honestly, the Tzaddik had a lot of work to do.

On Sept 17, 2019, Israelis again headed off to the polls, and even before the day was over, Rabbi Berland was videoed saying:

*“Now, there are no gezeirot (harsh decrees.) there is no decree at all! it doesn’t matter what is going to happen with the elections.*

*“We are in the canister of [pure] oil. Shuvu banim will always win! They won’t take the Kotel, they won’t take anything! Even if they want to.”*

The following day, it transpired that the elections had been ‘hung’ again, with the Likud getting 33 seats and Blue and White getting 33 seats - but no-one getting enough seats for their bloc to ‘bring 61’ and ‘be the king’.

Once again, Ayelet Shaked and Naftali Bennett’s ‘New Right’ failed to clear the electoral threshold. Readers may be interested to note that Ayelet Shaked was the ‘Justice Minister’ when Rav Berland was forced to make a plea bargain just so he could actually get out of prison, where he was being held indefinitely without a trial.

Sometimes, the wheels of Divine justice grind a little slowly. But eventually, they do grind.

In the meantime, the same old political horse trading continued, with everyone refusing to sit with Netanyahu in a ‘unity government’ and Netanyahu refusing to quit and step down as Prime Minister. As the political impasse continued, with no end in sight, the Trump administration started leaking their ‘frustration’ at there not being a stable Israeli government to impose their ‘Deal of the Century’ peace plan on.

Trump had been planning to roll it out in September 2019, but thanks to three ‘hung elections’ in a row, that just didn’t happen. A few weeks later, it was announced that Israel was heading into an unprecedented 4<sup>th</sup> election in less than a year, scheduled for March 2, 2020.

And shortly after that, no-one was talking about any ‘Deals of the Century’ anymore, because suddenly, the world found itself facing one of the biggest challenges, ever.

But we’ll get to that in due course.



## THE PSAK FROM BNEI BRAK

*A person thinks that it's a mitzvah [to persecute someone else]. The Chazon Ish writes in "the trait of bitachon (trust)" that if a person is a zealot in the name of Torah, then there is no limit to his wickedness.*

– **Comments made by the Rav on Tuesday, 14 Cheshvan 5783**



On June 24, 2019, in what initially looked like a very promising development for truth and justice, the Beit Din of Nissim Karelitz in Bnei Brak announced that they were formally looking into the false accusations against Rabbi Berland. They also issued a statement that forbid any more slander or defamation being said about him in public.<sup>15</sup>

That psak din was signed by the Beis Din of Badatz Eida Chareidis, Beis din of Rav Nissim Karelitz and Beis Din of Rav Shmuel Wosner, as well as the Raavad, Rabbi Moshe Sternbuch, and the Gaavad, Rabbi Yitzchak Tuvia Weiss, amongst others.

This is what that signed letter said:

---

<sup>15</sup> <https://ravberland.com/new-bet-din-of-the-badatz-against-the-persecution-and-slander-of-rabbi-berland/>

**Court appointed by the most important Batei Din in Israel**

Monday the 21<sup>st</sup> of the month of Sivan 5779

*After we the undersigned have been appointed by the most important rabbinical courts in Israel to serve as the “Beis Din” to clarify the machlokes against the Rav and chossid Rabbi Eliezer Berland shlit”a, leader of the Shuvu Banim community, and to instruct the path to be followed, and after the Rav and chossid Rabbi Eliezer Berland shlit”a and his congregation accepted to come before the court. Therefore, the court requires all parties, from this day onward, to immediately cease all hatred and persecution, and not to speak or publish anything negative on each other and no derogatory terms or names, in any matter or in any way, either in writing or orally or in any written and broadcasted media. And any person who has any claim or complaint, debate and demand on this matter must bring and lay out all his arguments for clarification and decision only through this court. The court shall appoint a special secretary, and only through him the arguments may be brought for clarification and decision before the dayanim.*

*And for this we signed:*

Sariel Rosenberg, Av Beis Din of Bnei Brak and Av Beit Din of Badatz – On behalf of Badatz Bnei Brak under the leadership of Rabbi Nissim Karelitz shlit”a

Rabbi Shmuel Eliezer Stern, member of Badatz Zichron Meir and Rabbi of Shaarei Torah – On behalf

of Badatz Zichron Meir, founded by Rabbi Wasner ztz”l

Rabbi Yehuda Fisher, member of the Edatz HaCharedit – On behalf of Badatz the Edah HaCharedis Yerushalayim

We, the undersigned, rely on the important Geonim, the members of the Badatz, to clarify and acknowledge the way in which they will go and what deed they will do

Yitzhak Tuvia Weiss, Av Beis Din of the Eda HaCharedis

Moshe Sternbuch Rav of the Eda HaCharedis

Chaim Meir HaLevi Wosner, Av Beis Din of Zichron Moshe

Yehuda Silman

Menachem Mendel Lubin

Zvi Rosenblatt

Yosef Binyamin Halevi Wasner

Menachem Mendel Hacoheh Shafran

Naftali Nussbaum

All questions and matters pertaining to Beis Din should be sent directly to Beis Din via the following phone number +972-52-710-9158



## ◆ BEIS DIN ◆

Appointed by the important Batei Din in Eretz Yisrael

Monday the 21st of the month of Sivan

After we the undersigned have been appointed by the most important rabbinical courts in Israel to serve as the "Beis Din" to clarify the mudslopes against the Rav and chossid Rabbi Eliezer Berland שליט"א, leader of the Shuva Banim Kehilla and to insure the path to be followed. Since the Rav and chossid Rabbi Eliezer Berland שליט"א and his congregation accepted to come before the Beis Din, therefore, the Beis Din requires all parties, from this day onward, to immediately cease all hate, persecution, arguments and defamation, and not to speak or publish anything negative about each other and not to speak any derogatory terms or names, in any matter or in any way, either in writing or orally or in any written and broadcasted media.

And any person who has any claim or complaint, debate and demand on this matter must bring and present all arguments for clarification and decision only through this Beis Din. The Beis Din will appoint a special secretary the details of which will be announced and only through him will it be possible to bring complaints for investigation before the dayanim.

And for this we signed:

On behalf of Badatz Zichron Meir <small>founded by Rabbi Wasser Zvi*</small>	On behalf of Badatz the Edat HaCharedim Yerushalym	On behalf of Badatz Bnei Brak <small>under the leadership of Rabbi Neuman Kaveltz</small>
 <b>Shmuel Eliezer Stern</b> member of Badatz Zichron Meir and Rabbi of Shaarei Torah	 <b>Yehuda Fisher</b> member of the Edatz HaCharedim	 <b>Sariel Rosenberg</b> member of Badatz and As Beis Din of Badatz HaBnei Brak

We, who have signed below rely on the aforementioned Gvurus to clarify and rule upon the manner upon which everyone must conduct themselves

## ◆ בית דין ◆

מטעם בתי הדינים החשובים בארץ ישראל

כ"ב

יום ב' כ"א לחודש סיון תשע"ט

לאחר שאנחנו החתומים מטה. נתמנינו על ידי בתי הדינים החשובים בארץ ישראל להיות ולשמש יבית דין לכיור המחלוקת נגד הרב ר' אליעזר ברלנד שליט"א מנהיג קהילה חשוב בניס ולחורג את חדרך וכלו בה ואת המעשה אשר יעשה. ולאחר שנים הרבה ר' אליעזר ברלנד שליט"א והקהילה קיבלו עליו לענין בנין הכיבוד. לכן בית הדין מורה את כל הגדרים. מינוע זה והלכת להחסיק ללאות את כל השארת הדין והחברות המשתתפות ולא לדרבן ולא לפרסם שום דברים שליליים אחר על השני ושום שטות נגדו ושום בנין שנותן בשם דין והיום אופן. לא במבט ולא בעל פה ולא שום אמצעי תקשורת חסוכה מפורסם. וכל מי שיש לו טענות משה נתמנה. דין ודברים ותביעה בנינו זה ועליו להביא ולשטוח כל טענותיו לכיור ולהכריע את דין וקרא באפצנות בית דין. וזה הדין יבנה מזה יחיד (ויפורסם מרשום) סוד באמצעותו יהיה אפשר להביא את הטענות לכיור ולהכריע במני הדיינים

ועל זה באנו על החתום: מטעם בני בני ברק מוסדות של הגויים ואנשי וצ"ל	מטעם בני בני ברק מטעם בני קרליץ שליט"א	מטעם בני בני ברק מטעם בני קרליץ שליט"א
ירושלים יחודה מיר חברי בתי הדין החרדי	שמואל אליעזר שטרן חברי בתי הדין מאיר והבני ברק חסידים	שמואל אליעזר שטרן חברי בתי הדין מאיר והבני ברק חסידים

אנו החתום מוכיחים דיונו על הנאמרים החשובים חברי הדין הגל ובראשיתם את הדין וכלי כבוד המעשה אשר יעשה. וזה הדין יבנה מזה יחיד (ויפורסם מרשום) סוד באמצעותו יהיה אפשר להביא את הטענות לכיור ולהכריע במני הדיינים

The secretary of the Beis Din can be contacted on all matters 052-7109158

052-7109158 לכל עניני בית הדין ניתן לפנות למזכירות בית הדין

### Ruling of Beis Din against the slander and persecution of Rabbi Berland

Initially, hopes were high in the Shuva Banim community that the involvement of the Beit Din would effectively end the 'open season' on Rav Berland, at least in the *chareidi* world. How could it not, when it was an open secret that the Rav's persecutors within Breslov were the only source of all the negative stories about him appearing in the secular press, and also the people who had asked the Beit Din to investigate Rabbi Berland in the first place, with a view to getting him excommunicated?

But as the months dragged on, and no ruling was made, it appeared that the Bnei Brak Beis Din was not really that interested in getting to grips with the details of the case, after all. What they were concerned about, it seemed, was ensuring that the Rav put iron latticework across the windows of his *beit midrash* on Ido

HaNavi, to make it difficult for the women to see into the shul when he was praying.

While the Beit Din's decision dragged on, for no obvious reason, the Rav was focussed on other things. In June 2019, the Rav told one of his attendants that the entire *geula* depends on the Rav's prayers. When the prayers circulate throughout the world, *geula* comes the sweet way, without war and bloodshed.<sup>16</sup>



---

<sup>16</sup> <https://ravberland.com/a-z-index-of-prayers-by-rabbi-eliezer-berland/>



## THE POWER OF PRAYER

### **PRAYER 915 - THE OBLIGATION TO SPREAD THE LIGHT OF THE TZADDIK.**

TO MERIT TO DISTRIBUTE THE PRAYERS OF THE RAV IN EVERY HOUSE AND TO SPREAD THE SPIRIT OF LIFE THROUGH ALL THE NATION OF ISRAEL.

AND TO MERIT TO CONNECT TO A NUMBER OF PRAYERS WITH WHICH I WILL GO ALL MY LIFE, BECAUSE THESE PRAYERS ARE THE SANCTUARY OF CHANGING COLORS.

AND IN THE MERIT OF THESE PRAYERS, MAY WE RECEIVE OUR RIGHTEOUS MOSHIACH.



Master of the world, may I merit to distribute the prayers of the Rav in each and every house, and in each and every place, and in each and every neighborhood, and to each and every Jew, so that no Jew will be lacking in any prayer, G-d forbid.

And on this depends the complete redemption, until the revelation of Moshiach ben David through the prayers of the Rav, until they are spread throughout the world, and to every single Jew, which is the secret of the death of the firstborn, when Hashem smote the sitra achra, on account of there being not a single home without prayers of the Rav.

And may we merit to go out and distribute every single day all the prayers of the Rav.

And through this may we merit to enter in the blink (305) of an eye (130) to the sanctuary of changing colors, because the Rav wrote in all the colors, tens of prayers in every color, and so every Jew is obligated to find for himself several prayers. So too in the merit of these prayers, may we all merit to receive Moshiach ben David and bring down the Temple of fire from the heavens before the eyes of all Israel, and before the eyes of all the nations of the world....

So too, there should now stop all the flood of the *sitra achra*, and it should all be turned around into a flood of prayers and supplications, and through this we should be saved from the evil inclination.

**– Prayer written by Rabbi Eliezer Berland**

**I**n his writings, Rebbe Nachman of Breslov explains in a few different places that at the end of days, the world would be drowned by a ‘flood’ of heresy, and it would rise so high, this heretical ‘flood’ would even splash over the Holy Land of Israel, which was untouched in Noah’s flood.

Anyone looking around at the last few years would understand immediately that Rebbe Nachman was describing exactly what is occurring in our world, where so many ‘false gods’ have been elevated and worshipped, even within the apparently ‘religious’ Jewish community.

And Rebbe Nachman explained that there was only one way to stop this ‘flood’ of the *sitra achra*, as Rabbi Berland described in his prayer Number 915 - to turn everything around to become a flood of prayers and supplications, instead.



A quick glance at the headlines from that time suggests that the *sitra achra* was working overtime to try and trigger the world wars that the Rav was constantly busy trying to postpone, annul and sweeten. On July 1, 2019, Iran announced that it had exceeded the 300kg limit on its stockpile of enriched uranium, breaching the cap set out in Obama’s nuclear deal.

Three days later, Britain decided to seize an Iranian super tanker as it cruised through the Straits of Gibraltar, on the way to deliver 2m barrels of oil to Syria. Reports suggested that - who else? - the USA was the guiding force behind this decision.<sup>17</sup>

Two weeks after that, Iran announced it had seized a British oil tanker in the Strait of Hormuz, as a tit-for-tat reprisal - and the war drums beat at ear-splitting levels again. It was hard to keep up with all the ‘downed drones’, burning tankers and naval skirmishes occurring between Iran and the US’s proxies.

“I don’t think President Trump wants war,” the Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammed Zarif said in an interview, “but I believe that people are around him who wouldn’t mind.”<sup>18</sup>



In the meantime, we had the guarantee of the Tzaddik of the Generation that “the calamities will only be in 200 years”, and the terrible bloodshed surrounding the next stage of the *geula* process would be pushed off.

---

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jul/04/royal-marines-gibraltar-tanker-oil-syria-eu-sanctions>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.euronews.com/2019/07/19/british-oil-tanker-seized-iranian-forces-being-guided-strait-hormuz-n1031866>

Again, it seemed that Moshiach was literally on the doorstep. The Rav spoke frequently about ‘David’ being revealed, even giving specific times when that would happen. At the same time, it seemed that America was bent on provoking a war with Iran that could have terrible consequences for Israel.

The pressure became almost unbearable, when on July 22, 2019, rumors started to circulate around the Shuvu Banim community that Rav Berland had disappeared from Jerusalem, and no-one knew where he’d gone.

Had the Rav gone into exile again? Was he even still in the country? No-one knew. Then a few days later, word reached the community that the Rav was recuperating in a private villa, after experiencing another very serious health episode that landed him back in the hospital. The Rav released a message explaining that:

*“The legs are emuna (faith). The Rav already had one leg in the next world, and he got to the hospital at the last possible moment. The Rav’s kidney stopped working, and it was only with great difficulty that his heart was working.”*

The Rav’s health was always a barometer of the situation, and this time even a blind man could see that the world was on the brink of an awful world war.

But each time the Rav landed back in the hospital, taking more suffering upon himself, miraculously everything just seemed to melt away again, and the political crises defused all by themselves.



On August 6, 2019, the Rav came back to his home in Jerusalem after a two-week absence. His attendant released a message setting out new guidelines for anyone who wanted to pray with the Rav at the Beit HaRav on Ido HaNavi:

The message said:

*We are returning the ancient crown to its place, and going back to conducting the prayers in the same way they were done for 39 years – organized prayers, with kavana (intention), and without notes, questions, and ‘meeting and greeting’ the Rav during the time of the prayers. All personal questions will be answered immediately after the prayers.*

*“Only prayer with intention, taking place in a state of total dread and awe, can sweeten all of the judgments, both in the world, and at the personal level.”*

The next week, the Rav called in the editor of the ravberland.com English site and told him to urgently get 75 of the Rav’s prayers translated into English.<sup>19</sup>

Exactly that same day, after weeks of simmering tensions with Iran, the British authorities in Gibraltar decided to release the Iranian super tanker, despite heavy pressure from the Americans to keep it detained.

The power of the Rav’s prayers was already beginning to work.

Thanks to a group of dedicated volunteers who worked around the clock on the translations, by August 25, 2019, the ‘75 Prayers For Geula’ were ready, and posted up on the ravberland.com site.

---

<sup>19</sup> <https://ravberland.com/75-prayers-for-the-geula/>

When the Rav was told this, he was very pleased, and said it was better than he hoped - perhaps an allusion to their 'sweetening effect' in the world. But he said the work should continue and asked for 10 prayers a week to be translated until further notice.

Those prayers became the basis of the 'A to Z of Prayers' on the English site, and then also led to a number of books being published in English with the Rav's prayers, on various topics including health, shalom bayis, and holy children. The prayer factory was up and running...



By the beginning of September 2019, Trump's administration continued to turn the screw on Iran, and implemented a raft of new, even harsher, sanctions. With the Iranians blocked from exporting oil abroad, and their economy starting to shake to its foundation, the prospect of war seemed inevitable.

Around that time, the autistics were still communicating their messages that 'Eliezer ben Ettia' was Moshiach ben David - and that the world was about to plunge into terrible bloodshed, suffering and chaos. At that stage, on September 7, 2019, Rav Berland sent a message to the people doing the facilitated communication, to tell them that all the information about the wars happening, etc, was incorrect - and that the 'messages from heaven' should stop.

That same day, Iran announced that it had started to inject gas into its advanced centrifuges to increase its stockpile of enriched uranium, and warned the world that 'time is running out',<sup>20</sup> to find a peaceful solution to the stand-off with the US.

---

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/06/iran-standoff-timeline-key-events-190622063937627.html>



At the time all this was happening, the media was painting pictures of a ‘nuclear Iran’ that suggested that the only ‘right way’ to deal with the threat was via an aggressive stance and crushing economic sanctions.

But as we look back, we see that this approach truly brought the world right up to the brink of a terrible war - and that very nearly occurred in January 2020, when the US decided to assassinate the Iranian General Qassem Soleimani when he was visiting Baghdad<sup>21</sup>.

Hindsight is a tremendous thing, and it’s one of the precious gifts a person develops when they follow Rebbe Nachman of Breslov’s advice to do *hitbodedut* for an hour a day, to sift through the day’s events, and develop a more objective perspective about what is really happening.

3 Jan, 2020 17:45 / Home / World News

## **All bets are off: Trump brings conflict with Iran to unprecedented level, just a step short of all-out war**

If not for the Rav’s constant efforts to defuse the situation at the spiritual level, who knows just how bad things might have got, four years ago.

R’ Naftali Ropshitz told his followers that Jewish people would have to wade through rivers of blood up to their knees for *geula* to happen and for Moshiach to appear. But the Rav was intent on

---

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.rt.com/news/477404-trump-conflict-iran-unprecedented-war/>

bringing ‘*geula the sweet way*’, so the war with Iran was switched out for a different type of war, that would still pit one person against another, but in very different circumstances.



On September 25, 2019, Rabbi Berland flew out to Uman, Ukraine, a few days ahead of the *kibbutz* for Rosh Hashana, 5780. On exactly the same day, Democrats in the US announced their plans to push for the impeachment of President Trump, because of the ‘Ukrainian affair’.<sup>22</sup>

One way or another, Trump found his plans to impose the ‘Deal of the Century’ on Israel, while all the avenues that could ignite a war with Iran were somehow being blocked and stymied in myriad different ways, as the Rav’s prayers started to spread around the English-speaking world.

But the ‘birthpangs of Moshiach’ weren’t over yet. In fact, they were just getting started.



---

<sup>22</sup> <https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/463140-trump-claims-markets-will-crash-if-he-is-impeached>



## REDEMPTION OF THE SOUL

*“Know: There are 24 types of pidyon nefesh, corresponding to 24 courts of justice. For each and every court, there is a unique corresponding pidyon nefesh to ameliorate its judgments. Therefore, a ransom is not always effective. Not everyone knows all 24 pidyonei nefesh. Even if one does, he cannot perform them, and when one does not perform the specific ransom required by a specific court, it is not effective.*

*But know: there is a certain ransom that includes all the twenty-four courts of justice and is able to ameliorate [the judgments] of all the twenty-four courts....”*

*.... Only one in a generation knows it, **and sometimes even when this tzaddik performs the ransom, it is ineffective.** The reason for this is that this ransom is greatly desired Above, for such a ransom does not frequently come from below that can ameliorate all 24 courts simultaneously. Therefore, when this amelioration does come, it is used for other purposes, such as making converts....[W]hen judgment and wrath are ameliorated, idolatry is ameliorated and people convert.”*

**– Likutey Moharan, I:215.**



## Yoaz Handel: Open an investigation against Rabbi Berland

In October 2019, Blue and White finally agreed on a deal to sit in the government with Netanyahu, as part of a ‘rotating premiership’, which was meant to see Benny Gantz taking over as Prime Minister 18 months into the term. (Let’s spoil the cliff-hanger: of course that never happened.)

The new MKs were sworn in and, at his very first speech to the new Knesset, ‘New Hope’s’ Yoaz Hendel spent most of his time slandering Rav Berland and Shuvu Banim and demanding that the Israeli police ‘open an investigation into Rav Berland’.<sup>23</sup>

Open an investigation into *what*, exactly? Details like that of course didn’t and still don’t matter. The important thing is that the police should be set on the Rav’s tail, and the State-sponsored persecution of Rav Berland should be cranked up again.

Before we move on, let’s just take a moment to understand the context for Yoaz Hendel’s public campaign against Rav Berland. If we fast-forward a little, to November 30, 2019, we see this brave warrior for civil rights and social justice had another ‘big danger’ to Israeli society in his crosshairs: namely, kosher phones.<sup>24</sup>

Communications Minister Hendel had summoned a bunch of leading Rabbis in the *chareidi* world to complain about the ‘problem’ of kosher phones. But that wasn’t the real agenda, which Hendel hinted to in comments like this:

---

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.srugim.co.il/384274-ברלבנד-נגד-הרב-ברלבנד-384274>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-689481>

“The real argument that is here on the table is how we look at the State of Israel and whether the State of Israel can regulate what happens in its space...”

Hendel continued:

*“I cannot accept the idea that there is a monopoly of Judaism that only belongs to the haredi community... [T]his government is doing a lot to break up some of [the haredi] hold on religion and state issues in this country, and it’s something they’ve never experienced before.”*

Hopefully, the reader is starting to understand more of where this burning need to ‘investigate’ Rav Berland - again - was really coming from.



So the politicians decreed another witch-hunt should begin, and the government-sponsored media was only too happy to comply. On October 21, 2019, the notorious Channel 13 ran its first ‘expose’ on Rav’ Berland doing *pidyonot nefesh* for sick people and introduced the viewing public to the late Shoshie Vidra. The story was told by Shoshie’s rabidly ‘anti-religious’ mother, who hated the fact that her daughter had adopted a religious Breslov lifestyle, and who believed Rav Berland and his community were ‘a cult’.

When the Channel 13 hit pieces about the Rav first started to air, no-one had any idea where all this was leading. It seemed like just the usual sort of slanderous mishmash of lies that the government-sponsored media was always churning out about Rav Berland.

But a few days after the programs started airing, the late Shoshie's husband, R' Asaf Vidra, decided to give an interview, in Hebrew, where he tried to set the record straight about what had really happened.<sup>25</sup>

The following is a translation of the piece that appeared in the Pele Elyon Newsletter:

*The recent, two-part 'expose' broadcast on Channel 13 accused Rabbi Berland of contributing to the death of [Shoshie] Adel, a'h. The whole program was based on the journalist's main accusation that Rav Berland told Adel to fast, and to not eat anything, and to shun 'lifesaving' treatment. And not only that, that he also requested an enormous pidyon nefesh, and promised her that she would live until 100.*

*The media went to great pains to show lots of footage of Adel weeping in torment, in her last days... The media wasn't just trying to destroy the concept of emunat tzaddikim for the secular public, they were also hoping to turn many chareidim against this concept...But here is the truth of what really occurred.*

Pele Elyon continued:

*The Vidra family is part of the Shuvu Banim congregation in Jerusalem. Their children learn in the Breslov cheder, and in other Breslov institutions in Jerusalem. Some time ago, Adel, the wife and mother, discovered she had gallbladder cancer. This is a rare, but very aggressive form of the illness, that affects only 0.5% of all cancer patients.*

---

<sup>25</sup> As appeared in the Pele Elyon Newsletter #15.

*Gallbladder cancer is known to be exceptional because there is effectively no way of curing the cancer, according to natural laws. The maximum life expectancy is 5 years. The whole treatment schedule is based on this, that the patient should live the maximum 5 years remaining to them, and no less.*

*According to the world-class doctors and professors of medicine, patients with this type of cancer can be split into two groups: the group where the growth can be operated on and removed, and the group where no operation is possible.*

*In either case, no doctor will promise the patient that they will live longer than five years, maximum – even in those cases where the surgery is successful. This is because gallbladder cancer affects a number of additional, vital internal organs, including the liver, in a way that the doctors can't successfully manage or treat.*

*Adel belonged to the group where surgery was possible, and she was operated on by Professor Ben Chaim. Ben Chaim explained to Adel, and to her husband Assaf, that he would clean out as much of the growth as he could, which would enable her to continue to live – i.e. for a maximum of five more years.*

*After the surgery, the doctors explained to the couple that there were some other options – hishtadlut – they could consider, to try to weaken the grip of the disease. One option discussed was chemotherapy, but the doctors explained that this treatment was known to weaken the body greatly, so was generally only considered in those cases where surgery was impossible.*

*It was further explained that there were doctors who recommended patients to have chemotherapy after the surgery, and many doctors who were against chemotherapy after surgery, because of its awful side effects.*



Before they made their decision about what course of treatment to follow, the Vidras spoke to a number of medical experts, doctors and professors. After attaining all the facts, they decided against chemotherapy, in preference to a program of holistic, natural treatment that would focus on healthy eating, and a much greater emphasis on praying.

Again, the goal of this treatment is to extend the patient's life for as long as possible, and not to cure the cancer. What follows is a translation of R' Assaf Vidra's comments in Hebrew, which you can see for yourself on Youtube.<sup>26</sup>



R' Vidra explained that just like most believing Jews, the couple didn't want to begin any treatment before they got a blessing from their Rav, Rabbi Berland, so they came to see him for a bracha.

As part of that process, they asked the Rav to give them a bottle of his 'drops', to strengthen Adel's spirits and, by extension, her body. These drops are not a 'homeopathic remedy', they are totally spiritual in nature, and they are one of the ways the Rav clothes his miracles in a 'natural' way.

---

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sBZ1MExYBcs> - the video has now been seen by more than 65,000 people.

And R' Vidra stresses that the drops were working. In the handwritten letter of Adel that Rav Assaf shares in the video, this is the period that Adel describes as feeling as though she was really “in Gan Eden, mamash.”



But the mother continued to rail against the couple's decision, because Adel's mother believed in the doctors who recommended chemotherapy after surgery.

She did everything in her power to pressure the couple to do as she wanted. She was used to this Breslov couple – who were sincere followers of the Rav – ‘giving in’ to her, so she was sure that she'd also convince them about this matter.

But the couple felt very strongly that chemotherapy would only destroy Adel's health further.

They had the opinions of many leading doctors and professors to back them up, and they also had the experience of Rav Assaf's brother, who had also been diagnosed with gallbladder cancer a couple of years earlier. The brother had opted for chemotherapy after the surgery, and as a result he died very shortly after the operation, in tremendous agony.



The couple knew they were facing a harsh decree, so they decided to invest the remaining time left to Adel in living as healthily and happily as she could, and not

suffering from the awful side effects associated with chemotherapy.

Adel's mother accused her daughter of 'not respecting her parent', in an attempt to manipulate her to have the chemotherapy. When she heard that Rav Berland had given his blessing to pursue a natural course of palliative treatment, the mother decided to turn all her efforts towards getting the Rav to pressure the couple to do what the mother wanted.



At this stage, the mother turned to the known persecutors of the Rav, who had promoted the media's slanderous stories for years.

They advised her to set up hidden cameras in her home, and then ask the Rav to come to her house for a visit and insist that she was paying a large pidyon for her daughter for a cure – even though she knew the chances of being 'cured' were zero!

The mother also forced her way into the Rav's home – again wearing hidden cameras – when she told the Rav and the Rabbanit that if they didn't 'force' Adel to have chemotherapy, she would go to the media to slander them.

The Rav's way is always to nullify himself before other Jews, however lowly they may be. Whenever a Jew makes a request of him, he says 'yes, of course', and he is always very careful to not embarrass his fellow Jew.



The Rav told her that if that is what she (i.e. Adel) really wanted, that she should have the chemotherapy. And so, Adel was pressured into chemotherapy – which totally ravaged her body and her spirit. She actually wrote some very harsh words against her mother, for forcing her down that path.



After Adel's passing, a'h, the mother decided to continue her vendetta against Rav Assaf, for not 'listening to her early enough' – and decided to take revenge by portraying him as a 'cult' member, so she could ask the authorities to take his children out of the chareidi framework and give them to her, chas v'shalom.

To this end, the Rav's usual persecutors helped her connect to the media, who were only too happy to publicize her claims that the Vidras were part of a dangerous cult, and that Assaf Vidra wasn't fit to raise his own children.



That is the real story, from Shoshie Adel's husband. Channel 13, aka the "propaganda arm of the government", was only too happy to put together an 'expose' portraying Rabbi Berland as a 'murderer'. In truth, they painted the mirror image of what really occurred. Rabbi Berland's blessing and advice gave Adel chizzuk and hope in her darkest days. What cut her life short prematurely – and caused her to suffer tremendous agony in her last days on earth – was the chemotherapy.

The chemotherapy that her own mother forced her to take.

Initially some journalists, notably from the Srugim website<sup>27</sup>, wrote pieces explaining more of the real story to the public - but those pieces were quickly pulled. At that time, a few months before 'Covid 19', it still seemed incredible that the government of an apparently 'democratic' country could be controlling and censoring the news in such an all-encompassing manner....

In the meantime, there was yet another 'mini war' that began on November 11, when 450 rockets rained down on the Holy Land from Gaza. But then the hostilities somehow melted away when Hamas refused to join in, and an uneasy peace returned to the Holy Land.

Exactly a week later, four rockets were shot into the Golan Heights from Syrian territory. Israel retaliated by bombing 23 Syrian and Iranian targets. Again, we all held our breath to see if a wider war

---

<sup>27</sup> The author of the article on Srugim, Oren Amit, had interviewed both sides in the Channel 13 affair, and formed an objective opinion of where the truth really lay, which he set out very clearly for his readers. This is a translated segment of his conclusions:

“The report that was publicized last week by Channel 13 news was full of distortions designed to blacken [the Rav’s] name, incitement, and biased attempts to portray Rabbi Berland as a killer and an extortionist, and his community as a cult.

“The program vilified a recent widower and father of three orphaned children, who only buried his wife – their mother – two months ago. It made him out to be a brainless ‘cult member’, who was devoid of rational thought or free choice – this even though in his past, he was an elite fighter in an elite unit [of the army], (Sheldag / Maglan); owned a productive, high-class woodwork business; and was a devoted husband and ideal father.

“The program took a very difficult family tragedy and turned it into a vehicle to advance the vengeful, negative media campaign against Rav Berland, and his community.”

The piece was quickly pulled after Srugim received ‘threats’ from the Rav’s persecutors.

was going to begin. And again, it all melted into nothing, and the uneasy peace returned.

While all this was going on, the Rav put out another message that:

*“There is an obligation to study 8 pages of Gemara, and 5 chapters of Rambam, because there is going to be a terrible shoah, and whoever sticks to this holy learning schedule will be saved.”*

Not surprisingly, the Rav’s message caused a commotion, with many people asking for clarification. The Rav responded that:

*“People didn’t understand the matter correctly. The shoah is only meant to be in another 200 years, chas v’halila, and bezrat Hashem, the Rav will sweeten everything, and everything will turn around for the good. In another 200 years, the war will begin.”*

As the rockets started up again shortly afterwards, that was a comforting thought.



The Rav returned to the subject again on a separate occasion, during one of his house visits to the home of Rabbi Rachamim Bracha, when he said this:

*“In another 200 years, there will be the war of Gog and Magog, but the brachot (blessings) can begin every single day. Gog and Magog can only occur in another 200 years. It’s written ‘two thirds’. This is like when Shabbat is brought in 40 minutes before sunset.*

*“This week, for example, sunset will be at 16:46, so we light candles at 16:06. Everyone who comes to the shiur of the Rav will live until 200, this one will live until 300, that one until 400, this one 500 – everyone will live for 2000 years.*

*“There’s an obligation to [join with] Shuvu Banim, and to nullify the decrees.”*



On the Shabbat, Rav Berland returned to the subject again, and remarked:

*“Today is Chayai Sarah, Sarah didn’t die, Sarah lives forever. The Tzaddik lives forever. A single Tzaddik can sweeten all the decrees in the world. The Midrash Rabba says that now, it’s enough to have a single Tzaddik. After we received the Torah, after we had Rabbenu, a single Tzaddik is enough to sweeten all the decrees.*

*“Now, it was already Gog and Magog.*

*“The rockets already got to Highway 1. I said that we need to travel to Tel Aviv by way of Haifa. But we cancelled the decrees! Gomarnu (it’s finished)! There was a decree, [but] we said Tikkun HaKlali, we recited the Shacharit prayers – all the decrees were nullified. Shacharit, mincha, ma’ariv. Praying with ‘Shuvu Banim’ sweetens all the decrees in the world.”*



On the Monday evening before the small ‘war’ with Gaza erupted, Channel 13 was scheduled to show an interview with Rabbi Berland, which was meant to be a balanced attempt to get to the truth of what had really occurred with the infamous ‘*pidyon nefesh*’ story.

A week before, the Channel 13 journalist spent hours with the Rav, doing what a journalist is meant to do, i.e. speaking to both sides and checking the facts. Very shortly before that program was supposed to air, Rabbi Berland’s attendants were told that Channel 13 was pulling the piece.

No explanation was given at the time, but after digging around, the attendants discovered that Channel 13 had been paid 150,000 nis by the men who had persecuted the Rav for years via the media, to pull the interview.



Two years ago, the Ha’aretz website ran a piece about Avi Nir, the guy who owns Channel 13, with this headline:

*“This Man is a Danger to Israeli Democracy: A television channel should never accept government funds to produce content that looks independent but is actually pure propaganda.”*

The Ha’aretz piece explained:

*“In 2014 and the first half of 2015, the franchisee was paid more than 10 million shekels for a campaign that included government content inserted into broadcasts....*

*[I]n recent years Keshet has become a propaganda arm of the government.”<sup>28</sup>*

Here is a little of what Rabbi Berland had to say about this episode, in own words:

*The holkim (opposers) give their whole lifeforce to those they persecute. They give all the Torah they learned, all the work they’ve done for the 80 years of their life. A person who is persecuted, he can finish the whole of Shas in a second, because they [the holkim] give him all their lifeforce, and everything they labored for – to the person they persecute.*

*The holkim give a person his whole intellect.*

*A person could live for 400 years, in the merit of those who persecute him. There is one person whom the whole world persecutes – all the television channels, the media, everyone. They also persecuted Avraham Avinu.*

*That one from America<sup>29</sup> paid 150,000 shekels for the program [putting out the other side of the story] to not be aired. But he will make teshuva.”<sup>30</sup>*



---

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.haaretz.com/opinion/.premium-this-man-is-a-danger-to-israeli-democracy-1.5482946>

<sup>29</sup> This is probably referring to one of the Rav’s main persecutors, who was specifically named and thanked on Facebook by the Channel 13 journalist who did the ‘expose’ on the Rav for setting up the whole thing.

<sup>30</sup> <https://ravberland.com/why-channel-13-is-a-danger-to-israels-democracy/>

It's known that the True Tzaddikim see things when they are still in their root, long before the 'harsh judgements' materialize down here in this world as wars, pandemics, lockdowns...

And it's also known that the Rav's *shita* is to take shame and humiliation upon himself, to sweeten the judgements. Given what was just around the corner, the hatchet job by Channel 13 had appeared right on cue. And that was clearly not a coincidence.

(Incidentally, Yoaz Hendel didn't get to spend a long time in the 'Communications Minister' chair. By December 11, 2019, the Knesset again voted to dissolve itself, and another round of elections was scheduled for 2 March 2020.)



# A DISEASE THAT HAS NO CURE

*“What happens [when people start talking against Rav Berland?] Machalat Corona. Dear Jews, there is a very hard gezeira, and chas v’shalom that it should befall Am Yisrael.*

*“The Talmud says “Anyone who disgraces a talmid chacham – receives a disease for which there is no cure.” - Kabbalist Rav Menashe Amon, speaking on February 19, 2020*



**O**n the morning of Thursday Feb 6, 2020, after finishing his morning learning schedule and immersing in the mikvah, Rabbi Eliezer Berland told his attendant in a very serious voice:

**“There’s a terrible decree of world destruction by the coronavirus.”**

The Rav went on to explain that all of humanity is in danger of complete destruction, and then he began to list several gematrias related to the spiritual cause of this terrible illness. Among other things, the Rav mentioned the mitzva of *ben adam l’chaveiro*, the commandment including all the laws of how we treat others. In Hebrew, it has the same numerical value as ‘corona’ in Hebrew, 363.



When the Rav's attendant heard this, and saw the serious look on Rav Berland's face, he asked, "*What should we do?*"

Rav Berland answered:

*"We will write a prayer and the decree will be cancelled. The prayer should be translated in all languages and read all over the world. With that, the virus will leave as quickly as it came, leaving no trace behind."*



When this story was posted up on the RavBerland.com website the first week of February 2020, many people had still not paid much attention to the stories from China of a mystery 'virus' we were told was highly infectious, highly dangerous, and killing large numbers of people, especially in Wuhan.

Three short days after Rav Berland said this, the Israeli authorities arrested him in a violent dawn raid that we'll cover in more detail in the next chapter.

And it was only over a month later, on March 11, 2020, that the World Health Organization (WHO) declared that the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak was officially a 'global pandemic'.

Right from the start, there were conflicting reports about how serious the 'pandemic' was, what the mortality rates really were, and how the virus was being spread. But it was not up for debate that from February 2020 on, 'Covid 19' caused widespread panic and hysteria in all four corners of the globe - and much of it was deliberately egged on by the media.



Amidst all the speculation (and shortly before the Israeli authorities got the Rav out of the picture by arresting him...) Rabbi Berland shared a few clues about the spiritual causes of the ‘coronavirus’.

While the non-Jewish world discussed the mythical ‘wet markets’ in Wuhan<sup>31</sup>, Rabbi Berland was asked about the spiritual cause of the Coronavirus. As mentioned above, the connection with the way one person treats another, he also drew a connection between coronavirus and *pgmei habrit*, (literally, ‘blemishing the covenant’, i.e. sexual immorality), and the sin of *eiver min ha-hai*, eating a limb or organ from a live animal.

Eating the organs of live animals, including the still beating hearts of frogs and snakes (to quote one example), is a traditional and widespread part of many Asian cultures. But according to the seven Noahide laws, any non-Jew that eats *eiver min ha-hai* is subject to the heavenly-appointed death penalty.



On January 22, 2022, the World Health Organisation (WHO) announced that what they now called ‘coronavirus-n2019’ had been traced to a live seafood and animal market in Wuhan. The WHO statement said:

“Reducing...transmission from animals to humans is important, and identifying the animal source or sources, and limiting exposure to those sources is exceptionally important.”

Meanwhile, the Israeli Health Ministry was saying:

---

<sup>31</sup> China passed - and strictly enforced! - legislation closing down so-called ‘wet markets’ where live animals were sold well in advance of the coronavirus pandemic.

*“The way that the new coronavirus is being transmitted, exactly, is still unknown. As of today, most of the infected people have been connected back to a live animal market in China (which has subsequently been closed down by the authorities.)”*

But even at this early stage, Rabbi Berland and many of our true tzaddikim were shouting loudly that people weren't connecting the epidemic to its true cause, i.e. human sins. He said:

*“Eating a limb from a live animal (achal eiver min ha-hai) has the same gematria as ‘Corona’.”<sup>32</sup>*

The Rav continued that if the Jewish people didn't wake up, this new coronavirus epidemic could even reach the shores of Israel...



After the morning prayers on February 6, 2020, Rabbi Berland explained:

*They asked Rabbi Yose ben Kisme, when is Moshiach ben David coming? He told them about the gate of the city of Pnias, which is a reference to ‘Baniyas’, and then said: ‘When this gate falls, and they rebuild it, and it falls again, and they rebuild it.’ The perush (explanation) of ‘Pnias’ is that it’s referring to pahad (fear).*

*Now, there is Corona. **A decade ago, tens of thousands of people died there from influenza**, because China is the most spiritually polluted and unhygienic place. Everything there is bacteria and germs, they eat snakes, frogs, and mice...”*

---

<sup>32</sup> The gematria of ‘Corona’ equals ‘Eiver min ha-hai’ = 367.

The Rav had been talking about the subject of *eiver min ha-hai* for many months before ‘Covid 19’ began, and on those occasions, he’d specifically connected it back to the sin of the brothers in slandering and selling the *Tzaddik HaDor* of their generation, Yosef HaTzaddik.

In a nutshell, the Rav said that the main dispute between the brothers and Yosef was whether it was permissible for them to eat *eiver min ha-hai*, or at least, to have the appearance of eating *eiver min ha-hai*.

In a further connection that hints at how our true Tzaddikim operate to ‘sweeten’ judgements by way of their Torah classes and anecdotes, before they even manifest: Back in 5777 (2017) Rav Berland gave a series of classes on Rabbi Nachman’s teaching in Likutey Moharan II:83, also on the topic of *eiver min ha-hai*.

There, the Rav brought a passage from Likutey Moharan that equates a tzaddik with a ‘limb from a living’ creature, and many other stunning allusions (See the box out, for the full excerpt).

#### **LESSON FROM LIKUTEY MOHARAN II:83 - THE TZADDIK AND EIVER MIN HA HAI**

When the Holy One wants to taste the positive mitzvos of a Jew who is a tzaddik, at the moment he is [still] an aspect of a ‘limb from a living [creature],’ which is forbidden for consumption, and requires kosher slaughter to make it permissible.

Therefore, it’s necessary that humiliation, [an aspect of] spilling of blood, an aspect of kosher slaughter, should come upon him. This purifies the limb from a living creature [and makes it permissible]. Then Hashem can taste his positive mitzvos, whether one mitzvah or several mitzvos...

And concerning spilling the blood of a Jew, there are many lofty and hidden things, whether it involves spilling blood through

humiliation, or the actual spilling of blood. Because there are countless fallen souls that have no ascent except through spilling the blood of a great Jew. And sometimes they don't have an ascent except through the actual spilling of blood.

This is an aspect of (Yoma 86b) 'deliberate sins are turned into merits.' That is, through humiliation and spilling of blood, the Divine Presence covers their blood with love, as above.

And this is the aspect of: 'Love covers all wilful transgressions,' and the deliberate sins are turned into merits, and the fallen souls, who are an aspect of 'willful sins,' are elevated. Thus, they are elevated and turned into merits through the 'covering of blood with love'.



Back in 5777, when Rav Berland was giving this class about the Tzaddik's mitzvot in the category of a 'limb from a live animal', and how the Tzaddik's humiliation turns 'deliberate sins' into merits, he added:

***“And this is how the Tzaddik saves the world from total destruction.”***



Who knows, how far the holy vision of our true Tzaddikim really extends, and who can guess how many harsh judgments were sweetened by the tremendous self-sacrifice of our holy rabbis?

But this chapter is hopefully giving at least a little insight into how much 'sweetening' the Rav engaged in, for the weeks, months and even years before 'Covid 19' occurred.



Computer-generated images of what the ‘coronavirus’ is supposed to look like show a number of protein spikes forming a ‘crown’ around a nucleus. When the pandemic was first thought to have begun in Wuhan, in November 2019, Rav Berland asked the staff of the Shuvu Banim English website<sup>33</sup> to make sure at least 10 translated prayers in English went up on the site every week.

At that time, the Rav stated that he needed these prayers because he was:

***“Battling the 10 crowns of impurity.”***

Once again, we can see how even the most casual conversations from our true Tzaddikim contain hints to awesome secrets and mysteries.



Ten days after the Rav was arrested during a dawn raid at his home on Ido HaNavi, and ten days before the first case of coronavirus showed up in Israel, a leading kabbalist in Israel, Rav Menashe Amon, laid out the connections between the ongoing persecution of the Tzaddik and ‘Covid 19’ even more bluntly.

---

<sup>33</sup> [www.RavBerland.com](http://www.RavBerland.com)



This is an excerpt of what Rav Menashe Amon said then<sup>34</sup>:

*Dear Jews, this is not a simple matter.*

*Am Yisrael is suffering a lot. It's assur (forbidden) to speak about any Jew, any member of Am Yisrael, so kal v'homer<sup>35</sup> it's assur to speak against rabbis and talmidei chachamim, and even more so, against Tzaddikim.*

***Anyone who disgraces a talmid chacham, a holy Tzaddik, there is no remedy for his illness. He will go to all the doctors, and they won't find a cure. I don't need to tell you; you can see what's going on in the world.***

*Dear Jews, there is a great injustice happening here, that people don't know about. We can't see it, off in the distance, because we don't have the spiritual eyes*

---

<sup>34</sup> You can see Rav Amon's initial address in Hebrew HERE: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=csMbiVNo9nY>

<sup>35</sup> An expression found in the Gemara, which means 'even more so'.

required to understand. There is a Rav, and there is a Tzaddik, there are the Lamed Vav Tzaddikim<sup>36</sup>...and there is **the leader of the Lamed Vav tzaddikim.**



Do you know what a holy Jew Rabbi Eliezer Berland is? He is kodesh kodeshim (holy of holies).

HaRav Eliezer Berland was given from shemayim (heaven) a very hard, and even unbearable mission.

He was given the job of atoning for all of Israel, for every single one of us. **This Tzaddik is accepting upon himself shame and disgrace, he's accepting humiliation, to sweeten the harsh judgments – so that very hard things shouldn't come [to Israel], no epidemics, and no diseases.**



Rabotai (gentlemen), he is atoning for us. The Tzaddik HaRav Berland is sitting in a prison cell, and this doesn't even bother us! Mori v'rabotai, this is disgracing a talmid chacham! Do you know how serious this is?!

We hear about this Tzaddik, who is atoning for us, and who is accepting such disgrace upon himself, the most difficult things imaginable, and we sit here with folded hands. **Are we still believing what the media people are telling us?!** And then we fail and start writing that he's a thief and a crook, chas v'shalom.

---

<sup>36</sup> The 36 righteous tzaddikim found in every generation, in whose merit the world continues to exist.



*We don't know who we are talking about – this is the kodesh kodeshim. This is a fiery angel of Hashem.*

***Chas v'shalom, anyone should even suspect him of such a thing, that he would touch a girl.***

*He is greater than an angel.*<sup>37</sup>



Rav Amon continued:

*Who gets sent to prison, just because he gave someone some mentos?! If people really knew the truth, in a clear, revealed way, they would have taken his Mentos with emuna, and they would have been healed.*

*He stands praying for 16 hours about me, and about you, and about them, that there shouldn't be any harsh judgements, and that there shouldn't be plagues!*

***What happens [when we talk against Rav Berland]?  
The coronavirus disease.***

*The things that we can now see happening in many countries around the world, this is in order that we will examine our own deeds. A talmid chacham, a Tzaddik, who is being disgraced, and we aren't protesting this? Woe to us, and woe to our souls.*

*Rabotai, this is really not something simple.”*



---

<sup>37</sup> <https://www.shuvubanimint.com/סרט-מחלוקת-ברלנד-הרב-מנשה-אמון/>

How different the last three years might have been, if more people had paid attention to the word of Rav Menashe Amon back in February 2020, and taken them seriously... But it wasn't to be.

And in the meantime, on February 21, 2020, two days after Rav Amon gave this *shiur*, the first case of 'coronavirus' was officially announced in Israel, and the first 14 day *bidud*, or 'isolation' rule, was introduced in the Holy Land.

At the end of this chapter, there is a timeline that shows many of the major milestones of the 'corona pandemic' as it unfolded in Eretz Yisrael. But what's important to remember, is that right at the very beginning, Am Yisrael was given a warning that the media had lied to them about what was really going on with Rabbi Eliezer Berland...

And that over the course of the corona 'pandemic', the media would be lying to them again and again and again, about the true nature of Covid 19, and the so-called pandemic.

**The short-cut to getting out of the 'coronavirus', right from the start, was to understand that the media was not telling the truth and was in fact manipulating the public on behalf of the people who paid their salaries.**

Sadly, it would take another three years of lockdown, forced masking and PCR tests before more people would start to wake up and understand that *the media is full of lies*.

And especially when it comes to Rav Berland.



The day before Rabbi Berland was brutally arrested, he told his attendants to get his prayer to be saved from the Coronavirus translated into as many languages as possible, and to print 10,000 copies of it, to be distributed as far and wide as possible.

## PRAYER TO BE SAVED FROM CORONAVIRUS

Master of Universe, who can do anything!

Cure me and the whole world of the Coronavirus, because redemption is near.

And through this reveal to us the 50<sup>th</sup> gate of holiness, the secret of the ibbur, and may we begin from this day onward to be strong in keeping interpersonal commandments (i.e. being kind to others).

And by virtue of this may we witness miracles and wonders the likes of which haven't been since the creation of the world. And may there be sweetening of judgments for the entire world, to all mankind, men, women, and children.

Please God! Please cure Coronavirus all over the world, as it says about Miriam the prophetess, "Lord, please, cure her, please."

Please God! Who can do anything! Send a complete healing to the entire world! To all men, women, children, boys and girls, to all humanity wherever they may be, and to all the animals, birds, and creatures. All should be cured from this disease in the blink of an eye, and no trace of the disease should remain.

And all will merit fear of Heaven and fear of God, O Merciful and Compassionate Father.

Please God, please do with us miracles and wonders as you did with our forefathers by the exodus from Egypt. And now, take us and the entire world out from this disease, release us and save us from the Coronavirus that wants to eliminate all mortals.

We now regret all the sins that we did, and we honestly ask for forgiveness. And in the merit of our repentance, this cursed

disease, that does not miss men, women, boys, girls, and animals, will be eliminated.

Please God, as quick as the illness came it will go away and disappear immediately, in the blink of an eye, and by this the soul of Messiah Ben David will be revealed.

Please God, grant us the merit to be included in the level of saints and pure ones, and bless anew all the fruit and vegetation, that all will be healed in the blink of an eye, and we will see Messiah Ben David face to face.

Please God, who acts with greatness beyond comprehension, and does wonders without number. Please now perform also with us miracles and wonders beyond comprehension and let no trace of this cursed disease remain. And may the entire world be cured in the blink of an eye.

Because Hashem did all this for us to repent, it is all in order for us to direct our hearts to our Father in Heaven, and by that He will send blessings and success to all our handiwork.<sup>38</sup>



The staff at Shuvu Banim wheeled into action to spread the Rav's prayer far and wide, and by the end of March, the Rav's prayer had been translated into 37 languages, including Arabic and *Farsi*.

As the panic and hysteria about Covid 19 continued to mount, many of the Rav's followers took an active part in encouraging people to join their prayers with the Tzaddik. They continued to print out the Rav's prayer to be saved from the Coronavirus, and to get it to as many people as they could.

---

<sup>38</sup> To see the 37 languages this prayer was translated into, go here: <https://ravberland.com/breaking-prayer-to-be-saved-from-coronavirus/>

There was a deep understanding that the Rav's prayers were literally tipping the scales, and preventing a widespread epidemic that could kill millions of people. Each person who joined in distributing and reciting the prayer was 'partnering' with the Tzaddik to bring the *geula* the sweet way, and cancel the harsh judgments that everyone could feel hovering above their heads.



But as the coronavirus 'pandemic' took off, it quickly became obvious that 'sweetening the judgements' this time around was going to be no easy feat, and this was one problem that wasn't going to disappear in a day or two.

*This picture was taken at the Kotel by David E., at the end of February 2020. It shows a tourist from Africa praying at the Western Wall with a copy of Rabbi Berland's prayer to be saved from the Coronavirus in his right hand.*



## **COVID 19 TIMELINE IN ISRAEL - THE KEY EVENTS**

- **February 9, 2020: Rav Berland is arrested in a brutal dawn raid.**
- **February 21, 2020: First case of COVID 19 diagnosed in Israel**, when a passenger from the Diamond Princess Cruise Ship tests positive in Sheba Medical Center. First 14-day 'self-isolation quarantine' (*bidud*) introduced for any travellers returning from Japan or South Korea.

- March 2, 2020: ‘COVID’ elections held in Israel. Netanyahu fails to get a mandate to govern, starts pushing a ‘National Unity Government’ with him as PM. Is quoted as saying: “unlike the holocaust, this time – this time, we identified the danger in time,” saying that the National Unity Government headed by him is needed: “like before the Six-Day War,” to “save the country.”
- March 3, 2020: 12 more people ‘test positive’ for COVID 19. The first school in Israel - 1,150 students plus teachers - are forced to stay home for a two week ‘quarantine’.
- March 9, 2020: PM Netanyahu announces a mandatory 14-day *bidud* for anyone entering Israel.
- March 10, 2020: Israel limits gatherings to 2,000 people.
- March 11, 2020: Israel limits gatherings to 100 people.
- **March 14, 2020: The Health Ministry announces more restrictions banning gatherings greater than 10 people, closing all schools, day-care facilities, malls, restaurants, hotels, gyms, pools, attractions, zoos, mikvas, hairdressers and wedding halls.** Weddings are limited to 10 participants. Only supermarkets, pharmacies, take-out food and, of course ‘government’ is allowed to remain open. Public transportation is severely curtailed. Netanyahu tells Israel’s citizens they need to “adopt a new way of life.”
- March 15: Justice Minister Amir Ohana freezes all ‘non-urgent’ court activity, resulting in Netanyahu’s corruption trial being postponed.

- March 17: The Israeli government approves the contact-tracing program, “making Israel the only country in the world to use its internal security agency (Shin Bet) to track citizens’ geolocation.”
- March 18: Israelis are encouraged to ‘clap for the nurses and doctors’ at 6pm, from their balconies.
- **March 19: Netanyahu declares a National State of Emergency, making COVID 19 restrictions legally enforceable by fining offenders.** Israelis go into full lockdown and are banned from leaving their homes unless absolutely necessary. Meanwhile, the contact tracing program is challenged at the Supreme Court by the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, leading to its being suspended on April 26, 2020. Hundreds of protesters gather at the Knesset to demonstrate about government over-reach and dictatorial Covid 19 restrictions. Police make many arrests.
- March 22: Police violently close down the Carmel Market in Tel Aviv, and the Mahane Yehuda Market in Jerusalem. Panic buying is rife, there are long queues for toilet roll and eggs. Transport Ministry starts spying on citizens’ COVID 19 status via their RavKav.
- March 25,2020: The government imposes even more restrictions on Israeli citizens, including stopping people from venturing further than 100 m from their homes, limiting the number of people in a car to a maximum of two, and setting up ‘temperature testing’ equipment all over the country. Anyone violating the new restrictions is fined 5,000 shekels.

- **April 1, 2020: The government bans praying with a minyan, all public gatherings, and restricts people to walking outside with a maximum of just one other person from their own household. They also outlaw the public burning of *chametz* just ahead of Pesach.**
- April 2, 2020: The whole of Bnei Brak is declared a 'restricted zone' and the area is closed to incoming and outgoing traffic.
- **April 8, 2020: The government imposes a three-day total lockdown on the whole country to coincide with Pesach, banning family members from spending Seder together.** Later, it's discovered that several prominent politicians, including Netanyahu, Reuben Rivlin and Nir Birkat, still celebrated Seder with their own families, sparking outrage.
- April 12, 2020: The government tells Israelis they have to cover their mouth and nose whenever they leave home and increases the propaganda around the necessity of 'social distancing'. They also close the *haredi* neighborhoods of Jerusalem, prompting concerns that they are using the coronavirus to settle scores with the religious community.
- May 3, 2020: Schools reopen but only first to third grade, and 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Class size is strictly limited, and the schoolchildren are required to wear face masks all day.
- May 4, 2020: Some restrictions are eased, 100m limit is removed, weddings of up to 50 people are allowed.
- May 19, 2020: All schools reopen, but with strict 'social distancing' rules of 2 m, and requirements that children



need to be 'temperature tested' each day before they attend school.

- **July 1, 2020: Government re-imposes 'contact tracing', orders 30,000 Israelis into *bidud* (isolation).**
- July 6, 2020: Social distancing restrictions re-imposed. Gathering restricted to 20 people, including on buses, synagogues limited to 19 worshippers.
- **July 24, 2020: 'Weekend lockdowns' begin from 5pm Friday to 5am Sunday, beaches and gyms closed.**
- August 31, 2020: Coronavirus cabinet approves the 'traffic light' of Prof. Ronni Gamzu - who later successfully closes down that year's gathering in Uman.
- **September 13, 2020, the government approves a 3-week country-wide lockdown, timed to coincide with the High Holy Days.** People are forced to pray either in 'rotas' of 10 people at a time inside, or a maximum of 20 people outside.
- September 26, 2020: Netanyahu announces the closure of Ben Gurion Airport - and all synagogues for the High Holiday prayers. The Lockdown is extended another week to October 19, 2020.
- Nov 1 - 27, 2020: Restrictions eased.
- December 20, 2020: Government introduces 'coronavirus hotels'.

- **December 27, 2020: Third national lockdown imposed, to coincide with Chanuka. Government makes it illegal to visit another person's home.**
- January 7, 2020: Lockdown restrictions are made even harsher. All schools are closed, all non-essential travel is banned, gatherings limited to just five people. During the third lockdown, many Israeli citizens get the 'Covid 19 vaccinations', manufactured by Pfizer.
- February 7 - March 7, 2021: Restrictions are gradually eased - for vaccinated individuals.
- **February 21, 2021: Israel introduces 'Green Pass' apartheid.** People without a 'Green Pass' are still banned from synagogues, tourist attractions and restaurants, among many other things.
- April 18, 2021: Israel lifts the requirement to wear face-masks all the time when outside.
- April 20, 2021: Schools finally re-open in-person, but students (and everyone else...) are still required to wear facemasks inside.
- June 1, 2021: Green Pass requirements lifted, but PCR tests still required to attend school or travel abroad.
- June 25, 2021: Masks are re-instated for inside, Green Pass requirements re-instated for any events or weddings over 100 people.
- July 29, 2021: Third 'booster' shot approved, Israel starts vaccinating 12+ year olds.

- August 8, 2021: More restrictions approved, including showing ‘proof of vaccination’.
- **October 10, 2021: Israel adopts the ‘Green Classroom’ policy, forcing all classmates of a corona-positive student to also get tested. Parents and children routinely spend hours a day queuing for PCR tests.**
- November 10, 2021: Covid vaccinations for children 5-12 are approved in Israel.
- **December 15, 2021: Rav Berland is finally released from prison, albeit under a number of continuing restrictions.**
- January 2, 2022: Israel approves 4<sup>th</sup> booster. Uptake is very small, with most Israelis becoming increasingly wary about the ‘safety and efficacy’ of the Covid shots.
- **February 7, 2022: Green Pass or ‘negative PCR tests’ are finally dropped in Israel, together with the requirement to wear masks inside.**

*We went into ‘coronavirus prison’ a week after the Rav was arrested, and we finally got out a few weeks after he was released.*



## THE TZADDIK RETURNS TO PRISON

*“He was despised and isolated from men, a man of pains and accustomed to illness, and he was counted among the criminals. As one from whom we would hide our faces; he was despised, and we had no regard for him.*

*But in truth, it was our ills that he bore, and our pains that he carried” - Isaiah 53:3-4.*



**E**arly Sunday morning on February 9, 2020, in the Jerusalem neighborhood of Mea Shearim, residents woke up to a brutal, violent, and shocking scene:

In the middle of Rabbi Eliezer Berland’s regular pre-dawn Daf Yomi Gemara shiur, literally tens of heavily armed police in full riot gear, with some holding big dogs, stormed into the shul, stunning the large crowd of people who had gathered before the vasikin early morning prayers.

The police rushed up to the Rav, who had recently celebrated his 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday, and publicly presented him with an arrest warrant,

before manhandling him out of the door. The Rav was not resisting arrest.

Previously, the Rav had already gone in for questioning, and had been fully cooperating with the authorities. His attendants had made it clear to the police that if and when the police decided to bring the Rav to court, they could be contacted in advance, and the Rav would cooperate fully and respectfully without the need for a public spectacle.

So, there was absolutely no reason for the police to treat the Rav in such a brutal, violent, and disrespectful way. Rav Berland had been giving the same shiur at the same time, and following the same daily routine, for months. The police knew his schedule, and they could easily have come a half hour earlier or an hour later when the elderly Rav would have been quietly alone at his home.

Or they could have called in advance and arranged for the Rav to come to them. But as the Rav's lawyer later explained in court:

*“The main goal of the police is to put on a media show in order to present the Rabbi and his community in a bad light, because really they have nothing tangible against them.”*

The Israeli Police had been trying for months to collect 'evidence' against Rabbi Berland without turning anything up. As 'trial by media' had worked for them the first time they went after the Rav,

with nothing else to go on the police clearly decided to stick with that winning formula.<sup>39</sup>



One of Rabbi Berland's lawyers was Attorney Rotem Tubol, who at this time was also representing other victims of police brutality against members of the Shuvu Banim community.

Attorney Tubol explained that the Police and their carefully-crafted media display were trying to gain public support, because their attempts to build a real case – with real witnesses, real testimony, and real complaints – simply hadn't succeeded. This way, they could place maximum pressure on the Shuvu Banim community and hope that someone would snap from the harassment and start to play ball with them.

Attorney Rotem Tubol had the following scathing remarks to make about the complaints the police filed against the Rav:

*“We saw in the courtroom just how misleading the Israeli Police’s statements to the media were [about the charges they brought against the Rav], and how different from what they claimed in court. There was no ‘discovery of massive amounts of money’, as they said. They haven’t opened ‘tens, or even hundreds, of cases’, as the Police claimed to the media.*

---

<sup>39</sup> For a great example of how the so-called ‘frum news sites’ willingly participated in Rav Berland’s ‘trial by media’, refer to this: <https://www.theyeshivaworld.com/news/featured/1830126/arrested-cult-leader-rabbi-berland-and-family-taken-into-custody-followers-lay-on-road-in-front-of-police-car-videos.html>

*It pains me that they came to arrest the Rav armed to the teeth, just to garner the media's interest in the case. At the end of the day, he was arrested, he cooperated fully with the police, and then we found out that we're talking about a very small number of matters, pertaining to small amounts of money.*

*They didn't seize any money, and there are no bank accounts (the Rav never had a bank account in his life), as the police misleadingly stated to the media. And all the complaints the police are trying to bring against the Rav have been known to them for a long time, already, and they chose not to investigate Rabbi Eliezer Berland.*

*We learn from this that ultimately, the investigation is probably not going to lead to that 'guilty' verdict the Israeli Police are trying to claim to the media."*

Sadly, Attorney Tubol appeared to underestimate just how corrupt and politicized the whole judicial process had become in Israel, when he made these remarks.



Outside the courtroom, journalists interviewed one of Rabbi Berland's great-grandsons, Nachman, who expressed full confidence in the Rav's innocence, and then had the following to say:

*"The media and the police are trying to portray Rav Berland in a very negative way, but I know many other stories [about him], like the man from Kfar Saba who brought the Rav a pidyon. He had three broken discs, but he started walking again after the doctors gave him no chance.*

[One of the journalists than asked him why the Rav was seen distributing a candy called ‘Mentos’ to sick people.]

*It’s a placebo – exactly as used to happen with the Baba Sali, and many other great rabbis who give blessings. Just like the Baba Sali used to bless the bottle of Arak – so this time, it could be something else. So this time, it could be a packet of Mentos, that my grandfather distributed.*

“We believe that rabbis of this caliber can place their salvations within these types of things.”

[One of the journalists then started aggressively shouting at Nachman about the ‘200’ complaints that the Israeli Police apparently claimed against the Rav and continued to rant until someone else told him to be quiet, so Nachman could reply.]

Nachman then responded:

*“Where are all these 200 people? I want to see the 200 people who apparently said this. I don’t believe it. Maybe it’s the same ‘dozens of women’ they claimed about last time but in reality, not even one showed up. The Police like to tell a lot of stories.*

*First, it appears on the news, and there’s always the people who believe that side of things. And of course, the media always like to present the [negative] side, and then of course it turns out that all the media’s ‘suspicions’ end up being unfounded. But that part remains relatively unreported.”*





As news of the shocking arrest spread around the chareidi community in Israel, Rav Sriel Rosenberg, Av Beis Din of the Rav Nissim Karelitz Beis Din in Bnei Brak, that had been ‘investigating’ the previous accusations against Rabbi Berland since June 2019 without issuing any further statements, Rabbi Yehuda Fisher from the Badatz Eida Chareidis Beis Din, and Rabbi Shimon Badani, the head of the Moetzet Chachmei HaTorah, put out a joint statement where they said:

הב"ד י"ג ע"ג ג"ס  
יש להבהיר כי מעצרו של רב ברלנד  
אינו יעילותו ופיקוחו של רב המנהל מס'א"מ  
יש להבהיר הקב"ה במשפטו הק"מא"מ ברב  
אלא יאלץ להצטרף למשפט אחיהם אל כ"ה הנ"ל  
ה"י יעקב יעקב אל יאלץ זהו כ"ה יעקב  
שלמה יעקב יעקב יעקב יעקב יעקב  
תורה ודעה לרבני אגודת בני ישראל  
חיים יעקב יעקב יעקב יעקב יעקב  
י"ג ע"ג ג"ס



**Translated text of the Rabbis' Letter:**

*“Everyone ought to be pained by the arrest of Rav Berland. If there are allegations and complaints it should be checked within the existing framework of our community (i.e. the Beis Din), and no other parties need to be involved. This is not the way. May Hashem place peace on us and all of Israel.”*

Rav Badani then added next to his signature, *“I have always said that when there are any legal matters, you have to go only to Chareidi Jews to find out the law.”*



With hindsight, we can understand that the arrest and persecution of Rabbi Eliezer Berland probably had nothing to do with criminal offenses, or ‘misleading the public’ that following certain treatments or protocols would save them from serious illnesses.

There was a pandemic and a ‘mandatory’ vaccination waiting in the wings.... the Prime Minister’s own corruption trial was scheduled to begin in the Jerusalem District Court the next month.... there were deals to be done with Pfizer, and ‘gold’ to be mined out of the Israeli public’s healthcare records....and lockdowns to be meticulously planned and executed....

And the last thing the authorities in Israel wanted was an independent, outspoken, and honest leader of the Torah world, encouraging people to only fear Hashem, and put their faith in prayer, charity and teshuva for their salvation - instead of in facemasks and vaccinations.

So, the decision was made from high up, to get the Rav out of the picture ASAP, just a couple of weeks before the coronavirus pandemic was scheduled to really begin in Israel.

And as usual, the corrupt police, media, judiciary, and politicians were only too pleased to help.



On February 9, 2020, the Rav, his elderly wife Tehilla, and five of his attendants were all arrested with maximum fireworks and publicity and taken into custody.

Almost immediately after the Rav was arrested, he was then taken to the hospital for major surgery on his heart, kidney, and other vital organs. The authorities gave the Rav no time to recover after the surgery, and literally took him straight back to prison.

Even while he was in the hospital, the Rav was handcuffed to his bed the entire time.

While Netanyahu's corruption case was happily pushed off for months and months as soon as the 'coronavirus' showed up, the court moved much faster when it came to the Rav. On March 1, 2020, Rav Berland was indicted on charges of 'fraud, malice, solicitation and sabotage', and the court insisted that the Tzaddik should be returned to prison - despite his recent major surgeries - instead of being held under house arrest.

No-one understood back then that very shortly, the rest of the Jewish people, and the rest of the world, would be joining him.



## A NATIONAL STATE OF EMERGENCY

*“They want to have here a State that is more abominable than even the countries of the goyim, and they are more poisonous than even the goyim.*

*“And they want to destroy everything here, the whole Jewish religion, and to destroy Shabbat. They will force cars into chareidi areas (on Shabbat) and they will not permit anyone to put up any ‘fences’.<sup>40</sup>*

*“They have already announced everything, this is their platform for the elections. This is a situation of pikuach nefesh (saving a life). We need to know that this is like a war, now, and whoever doesn’t go to vote simply doesn’t understand the severity of the situation.*

*“Gantz, Lapid and Yisrael Beitanu – Lieberman – want to annihilate all of Judaism. Within two years, there won’t be a religious Jew here, we will need to flee to Egypt, or to Jordan, or to move to New York or Miami....*

*“And this will be known next week. Next week, we will find out if Gantz will win, together with Lapid and Lieberman. They want to do it together; they will even accept the Arabs in the Arab parties. The ikker is that they will have 61 seats. Here, we talk about 61. 61 is the magic number.*

---

<sup>40</sup> ‘Putting fences’ is also an expression in the Torah world for adopting customs and measures to ensure that no Torah laws should be transgressed, even accidentally.

*“Whoever brings 61, he will be the king.”*

**From comments made by Rav Berland after the prayers, on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019.**



The day after the Rav was indicted, Israel had its third election within a year - and again, there was a stalemate. Nobody had the magic ‘61’ votes required to form a government, and so many of the political leaders had campaigned on the promise that whatever happened, they were not going to sit in a government that had Benjamin Netanyahu at its head<sup>41</sup>.

#### **POLITICS**

## **Israel’s Gantz vows to form government without Netanyahu**

The country is set to vote March 2.

Some cynics might say that Netanyahu was only too pleased to have a ‘coronavirus pandemic’ appear at this point, to get him out of his own personal and political issues...

On March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020, President Reuven Rivlin gave Benny Gantz’s Blue & White party the mandate to form a government.<sup>42</sup> Just four days later, on March 19<sup>th</sup>, Netanyahu declared a ‘National State of Emergency’, and Israel went into full lockdown.

---

<sup>41</sup> <https://www.politico.com/news/2020/02/16/israel-netanyahu-gantz-elections-115510>

<sup>42</sup> <https://www.timesofisrael.com/with-libermans-nod-gantz-gets-61-backers-to-form-coalition-topping-netanyahu/>

Two days after that, ‘the wizard’ had worked his magic again, and Netanyahu announced that Likud and Blue & White were now in negotiations for a ‘national unity government’, because of the coronavirus state of emergency. Netanyahu would be PM for 18 months, and then Gantz would take over as Prime Minister.

That deal was officially inked on April 20, 2020.<sup>43</sup> While the rest of the country was suffering tremendous torments under the dictatorial restrictions imposed by Netanyahu’s government in the name of the ‘coronavirus pandemic’, the PM himself had a lot to thank the National State of Emergency for.

It kept him in his job, and also out of court.



In the meantime, as one country after another followed the State of Israel into lockdown, many people started to notice that the ‘coronavirus pandemic’, such as it was, appeared to be hitting the orthodox Jewish community, and especially the rabbinic leadership, with particular force.

Amid the over-the-top media obsession with every single person that could possibly be stated to have died from ‘coronavirus’, it was still becoming obvious that orthodox rabbis were making the list with alarming regularity.

By March 31, 2020, more than 44 rabbis - nearly all orthodox - had officially died from coronavirus.<sup>44</sup>

---

<sup>43</sup> <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/elections/2020-04-20/ty-article/premium/gantz-netanyahu-expected-to-sign-coalition-deal-on-monday-evening/0000017f-f6a9-d460-aff-fef8ba70000>

<sup>44</sup> <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/forty-four-rabbis-in-diaspora-have-passed-since-coronavirus-outbreak-623010>

At this time, the Israeli Ministry of Health (MoH) was regularly releasing fake statistics stating things like this:

“24% of all coronavirus infections in Israel with known infection points (35% of all known cases) were contracted in synagogues....”

With hindsight, it seems that the aim of these fake statistics was to provide some sort of basis for the increasingly harsh lockdowns that would see synagogues, schools and mikvahs closed for many months. By the end of March, even the Israeli Chief Rabbis had been maneuvered into position, to make a joint call that all synagogues should be closed, and for people to only pray outside - with masks and social distancing of 2m.<sup>45</sup>

Also, the Chevra Kadisha was told it had to perform the ritual ‘tahara’ ceremony, or purification of the dead, wearing full chazmat gear, with the ‘victims of Coronavirus’ wrapped in an additional layer of plastic, on top of the shrouds. The government also banned sitting shiva for the dead.

As the evil decrees mounted, Rabbi Berland managed to give over an urgent message about the situation from his prison cell, on March 27, 2020. This is part of what he said:<sup>46</sup>

*“The Rav said that everyone should do teshuva now, and then the Coronavirus will stop.”*

*“The Rav requested in very strong terms that each person should say the Tikkun HaKlali 12 times a day, and on erev Shabbat also Shir HaShirim.”*

---

<sup>45</sup> <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/synagogues-to-close-under-new-coronavirus-regulations-1.8708347>

<sup>46</sup> <https://ravberland.com/an-urgent-message-from-rabbi-berland/>



It was clear that *shemayim* was sending the scourge of the ‘coronavirus’, in all its many different manifestations, disproportionately against the orthodox Jewish community, both in Israel and abroad.

The question was, why?



On March 26, 2020, a day after the decree to close all the synagogues was made in the Holy Land, the son of R’ Chaim Dovid Stern, the famous kabbalist from Bnei Brak, went public with the following statement:

**R’ Stern, Covid 19 is because we stayed quiet.**

*“Moray v’rabotai (my teachers and friends), how very difficult is this day for Am Yisrael. It’s like the day when the Beit HaMikdash was destroyed.*

*On this day, whole communities were forced to leave thousands of synagogues across the whole of Eretz Israel and the world, and with tremendous weeping, they were forced to go out and pray in the street....*

***These events need to shock every one of us, and to cause us to make a cheshbon hanefesh (spiritual accounting), as to why Hashem is doing this to us....***

***When they came and took Rav Berland and put him in jail – this was like the cry that ascended to the Heavens [and sealed the decree].***



**All this big commotion is happening because this Tzaddik (Rabbi Eliezer Berland) is languishing in prison – in ‘bidud’. Hashem is angry.... Rav Berland is stuck in prison and Am Yisrael is stuck with this Coronavirus.**

*We need to go out, and to cry out, until they free Rabbi Berland from the prison. If you have any brains in your head, if anyone wants to really save this [Jewish] people.... Perhaps, it was decreed that the Coronavirus was meant to be in the rest of the world, but in Eretz Yisrael, there was not supposed to be any Coronavirus.*

*Everything is happening only because Rabbi Berland is languishing in prison!”*

Rav Stern then continued:

*“If there is someone out there who is capable of freeing Rabbi Berland from prison, that person can save the whole of this people.*

*Because they have kicked us out of our inheritance. They have kicked us out of our synagogues. This is the churban Beit HaMikdash (destruction of the Temple). They threw us into the streets! HaKadosh Baruch Hu said, I don’t want you!! I don’t want your prayers!! I don’t want your avodat Hashem!!*

***There is a Tzaddik who is sitting and groaning in prison – and everyone is silent! No-one is opening their mouth! Suddenly, everyone is struck dumb. No-one is saying anything.***

*Everyone has been silenced by a roaring silence – but HaKadosh Baruch Hu is not silent!! HaKadosh Baruch Hu is demanding that the insult to his Tzaddik is recompensed, and then who knows, perhaps [Hashem] will be merciful.*

***We need to cry out to Hashem, and then maybe he will take away from us this terrible gezeira. But we also need to act! We need action!***

***If we don't get Rabbi Berland out of prison, then Am Yisrael will be in a huge problem! Chas v'shalom, this can continue to worsen and spread. I don't want to describe it so as not to chas v'shalom open the mouth of the Satan, but this thing depends on us.***

*We can save Am Yisrael, RIGHT NOW. Even though these words may sound strange, you should know that I am telling you the truth. And He is merciful to forgive our sins.<sup>47</sup>*



Once again, we see that at the beginning of the pandemic, our true Tzaddikim were clearly telling us what could avert the harsh decree, and then stop it in its tracks. But once again - their words sadly fell on mostly deaf ears.

On March 31, 2020, R' Yoshiyahu Pinto also put out a video, where he said the following:

---

<sup>47</sup> <https://ravberland.com/read-rav-sterns-words-and-help-save-am-yisrael-from-the-coronavirus/>

*“[T]his whole pandemic could have come about just because of one single person who is suffering, one person who is suffering tremendous pain.*

***Sometimes, the pain of a single person can bring on the destruction of the world.***

*Each of us needs to think about what’s going on around them. We’ve had enough arguments, enough quarrels, enough tension, enough machloket (strife and evil speech), enough things that aren’t good – lashon hara should be erased from the world.*

*We will pass through this plague, and people will die, there will be difficult things, but this plague will finish. But you should know that this world is not going to remain the same world it was.”*

R’ Pinto continued:

*“Anyone who thinks that this situation is going to pass, and then he can go back to doing things that aren’t good – this just isn’t going to happen. HaKadosh Baruch Hu is going to change His world completely.*

*Just as after the mabul, and the generation of the flood, when the world was totally changed. Just like occurred after all those other times when there were such big shocks across the whole world, at this sort of level, and the world changed – so the same will happen here...*

*Whoever harms the Torah scholars, should be considered as though they are muktzeh (i.e., forbidden to touch or come near) because of defilement.*

*In the old days, could someone say something [bad] about the tzaddikim?! The walls would tremble! But today, attacking the tzaddikim has become something 'beautiful', people really enjoy beating up the tzaddikim.*

*And even rabbis are attacking other rabbis. But a rav who speaks lashon hara about another Rav – we need to tell him that you are passul, passul, passul! (I.e., disqualified). There is nothing more 'passul' than you! Why are you speaking lashon hara about a Tzaddik?! It's forbidden to speak lashon hara about the Tzaddikim!...*

*When a person says someone else is passul (disqualified), he himself is passul – “each person who disqualifies another person, he disqualifies them with his own flaw.” Whoever says to you so-and-so is not good – know that he himself is not good! Because whoever is not good, he speaks badly about others. Whoever is really good doesn't see bad in others...”*

R' Pinto continued:

*“Hashem gave us a blow, a spiritual shock, because we need to look at our inner selves.*

*To straighten out our lives, and to straighten out our behavior, and to straighten out our deeds, and to know why this evil came to the world. For as long as we don't know how to really destroy this plague, in a way that gets straight to the [spiritual] point, and how to really kill it, nothing else that we try to do will help us. Not vaccines, and not quarantine – nothing!...*

*If we don't know how to kill-off this plague, it will not die! HaKadosh Baruch Hu sent something invisible that destroyed the world. How can we beat it? How can we find a cure for the illness? Only if there will be a miracle that is clothed in 'natural means'.*

*This miracle clothed in natural means will come when we strengthen ourselves, and seek out the bad thing, what is the thing that caused Hashem to do this. We need to find this thing and kill it. And then, they will find the cure to kill this virus.*

*Until we find out why Hashem did this, why Hashem created it, and why Hashem placed it in into this world, there will never be a cure. But when we find the true cause... And it could happen in a single second – someone who hurt someone else could ask for forgiveness, and that person could forgive him – and in one second, they find the cure. This is in our hands....”*

R' Pinto concluded his message by saying:

*“Each person needs to make very big teshuva about their lashon hara – very, very, very big teshuva... Teshuva that comes from the depth of the heart, and then he will destroy from his heart the lashon hara until it's erased from the hearts of people. And then, HaKadosh Baruch Hu will bring the cure, and all this evil will be erased from the world.”*



Meanwhile, the nations of the world were also noticing that the Jewish communities seemed to be very prominent in the 'spread'

of coronavirus around the planet, and already by the end of March 2020, the anti-Semites were blaming the Jews for the pandemic.<sup>48</sup>

The Ynet news site explained that:

*“An internal Foreign Ministry report warns of a sharp rise in anti-Semitic posts around the world as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.*

*“In a document prepared by the ministry, malicious conspiracy theories, some contradictory, are being spread blaming Israel and Jews for the spread of the virus, in order to thin out the world population and profit from vaccination.”*



Spiritually speaking, the Jews *were* to blame for the coronavirus pandemic taking hold on the world.... but not in the way that the antisemites believed. Our Tzaddikim were screaming about the connection between what happened to the Tzaddik HaDor, Rav Berland, and the *lashon hara*, persecution and disgrace of the Torah.

But still, most people couldn't hear it or make the connection, even as the evil decrees continued and the parallels became increasingly obvious. For example, during the first week of April, the *chareidi* city of Bnei Brak was made a 'restricted zone' with limited entry and exit, and the roads policed by guards and the army, for a week.

Then the country was forced to celebrate Seder night under harsh lockdown, forbidden from even burning their *chametz*.

---

<sup>48</sup> <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/B1xuHBBePU>

Then on April 12, 2020, the Ministry of Health released yet more false statistics, claiming that “75% of Jerusalem’s coronavirus cases can be traced to Chareidi neighborhoods.” A number of those neighborhoods also got closed down as a result, including Meah Shearim, Geula, the Bukharim Quarter, Romema, Mekor Baruch, Sanhedria, Neve Yaakov, Ramot Shlomo and Har Nof.

All places where the *lashon hara* and slander against Rav Berland had taken hold, over recent years. Even the mayor of Jerusalem, Moshe Lion, couldn’t understand why the government was pursuing such harsh measures in these communities. He is reported to have said to the Coronavirus Cabinet:

*“Take the Ramot neighborhood for example — 60,000 residents and 140 of them sick. Why do we need to close off the whole neighborhood?”<sup>49</sup>*

But as R’ Avraham Stern, and many other *tzaddikim* before him explained: ***“If we don’t get Rabbi Berland out of prison, then Am Yisrael will be in a huge problem!”***

For as long as the Tzaddik was being tormented and abused in prison - *Am Yisrael*, and particularly the more orthodox segments of it, would be suffering and tormented along with him.



Unbelievably, just as the fear and hype over the pandemic was starting to wane, and many of the restrictions and face masking and social distancing were starting to be removed, and there was some hope that the worst was over, the Beis Din investigating

---

<sup>49</sup> <https://www.timesofisrael.com/jerusalem-ultra-orthodox-neighborhoods-to-be-locked-down-starting-sunday/>

Rabbi Berland in Bnei Brak announced that they had all of a sudden come to a decision in his case.

After months of saying nothing, and doing very little, the Beis Din in Bnei Brak suddenly decided that they were going to make a statement about the Rav and his community after all. And shortly after they publicized their decision, on May 22, 2020, the State of Israel plunged back into ‘the second wave’, with more lockdowns, restrictions, and persecution.





## THE SUFFERINGS OF MOSHIACH

*The geula has to come with rachamim, mercy, and it can't be brought forward by even a single moment or second.*

*Because if we press the issue, the issue will 'press back'. The geula could indeed come at this time (i.e., an earlier time), but it would come with harsh dinim (judgments) and cruel deaths, and rivers of blood that will flow all over the world.*

*For the war of Gog and Magog will be in the month of Cheshvan, the mazal of Scorpio. And so this is why Rehoboam told his people, that if you want to be redeemed in the month of Cheshvan, whose mazal is Scorpio... that hinted to the nation of Israel that if you are going to try to force the issue, the geula will come by way of scorpions.*

*And so, the Tzaddik is delaying the geula, so that everything will be accompanied with mercy, as it's said: "With great mercy I will gather you in." **Isaiah 54:7** <sup>50</sup>*

A couple of weeks after the Beis Din in Bnei Brak put out its ruling against Rav Berland and his community, Rabbi Shimon Badani, ztzl, came out with a strong statement supporting the Rav and Shuvu Banim.

---

<sup>50</sup> <https://ravberland.com/why-the-tzaddik-is-delaying-the-geula/>

Throughout the long years of persecution, Rav Badani had continually and publicly shown his support of the Rav and his community, and in his comments of June 10, 2020, he dropped some broad hints about the real motivations of the people persecuting Rav Berland from within the Breslov community.



Rav Badani began:

*“I want to start with a mussar shiur (class on ethics), to explain what’s gone on here. The Mishnah says that ‘jealousy, lust and seeking honor drive a person out of the world’. A person who is caught up in these types of middot (character traits) – he’s lost!*

*And the seeking of honor is the worst.*

*They bring an example: Korach. Rashi asks, Korach was a brilliant man, what made him act with such stupidity, what was this madness he had, to oppose Moshe Rabbenu?” Rashi then replies: This is his error; he saw with ruach hakodesh that his descendants would be of high [spiritual] standing. So, he said to himself: I also deserve this! And so, he began to oppose.*

*What sort of explanation is this?*

*That a brilliant man would do such stupid things? And he was even someone who had ruach hakodesh (the spirit of prophecy)! What is this madness?! This is now even harder [to understand]. If he was also someone who had intelligence, and was also someone who had*

*ruach hakodesh, how could he have done such a stupid thing, to oppose Moshe Rabbenu?*

***The sages of mussar tell us a simple principle: This person is infected by the disease of seeking honor! So, he loses his intelligence, he's left with no brain, he's crazy! He loses his marbles, and so he falls.***

*This is an example that shows just how much the trait of vengeance can cause a person to fall. A wise person, someone with ruach hakodesh – and still none of this helped him at all!”*

Rav Badani continued:

*Let's give another example: Yeroboam ben Nevat argued with King Shlomo, and then ran away. Afterwards, King Shlomo didn't find favor in the eyes of Hashem and He took 10 tribes and gave them to Yeroboam. Shlomo had just one tribe in Jerusalem, this is what Hashem did.*

*When Yeroboam came back to Israel, the prophet told him that he was chosen to be the King over Israel, and his happiness knew no bounds. He was a big talmid chacham, and almost had ruach hakodesh. It's written: And all the great ones of the world were, as compared to him, and as compared to Isaiah, as the grass of the field.*

*They were so huge...And yet this same Yeroboam went and made two golden calves, to prevent Am Yisrael from going to Jerusalem. Instead, they could prostrate themselves to the golden calves.*

***HaKadosh Boruch Hu asked him: How can it be, that a big talmid chacham, who almost has ruach hakodesh, could do something like this?!....”***

Rav Badani continued:

***The pursuit of honor kills a person. It kills him! It kills him! It murders him.***

*Another example, forgive me that I'm extending this discussion, but it's hard to understand this. The Gemara says that in the Second Temple times, there were 300 High Priests. How can this be? During the time of the First Temple, 400 years, there were just 10 High Priests. Each one lasted for 40 years.*

*The Gemara says about the Second Temple that there were a few High Priests who lasted for a few years, and then afterwards, for the next 300 years, a different High Priest would die every year! Each year, he'd die. He'd enter [the Holy of Holies] and die. Dead, dead, dead, dead.*

*Why? Rashi says, because they bought the office of the High Priest for money. Even though they taught them all the halachot of being a High Priest, and they were expert in halacha, nevertheless, they bought the High Priesthood for money.*

*What, all these 300 High Priests were crazy? If there had been just one, it's possible to say they made a mistake, 'Corona, Corona...' But after one died, then the second, then the third, then the fifth, and then another*

*one – all of them died! Another one and another one and another one, until 300 Kohens...*

*No-one would do something like this, to buy the Angel of Death for money! Who would do something like this? Only someone who was totally insane. Why? Why [did they do it]?*

*The Gemara says – honor! The Mishnah says: And great honor was given to the Kohen HaGadol when he came out of the Holy in Holies in peace, as it was said that he came out of there miraculously, he was supposed to have died in the Holy of Holies.*

***But the point is that he'd merit great honor! I'm going to miss out on this honor?! He's ready to die, for this honor. I'm saying all this, so we can understand the point that a person will do all sorts of crazy things, for honor."***

Having explained the background to what happened with the psak from Bnei Brak, Rav Badani got down to brass tacks. He continued:

*I saw the matter of the judgement, and I wanted to talk about it. That in Breslov, many people arose to fight for this thing – to fight that there should be a judgment [of the Beis Din] against the Rav. What happened?*

*Once, I asked: Who is the most honored person in Breslov? They told me: Don't ask. Rav Berland is the head – and they are going crazy about this....*

*Rabotai, this is what's happening here. All these unfortunate people made an accounting, Rav Berland was not a Breslover. I'm talking about when he was a young man. Both he and I were in Hadera; there were no chassidim there, only a few.*

*He and his wife were madrichim (youth leaders) in Bnei Akiva. They left the place and went to be chareidim in Bnei Brak. In Bnei Brak, they became chareidim. His wife worked in Or HaChaim, and he sat and learned.*

*In Bnei Brak, Rav Berland opened up Shuvu Banim, that's where he promoted and became acquainted with Breslov Torah. He was one of the only ones who became acquainted with Breslov Torah. Who else knew about it, then? What was there, then?*

*Rav Berland started to organize a yeshiva, and a kollel, and Talmud Torahs. He made many baalei teshuva. Rav Berland brought hundreds of thousands of people back in teshuva – who made Breslov what it is?*

***This was good, this was wonderful – but the honor that he received, this drove everyone crazy. How is it possible that this guy was nothing, and now he's like this?! This is how the opposition to him began, to our great sorrow.***

Rav Badani continued:

*I was davka the opposite. I loved Rav Berland, I said: This man is strengthening Torah.*

*I saw that he was learning Ketzot HaHoshen with young men, he's a Talmid Chacham who is full of Torah, he's bringing people closer to Hashem. Master of the world, Rav Berland brought back hundreds of thousands, hundreds of thousands, back to teshuva. Everyone was honoring him, also in Meron and also in Uman.*

*I was in Uman, because Rebbe Nachman said that whoever comes to him, and recites the Tikkun HaKlali, and gives a pruta (coin) to charity....so I travelled to Uman....*

*What pains those Breslovers that oppose Rav Berland is this: How can Rav Berland be at the head, like the king of kings, in all these places?! They started gossiping: What was he? He's not even a Breslover, he doesn't belong with us – from here ignited all the jealousy, and the desire to do all the bad things to him, Hashem should have mercy.*

*And now, they saw that they succeeded in pulling him off the top. I believe that he will come out from this judgment, because it's not possible that they can touch a person who brought so many people closer to Hashem.*

### ***Who else brought hundreds of thousands to the Torah?***

*Rav Berland wandered around the whole of Israel, from house to house, and brought people closer and returned them in teshuva. Even when he was ill, he left the hospital straight out to bring people back in teshuva. He sacrificed himself to bring Jews closer to their Abba in heaven.*

*Why did this thing happen to him? If I had known this before, I would have told him: My friend, don't let them give you any honor! You are killing them with jealousy. They are saying 'I'm old-school Breslov, and I have nothing, and you [i.e., Rav Berland] – you're like a ger toshav (resident alien) – and everyone is running after you and calling you an 'Angel of God!'*



Next, Rav Badani addressed the fall-out from the psak of the Beis Din in Bnei Brak. He said:

*I don't want to speak [specifically] about what the Beis Din did, we will take care of this. I hope we will succeed. I was all the time crying out, what are you saying about Rav Berland?! Telling all these stories about him, and causing him so much suffering, take him to a din Torah!*

*One day, three Breslov avreichim came to see me, young people, and they told me that they set up a Beis Din. I was astonished, this is how we set up a Beis Din?! I asked, what have you done? They answered, we brought witnesses, and they testified.*

*I asked: What about Rav Berland, was he at the Beis Din? No! I said, **how can you judge him in absentia? How is this possible? This is against the Torah!** They said, no, he's known to be a gavra alma<sup>51</sup>.*

---

<sup>51</sup> A 'gavra alma' is a violent and dangerous person that according to halacha, it's possible to judge a person like this in absentia because of the risk that he might try to physically kill the people who are judging him.



*I said, what are you talking about, gavra alma?! He can barely walk! Gavra alma?! He's ill, in the hospital! This is a 'gavra alma'?! What is he going to do, punch the policemen? Who decided that he is a 'gavra alma'? They said, we did!!*

*I said to them, you decided that he's the angel of death, you are also the witnesses, you are also the dayanim, you are the prosecutors, you are also the judges, and you're also the poskim (halachic decisors) who decided that he's 'gavra alma'. You're behind everything! And this is a 'psak din'????*



*So, I told them to go to the Eida Chareidis.*

***I don't want to talk against the Beis Din, but I don't understand why they aren't concerned about the yeshiva. I wrote about this, and we will take care of it.***

*Do you remember that once in the past, the Rav was outside of Israel, and I came to strengthen the yeshiva? I said be careful not to weaken! Do the opposite! You love your Rav, so learn even better! And in the merit of this, he will be rescued.*

*I say to them: If you're going to destroy a Rosh Yeshiva, first worry about the yeshiva. I asked them, what will be, with the yeshiva, what will be, with the kollel? They said: That it should disintegrate, what do we care?! They don't care, nothing else interests them.*

*Hundreds of thousands of baalei teshuva, who is going to guide them? That it should disintegrate, that they should go back to being non-religious?*



***So, I was in favor of the Beis Din of the Eida HaCharedis because the elders have more life experience, how to judge, and how to rectify judgments. But they did this....and I wasn't able go against it.***

*To nullify a judgment, okay, we are talking about this, I only say – why didn't you worry about the yeshiva? Why didn't you worry about the baalei teshuva? There are thousands, what's going to be with them? Are they going to be lost?*

*This pains me, this thing, and I've spoken to the Shuvu Banim rabbis about this. Don't despair! Concern yourselves with the yeshiva, and with the kollels, worry about the baalei teshuva – don't let all this fall! Those people who are seeking honor, they don't care that there will a churban (terrible destruction).”*

Rav Badani continued:

*Their main purpose is just to attain their goal. I don't know why the Beis Din didn't pay attention to this, I thought that they would speak to them.*

*In my haskama, I asked why they didn't worry about the students – before the verdict, you need to worry about the Torah. So now, to all this holy kehilla – Hashem will help! I don't want to talk against the Beis*

*Din. The Beis Din – whatever it does, Hashem knows how to manage things so they turn out for the best.*

*You need to worry about the kehilla. And I said that all your Talmud Torahs will be accepted into our framework, the Ma'ayan HaHinuch Chareidi network. I hope that Hashem will help, as He helped Rav Berland and yourselves.*



*The Rambam said, Israel will only be redeemed via teshuva. Hashem appointed Rav Berland to bring people closer in teshuva – now the Satan showed up, to our great sorrow. I hope that you will find a way [to stand firm against this].*

*In the meantime, don't neglect things. Do as much as possible – go and visit all the places that Rav Berland used to visit, and strengthen others in teshuva, just like Rav Berland did.*

*Strengthen the yeshiva, and Hashem will help! The iker is to strengthen yourselves, for the Torah is our life, this is our geula...*

***Rav Berland has the ability to change a pera adam, a wild man, into a human being.***

*I have a relative, who was a 'wild man', robberies, court judgments, police... What could we do? They were going to take the child to jail. Until he met Rav Berland – and he became a human being and now is really a tzaddik.*

***Hashem should have mercy on Israel, and should nullify everything, so Rav Berland can continue to save Am Yisrael. Rav Berland has the special power to do this.***

Rav Badani concluded by saying:

*The Torah promises that by learning the torah, baalei teshuva will come, and then the geula will come, Amen. Very soon, very soon! Hashem will help. I hope that the suffering of Rav Berland will end, and that he will be healthy.*

***All this suffering is not for nothing. rather, the Gemara says that the Moshiach is a man of suffering. [Moshiach] atones in his heart, and he atones in his legs – this is the suffering. Rav Berland suffers a lot from his legs...***

*And the geula will occur soon, amen v'amen.<sup>52</sup>*



By the following day, June 11, 2020, Rav Badani had a change of heart about not directly challenging the ruling of the Beis Dinl. That's when a story appeared on the BHOL<sup>53</sup> and Rotter<sup>54</sup> news site about a letter Rav Badani and R Nissim ben Shimon, a former Av Beis Din of Tel Aviv-Yaffo, had written about the *psak din*.

---

<sup>52</sup> Watch Rav Badani making these comments in the original Hebrew here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G6tmmwnfzu8&feature=youtu.be>

<sup>53</sup> <https://www.bhol.co.il/news/1108212>

<sup>54</sup> <https://rotter.net/forum/scoops1/634158.shtml>

In the letter, both men publicly questioned how the Beis Din in Bnei Brak could come to their conclusions about Rav Berland based on the testimony of a sole witness, among many other contraventions of halacha.

The three main halachic problems with the ruling were:

- There was only the testimony of ONE witness to go on, the same false witness that told the Israeli police exactly what they wanted to hear.
- Rav Berland himself was never called upon to testify.
- The verdict was delivered when the Rav was in prison and couldn't appear before the Beis Din.

Any one of these was enough to invalidate the Beis Din's judgement against the Rav and his community.



How did this information come to light?

It turns out that the Rav's persecutors, not content with the *psak din* they'd already managed to finagle out of the Beis Din in Bnei Brak now wanted many other rabbis to sign against Rabbi Berland and Shuvu Banim.

Somehow, they managed to get another two senior Beis Dins to sign on the perversion of justice from Bnei Brak. But then, things started to come unstuck. Some of the dayanim and rabbanim the persecutors asked to sign against Rav Berland actually did their homework and asked for details of the judgment first-hand.

When these more sincere rabbanim started probing the judgment against Rav Berland, and asking for the information and facts it was based on, it became clear to them that the initial Beis Din had not operated according to even basic halacha.

Some of these rabbanim and dayanim felt so upset by what had occurred, they asked the original Beis Din to retract their ruling against Rabbi Berland, or at least put out a letter clarifying how their Beis Din arrived at their conclusions. Otherwise, they would put out their own letter, to inform the public of what really happened.

Below, we bring a translation of the story that appeared on the BHOL news site, in connection with this letter:



*“Over the last two weeks, the psak din written about the matter concerning the leader of the Shuvu Banim community, Rabbi Eliezer Berland, has been publicized.*

*“It was put out by a special Beit Din established on behalf of the central beit din undersigned by gedolei hadayanim in Israel. It told the community to distance themselves and to guard themselves from him [i.e., Rav Berland]. This was after a year and a half of examining witnesses and complainants....*

*“Now, one of the previous Ravads (Rosh Av Beit Din) of Tel Aviv-Yaffo, and Ravad of the Badatz ‘Netzer Aharon’, haGaon Rabbi Nissim ben Shimon, has written a letter raising a number of questions about the published ruling.*

*“In that letter...the dayan and gaon Rabbi Nissim ben Shimon writes that one of the askanim<sup>55</sup> turned to him, to ask him to add his signature to the psak din, and because of this, [Rav ben Shimon] decided to delve into the details of the ruling, to clarify and check the truth of the matter. He said that it’s not his way to add his signature to a psak din that he hadn’t clarified himself.*

*“Rav ben Shimon recounts that he turned to two of the dayanim who signed on the psak din and asked to hear from them on what grounds they’d decided to put out the psak din, and **they avoided telling him anything at all about the testimony and the proceedings that occurred at the Beis Din.***

*“One of these two dayanim referred him to the third dayan, the gaon Rabbi Sriel Rosenberg, and in conversation with him, told him [i.e. Rabbi ben Shimon] that **the psak was written on the back of “testimony from the mouth of one man, who testified what he testified.”***

“In response to this, Rabbi ben Shimon told him that he couldn’t add his signature to this psak, that recounts that it was based on ‘testimonies’ [in the plural.] In response to this, the gaon Rabbi Sriel Rosenberg replied that: “I didn’t ask you to sign it.”



The BHOL piece then went on to describe how Rav Shimon Badani also originally appended his signature to the *psak din* – but then

---

<sup>55</sup> I.e. one of the people involved with the case, probably one of the Rav’s persecutors.

changed his mind, after hearing from Rabbi ben Shimon, what had really happened. It continues:

*“After the clarification done by the gaon Rabbi Nissim ben Shimon, [Rabbi Badani] added his signature to his [i.e. Rabbi ben Shimon’s] letter. And then added in his own handwriting: **“I see the letter of the famous gaon and rabbi, and I’m flabbergasted. And according to this, I signed on the psak din, [against Rav Berland] which really pained me, and now I take back what I wrote. It’s fitting [for me] to worry about the yeshiva and the kollel, that it shouldn’t collapse, chas v’shalom.”***



### **The last 9 months of the Chevlei Moshiach<sup>56</sup>**

Around the same time that all this was going on, a close student of the Milkman and long-time supporter of Rav Berland, the kabbalist Rav Yehuda Sheinfeld, also made some comments on the *psak* of the *beis din*, when he came to a gathering to strengthen the Shuvu Banim community.

*“We are in the last stages of the chevlei Moshiach (birthpangs of the Moshiach). All that’s left is the final few months of the chevlei Moshiach.”*

Rav Sheinfeld explained:

*The Midrash says that Hashem is on the side of the persecuted. And not only when an evildoer is chasing*

---

<sup>56</sup> <https://ravberland.com/we-are-in-the-last-9-months-of-the-chevlei-moshiach/>



*after a Tzaddik – but even when a tzaddik is persecuting an evildoer!*

*Elokim wants the persecuted one! So much so, that this is the true power of the one being persecuted. The persecuted one has power; he can be a kapparah (atonement/sacrifice) for Am Yisrael.*

*People tell many miraculous stories about Rav Berland. I once heard from Rav Chaim (Perachia HaKohen – the Milkman) that if a person brings a big pidyon (sum of money for a redemption of the soul) and is healed afterwards, this is not such a big miracle. To give such a big sum to tzedaka, and to not be healed afterwards?!*

*But what is called a miraculous wonder? If a person prays that he should be totally shamed and humiliated, **and a Beis Din should come along, and for absolutely no reason, they put out a letter against him. Without any justification! Without any halachic reasoning! Without any moral justification – with nothing!** This is the greatest wonder!*

*This is the power of prayer, that Rav Berland could bring about a situation that with such simpleness, another one should sign something against him, and another, and another – as though we are dealing here with halacha brought down by Moshe at Sinai.*

*There is simply no natural explanation for this. This is just the biggest wonder. Rav Berland wants to be ‘persecuted’. A person wants to be ‘persecuted’, and requests to be persecuted – Elokim wants something that is persecuted’!*

Rav Sheinfeld then spoke about the birthpangs of Moshiach:

*It's accepted among the tzaddikim that we are now in the period known as the chevlei Moshiach (birthpangs of Moshiach) – in the final stages. We are in the nine last months of the chevlei Moshiach.*

*Rav Berland once said that there are three types of atonement: There is the atonement of previous generations by fasting, but the person's strength would fail from the suffering. Who could endure suffering from the fasts that the ancient tzaddikim undertook?*

*A second rectification was arranged by the later tzaddikim, who said it was impossible for their generation to fast, so they arranged [a tikkun] by a pidyon (redemption).<sup>57</sup>*

***But also this – people don't have enough money that would be required to pay for the equivalent of all the many fasts prescribed by the earlier sages. So Rav Berland said that there was a third rectification that didn't cost money: a tikkun of humiliation.***

***And being shamed and disgraced, a person can remain healthy and whole, and he can retain his money.***

*Bisyonot (shame and disgrace) is an atonement like fasting, so when someone hears his own disgrace – this is a kapparah. This atones for him and atones for the chevlei Moshiach.*

---

<sup>57</sup> I.e. by giving a financial *pidyon*, that would reduce a person's cash flow, in a similar way that fasting reduces a person's physical nourishment.

*It's written: What can a person do, to be saved from the birthpangs of Moshiach? He can stay busy with Torah and gemilut chasadim – but who can say about himself that he's busy with Torah the way he really needs to be? Or that he's engaged in gemilut chasadim the way he really should be?*

*But bishyonot – everyone can accept this as they should, and then escape the spiritual 'debt' they owe as part of the chevlei Moshiach.*

*Hashem should help us, that every humiliation and disgrace we experience should be considered an atonement, and that we can easily pass through the birthpangs of Moshiach, and that the geula should come soon.*<sup>58</sup>



Rav Sheinfeld's comments were made in June 2020 - but the pandemic was destined to stretch on, and on, and on, long past another nine months. And in the meantime, the 'birthpangs' were about to ratchet way back up again to a whole other level of painful.



---

<sup>58</sup> You can watch R' Sheinfeld give over these words in the original Hebrew here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-pIQlyewsHQ&embeds\\_embed\\_uri=https%3A%2F%2Favberland.com%2F&feature=emb\\_imp\\_woyt](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-pIQlyewsHQ&embeds_embed_uri=https%3A%2F%2Favberland.com%2F&feature=emb_imp_woyt)

## BACK INTO LOCKDOWN

*“Every day, man dies - because the day that has passed will never come back, and each day he draws closer to the day of his death. How can he waste his time on arguments? Anyone who has any sense should understand this, and win long life for himself.*

*“Let him not waste his life on quarrels, big or small! He should control himself, hold his anger in check and live peacefully with everybody.”*

– Rabbi Nachman’s Wisdom, no. 77



In the middle of July 2020 (Tammuz 17, 5780), one of the leading Breslov bright lights, R’ Avraham Yitzhak Karmel, collapsed at his home, apparently from Covid 19, and the Hatzalah ambulance crew couldn’t revive him.

As well as authoring several seforim and giving over 18 separate Torah classes a week, R’ Karmel was also the *Baal Tefillah* (prayer leader) in Uman, on Rosh Hashana. He was survived by his wife and 10 children - and his untimely death rocked the Breslov community to its foundations.

Shortly after this happened, another leading Breslov personality, Rabbi Moshe Beninstock, issued an emotional public plea that

all the terrible *machloket* within Breslov should be stopped, once and for all.

R' Beninstock said:

*"I'm shocked about the enormous loss we've just experienced – HaRav Avraham Yitzhak Karmel, who was a very dear friend of mine. We would meet, and he would see me from a long way away in the hall, and he would [approach] with such humility, and self-nullification, even though he knew how to learn way better than I did.*

*He ruled over all the [Torah] sources, his seforim are stuffed full of material, and he mamash sanctified Rabbenu's name. His prayers...Without screaming out, he could still bring the whole beis kneset (synagogue) to the point of pouring out their souls. He was truly a magnificent 'vessel'. We've lost a beautiful 'vessel.'..."*

Rav Beninstock continued:

*I was boiling on the night before this one. I was so angry about what is happening<sup>59</sup>.*

*I spoke with a great many people about the grandchild of Rabbi Shmuel Shapira, z'tl, HaRav Pesach Shapira, z'tl, a sweet boy who was also my chavruta (study partner). He died in 5732, and after him Rav Yankele Tepilansky, o'h.*

---

<sup>59</sup> From his later comments, it seems that Rav Berland's persecutors had just destroyed 700 books, because Rav Berland was named in them.

*This happened very shortly after Rabbi Levi Yitzchak Bender re-started his shiurim<sup>60</sup>, after there had been a break of a couple of years because Rabbi Levi Yitzchak said to vote in the elections. They kicked him out of the Shul<sup>61</sup> and so, his shiurim stopped. At that point, we were only a few people left in the group that came to hear R' Levi Yitzchak.*

*When Yankele died, it was a terrible blow to everyone. He was the 'splendor' of Breslov, the heart of Breslov... When he died, it was a terrible blow for Breslov, and Rabbi Levi Yitzhak, for week after week, didn't stop speaking about it.*

*There had been a machloket between two of the Breslov elders about how the Shul was being managed. There were some on this side, some on that side, and Yankele Tepilansky tried to make peace [between them].*

*That same day, Yankele still had the towel in his hand, from when he'd gone to the mikva at chatzot. Ultimately, he collapsed on Zephania Street. Rabbi Levi Yitzhak wept awfully, even though he was a tough man. And of course, there was the levaya (funeral). I remember the elders going up to the Mount of Olives on foot.*

---

<sup>60</sup> There were 'extremists' in Breslov Meah Shearim even in the time of R' Levi Yitzhak Bender, ztl. When R Bender began giving over Torah classes in Hebrew instead of Yiddish to the new *baalei teshuva* that R' Berland was bussing in to see him every week from Bnei Brak, these extremists barricaded the door to the Breslov shul in Meah Shearim and refused him entry. See One in a Generation I and II, for more details about this and other stories.

<sup>61</sup> This is the main Breslov shul in Meah Shearim, that R Levi Yitzhak co-founded and helped to build.

*Rabbi Levi Yitzhak Bender didn't stop speaking about the same single subject, namely that the Rebbe is prepared to overlook everything, except machloket."*

R' Beninstock continued:

*"Rabbi Levi Yitzhak said then: 'Everything is because of the machloket. The Rebbe will waive everything, except for [participating in] machloket.'"*

*Have mercy, rabotai! Stop looking for other people's faults! Read prayer #38 and see what Rav Natan is saying. Stop persecuting other people, this is creating destruction! I wanted to say this last night, but I held myself back. It's good that I held myself back, because otherwise people would say that this happened [i.e., R' Karmel's death] because of me, chas v'halila....*

*Rabbenu says in Lesson 9, part 2, to pursue peace and to seek out the good in others, [to create an] atmosphere of calm and chizzuk (strengthening). While we're surely talking about a very small group, they are still very destructive – to destroy 700 sets of Siach Sarfey Kodesh, the holy books of Breslov chassidut – the Rebbe couldn't stay quiet about this. This is appalling! Just because you didn't like that the name of 'ploni'<sup>62</sup> was written there?!*

*Things like this have never happened before. This is the example that we want to give to the next generation of*

---

<sup>62</sup> I.e. Rav Berland was mentioned in a positive way in these books. Siach Sarfei Kodesh contains the recorded lessons of R' Levi Yitzhak Bender, that were transcribed by his students in the year before he died. The first two volumes were published in the lifetime of R Bender, but subsequent volumes were added.

*Breslov?! Did Rav Natan do this? Did Rabbi Avraham ben Rabbi Nachman? Or Rabbi Nachman of Tultchin?*

*I don't want to give more of the shocking details.... but we must make a change! Don't forget, that [the rabbis] told King Agrippas 'You are our brother' – and at that same second, destruction was decreed upon Israel.*

***The flattery, and the fear of opening our mouths [to silence those who are encouraging machloket] is destroying us! God forbid, that this should continue!"***

Rav Beninstock concluded his words with a heartfelt plea:

*“Moshe Golsbaski passed away suddenly, and Rabbi Natan Shapira died suddenly, and now, Rabbi Yitzhak Karmel – suddenly. I'm not even talking about the others who have fallen, those who suffered from serious illnesses.*

*In the last two years, we have lost the best people in Breslov chassidut. Moishele Anshin, Motta Toritz, Chaim Burshtein, and people like this, one after another. I'm not focused enough to recount all the names.*

***But make an accounting! ... The splendor of the Breslov elders, who were supposed to be the elders of the generation – they're gone! Rabbi Yisrael Nirsch – everyone! This is appalling! We must put an end to this business....***



***66 people from Breslov chassidut have suddenly passed away in the last year and a half.<sup>63</sup>***

*This is truly a harsh judgment to grasp. We don't know the cheshbonot of Heaven, but everyone was stirred-up by, and aware of the terrible machloket that has taken place in the Breslov camp."*



As the corona pandemic - and its restrictions and privations - continued, many others within Breslov started to take this message to heart. While the hard core of the Rav's persecutors continued, even to this day, to wage war against the Rav, many other people within Breslov decided to no longer get involved in *machloket* against the Rav.

In any case, each day brought more issues, problems, and suffering, as the media headlines again started banging the drum for the 'second wave of covid', and the politicians and officials at the Ministry of Health laid more plans to shut down normal life, mask people up and scare them to death.

On July 1, 2020, the Israeli government reintroduced contact tracing via mobile phone. Within a couple of days, more than 30,000 Israelis were ordered back into quarantine. Social distancing roared back, shuls and gatherings were limited to 20 people or less, gyms and wedding halls were once again closed.

The timing of all this was uncanny, literally within a couple of weeks of the 'psak din' issued against the Rav. But worse was still to come. As the lockdowns and restrictive measures continued to

---

<sup>63</sup> You can see a video clip listing the 66 here: <https://youtu.be/H5tvDGxMc1Q>

multiply throughout July and August, the Israeli government sent out clear signals in a million different ways that they were taking the *kibbutz* in Uman - and the High Holidays generally - firmly off the table.

And this seemed to be one decree that not even heartfelt prayers, and not even *mesirut nefesh* could overturn.



## ROSH HASHANA 5781 - THE KIBBUTZ IS 'CANCELLED'

*"Today, the day of malchut she be'hod, today is the counting of hod, today, we are counting the 35<sup>th</sup> day, and concluding the sefira of Hod, regline d'regline,<sup>64</sup> katnut d'katnut (smallness of smallness).*

*[This 'smallness' is expressed inasmuch as] a person can't study and can't pray.*

*He should say tehillim, he should travel to Meron, he should travel to Hevron, he should travel to the grave of the Prophet Yitro. I was there. Is it possible to travel there, or is it now locked with padlocks?*

*You don't have any zchut that permits you to close kivrei Tzaddikim! This is against the law! This is against the Geneva Accords, and the Oslo Agreement!*

*Today, we completed the counting of hod, regline d'regline, katnut d'katnut. Now, it's a long bein hazmanim.<sup>65</sup>*

*It's said that it will be like this until Tisha B'Av. Tisha B'Av is on Thursday, the 30<sup>th</sup> of July. Until July, the Corona won't be finished. Until then, there is harsh 'isolation' in England, and in Britain. Queen Elizabeth has entered a bunker, to hide herself from people.*

---

<sup>64</sup> Lit: the legs of the legs – a kabbalistic reference to where the sefira of hod is located in the supernal man.

<sup>65</sup> The time when there is typically no formal Torah learning in yeshivas – but in these comments, also referring to the fact that all the yeshivas had been closed, because of Covid-19.

*And it's said that this is going to continue until after Tishrei. But – we are obligated to travel to Uman!! There is no excuse! Shuvu Banim is obligated to be in Uman, there's nothing else to say.”*

**– Part of a shiur given by Rav Berland from  
Tzalmon prison, in May 2020.<sup>66</sup>**

*“Uman is not one of the Tishrei Chagim and is not a devar kodesh,” Gamzu said. “It's a hillulah or party and it's not necessary to do it. It can bring us closer to a lockdown. The whole government needs to be firm in order to earn the public's trust and say to the chassidim – don't travel during this time to Uman, it will endanger lives in Israel. I'm announcing – there are no flights to Uman – period.”<sup>67</sup>*

**– Comments made to Channel 12 News by Israel's  
coronavirus ‘tzar’, Prof. Ronnie Gamzu, August 22, 2020.**

Israel's newest ‘coronavirus tzar’, Professor Ronnie Gamzu, had a plan.

His ‘Traffic Light Plan’, approved by the Knesset on August 31, 2020, was going to color-code the most problematic coronavirus areas red, and severely restrict them; then give areas to watch an orange color code, with mild-to-moderate restrictions; and then give areas with no ‘coronavirus’ issues the green light to continue life as normal.

Maybe it was just another coincidence, but nearly all the ‘red’ communities that had their schools closed, night curfews introduced,

<sup>66</sup> <https://ravberland.com/we-are-obligated-to-travel-to-uman-rav-berland/>

<sup>67</sup> <https://www.theyeshivaworld.com/news/headlines-breaking-stories/1894574/israel-covid-czar-no-flights-to-uman-for-rosh-hashanah-period.html>

and people forbidden from going more than 500 m from their homes happened to be either in chareidi or Arab neighborhoods.

At this stage in the coronavirus pandemic, most people were still believing in the ‘scientific methodology’ being used by governments around the world to justify the lockdowns, facemasks, and other crazy restrictions. Nevertheless, when Israel’s MoH announced that it had just become the “country with the highest rate of COVID-19 infections per capita” a few short days before Rosh Hashana 5781, more than a few eyebrows were raised in the *chareidi* community about the convenient timing of all this - convenient, that is, if you were intent on wrecking yet more Jewish holidays.



As the hot and humid days of Elul 5780 began, Prof. Gamzu and Israel’s Ministry of Health began a huge propaganda campaign specifically designed to close the gates of Uman, and to cancel the Rosh Hashana *kibbutz*.

A month before Rosh Hashana, all the usual government-sponsored propaganda sites masquerading as ‘news’ began running one interview after another with Ronnie Gamzu, and others, all warning that death and destruction would occur on a massive scale, if Breslovers were allowed to gather in Uman for Rosh Hashana that year.

Many thousands of Breslovers ignored all the fearmongering and went ahead and booked their flights to the Ukraine anyway. So then, Prof. Gamzu, undoubtedly with the full backing of Netanyahu and other members of the ‘Coronavirus Cabinet’ decided that he was done asking the pilgrims politely to stay away.

Gamzu wrote a letter to the newly elected President of the Ukraine, a man no-one much had heard of back in August 2020, Volodymr Zelensky, warning him that if he let the pilgrimage to Uman go ahead that year, all those *Jews in one place were going to spread dangerous viruses to the local Ukrainians...*

Gamzu wrote to Zelensky that:

*“A gathering of this sort, at such a fraught time can lead to a mass infection of tourists and local Ukrainian residents, causing a heavy burden on local medical systems, while thousands more are expected to come back to Israel and further spread the virus.”*

He continued: *“I urge you to enforce a ban on these celebrations this year, as part of the entire global community’s effort to stop this horrific pandemic.”*



Before Gamzu and the State of Israel’s intervention, Zelensky’s Ukraine had planned to allow the traditional pilgrimage to Rebbe Nachman’s tomb to go ahead, albeit with some strict rules about maintaining social distancing, Ukraine style.

Unlike Israel, Ukraine had not gone big on mandating facemasks, not even for inside buildings and shops, and life in Ukraine had generally been much less affected by the sort of draconian, OTT restrictions that Netanyahu’s government kept on reimposing on the population in Israel.

To the casual observer, it seemed as though the worst of the Covid-19 ‘pandemic’ had passed, already. But Israel, in tandem with other governments and WHO-sponsored ‘Ministries of

Health' across the world, was not about to let the population out of their coronavirus cages that easily.

So while the Breslov community tried to play down the fear-mongering and continue with business as usual for Uman Rosh Hashana, Gamzu *et al* decided to ramp up the rhetoric and the propaganda.

## Coronavirus Czar: I won't change my mind on flights to Uman

**Prof. Ronni Gamzu doubles down on opposition to Uman pilgrimages during coronavirus pandemic, urges gov't to block mass gatherings in Uman.**

Arutz Sheva Staff / Aug 23, 2020, 10:21 PM (GMT+3)

---

The headline on the Arutz Sheva site on August 23, 2020, said it all.

Gamzu was quoted as saying:

*"I have no intention of changing my mind, and I am certain that government ministers will accept my position and prevent Israelis from flying to Uman."*

*"The Torah obligates all of us to 'protect your lives very much' and a gathering of tens of thousands of people will undoubtedly make Israel a 'red country' and lead to a lockdown that will harm all Israeli citizens. I feel very much for Breslover chassidim, but despite their great desire to reach the holy site in Uman, the protection of the health of Israeli citizens is more important."<sup>68</sup>*

---

<sup>68</sup> <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/285748>



At this stage, no-one yet knew that Gamzu and the Israeli government had written directly to Zelensky, to put heavy pressure on him to cancel the gathering. So it came as a shock when Ukraine suddenly announced that as of 12 midnight, on Friday August 28, 2020, no-one coming for Uman would be allowed entrance into the country, sparking a last-minute rush by many hundreds and thousands of people to beat the deadline.

When the Israeli authorities realized that thousands of Breslovers were now headed to Uman a full *three weeks in advance of Rosh Hashana*, to get in before the gates closed, they put more pressure on Zelensky to move the date forward by a day - while hundreds of pilgrims to Uman were still in transit.

As footage of crowds of religious Jews being penned in small areas policed by grim-faced soldiers in Ukrainian airports filtered back to Israel and across social media, the Israeli government started to feel some heat.

Then, when videos of Ukrainian soldiers literally beating up Breslov chassidim on planes started to flood social media, that's when Ukraine's PM, Vladimir Zelensky gave an interview to the Jerusalem Post formally stating that the Ukrainians had acted at the request of the State of Israel, and specifically Netanyahu.

Zelensky also said the same thing when he met the rabbis of Ukraine, to explain why he was closing the borders for Rosh



Hashana, and the same statement was also posted up<sup>69</sup> on the Ukrainian President's official site.<sup>70</sup>

At that stage, someone in the government decided to leak the story to the press that it was Gamzu, and not Netanyahu, who had written directly to Zelensky to ask him to close the borders to Jews on their way to Uman.<sup>71</sup>

## Israel's COVID-19 task force director apologizes for asking Ukraine to ban Uman visits

Ukraine to close border through September • National coronavirus coordinator Gamzu: "Here and there" the Israeli government allows political considerations to override health concerns.

*"(August 27, 2020 / JNS) Israel's national coronavirus project coordinator Ronni Gamzu apologized on Thursday for bypassing the country's political echelon and directly contacting Ukraine's President Volodymyr*

---

<sup>69</sup> <https://www.president.gov.ua/news/prezident-zaklikav-rabiniv-ukrayini-dopomogti-uniknuti-masov-63013>

<sup>70</sup> You can see a Ukrainian language news story here, that says: "Benjamin Netanyahu asked to close Uman for pilgrims from Israel. Ukraine has limited the possibility of Hasidim coming to Uman to celebrate Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year) **at the request of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu**. The decision was made as part of the fight against coronavirus. This was stated by President Volodymyr Zelensky at a meeting with the rabbis of Ukraine, the President's website reports." - <https://www.rbc.ua/rus/news/zelenskiy-obyasnil-reshenie-zakryt-umana-hasidov-1598369561.html>

<sup>71</sup> <https://hamodia.com/2020/08/25/netanyahu-denies-requested-ukraine-limit-uman-visitors/>

*Zelenskyy to ask that he bar Chassidic pilgrims from visiting the city of Uman in September.”<sup>72</sup>*

Whoever really wrote the letter, it had the desired aim, with the public broadcaster Kan stating that the letter was believed to have ‘played a major role’ in convincing Kiev to cancel Uman Rosh Hashana. That same week, the Ukrainian PM Denys Shmyhal said that his country would ban the entry of foreigners until the end of September, and that “mass events like the Uman pilgrimage” would be prohibited.



As the political storm in Israel continued to rage, with Minister Yaakov Litzman taking Gamzu to task for daring to contact the leader of a foreign country in his role as civil servant, Netanyahu put out a statement strongly supporting his hand-picked ‘Coronavirus Tzar’. Nobody was shocked.

Then at the beginning of September, barely 10 days before Rosh Hashana 5781, Likud Miki Zohar tweeted that Gamzu’s letter to the Ukraine - blaming Jews for spreading disease - had led to a massive uptick in antisemitism across the world.

Zohar tweeted:

*“Antisemitism has been increasing since Prof. Gamzu sent his letter to the president of Ukraine, which in fact states that corona-stricken Israelis endanger the*

---

<sup>72</sup> <https://www.jns.org/israels-covid-19-task-force-director-apologizes-for-asking-ukraine-to-ban-uman-pilgrimage/>

*Ukrainians...Needless to say, the delay in creating a plan for Uman continues to endanger many Jews.”<sup>73</sup>*

But worse was still to come. And the biggest fight to get across the border into Ukraine was only just beginning.



---

<sup>73</sup> <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/coalition-chair-accuses-covid-19-czar-of-causing-antisemitism-in-ukraine-640850>

## REMEMBER, AND DON'T FORGET

“The Rebbe was extremely insistent that we should come to him for Rosh Hashana. He said that on Rosh Hashana he wanted all his followers to be with him as one man. No one was to be absent. The strength of his insistence that we should be with him for Rosh Hashana is impossible to imagine.”

– Chayei Moharan, no.126



Even though Ukraine officially closed its borders to pilgrims coming to Uman on August 28, 2020, and even though the Israeli government continued to play hard-ball over traveling to Uman, thousands of people still believed that somehow, at the last minute, the gates to Uman would be re-opened.

So as the hospitality guys in Uman continued to put up their tents, and Uman's hotels and caterers continued to prepare for an influx of tens of thousands of pilgrims ahead of the High Holidays, thousands of Breslovers massed at the border of Ukraine, waiting for things to change.

Back in Israel, Netanyahu announced on September 13, 2020, that the government was imposing yet another three-week lockdown

on the country, to begin the day before Rosh Hashana - effectively cancelling the High Holidays.

With Rosh Hashana less than a week away, a lot of the optimism started to fade, and the mood in Uman itself became increasingly somber and subdued for the 2,000 people who'd already made it over the border. Following Gamzu's highly-publicized warning about 'disease-causing Jews' from Israel, big signs appeared in Uman's local shops, telling customers they had to mask up / social distance / wash their hands - all things that no-one else in Ukraine was doing.

Rebbe Nachman's Tziyon was taken over by a black metal, fast-moving 'snake' path, the only way the authorities would agree to let more people in for Rosh Hashana. The snake meant that pilgrims could spend less than a minute at the tomb itself, before being moved along.

Meanwhile, the same pernicious 'face masking mandatory' signs popped up all over the Tziyon, another import from the State of Israel.

The word in Uman was that the State of Israel had paid the Ukrainians a massive sum to bar the gathering in Uman, and the Breslov leaders were desperately seeking to raise enough cash to outbid the Israeli bribe and get the gates re-opened.



## **Gantz says Defense Ministry readying to quarantine returnees from Uman**

Yoav Zitun | 08.30.20 | 16:16



Listen to this article now

00:25



Powered by **Trinity Audio**

Defense Minister Benny Gantz told Israel's coronavirus czar Prof. Ronni Gamzu on Sunday that the Defense Ministry is preparing to house Israelis returning from Uman for Rosh Hashanah at special coronavirus hotels, in accordance with the framework that will be agreed on between him [Gamzu] and the cabinet.

While those in Uman worried about the unfriendly locals, the masses of Ukrainian soldiers and policeman hanging out on the main Pushkina Street, and the prospect of mandatory ‘coronavirus hotels’ when they finally got back to Israel, conditions for Jews stuck on the borders were infinitely worse.

Many people had spent a ton of cash, bought tickets, and flew to complicated destinations - only to be refused entry into Ukraine. Wherever you happened to be, the run-up to Rosh Hashana was hard that year. And nowhere more so than the borders of Ukraine and Belarus.



By September 15, 2020, thousands of pilgrims congregated in Belarussian border towns, including Brest, Pinsk, Radin and Minsk, with another 2,500 Breslovers standing by in the Belarussian town of Gomel. Most of them had been in Belarus for two weeks already but got stuck there when Israel pressured the Ukrainians to close their border.

They were still hanging on, still hoping to make it to Uman for Rosh Hashana. Conditions were cramped, expensive and difficult

for all the travellers - but then a ‘message’ circulated around the Jews in Gomel that some last-minute deal had been struck, and buses were waiting on the Ukrainian side of the border to take them to Uman.

A thousand Jews grabbed their bags and started walking across the no-man’s land toward the Ukrainian border. They were met by soldiers, tanks, and steel shields. No deal had been done. And now, they were stuck in no man’s land with no drinking water, no food, no shelter, and no toilets, as the government of Belarus refused to let them return to Gomel.

(There were unconfirmed rumors that a few people *did* manage to cross the border, but only if they were prepared to pay a bribe of \$3,000 a person.)

By September 15, they had been stuck in no-man’s land for two days already, waiting to see if Aryeh Deri’s letter to Zelensky, asking the Ukrainian President to let the pilgrims in for humanitarian reasons, would be answered.

It was: the answer was a resounding ‘no’.

Heart-wrenching pictures and videos started circulating showing of thousands of Jews who had been stuck outdoors for two days, including small children, with hardly any food or drink, and having to sleep in their clothes on the ground.

But there was also a lot of Rabbenu’s light, amid the darkness. Videos showed the tired and hungry *chassidim* continuing to dance, sing, and pray - for hours at a time. It was a stunning testimony to the power of Rabbenu and real *emuna* to keep a person going even in the hardest situations.

Eventually, Belarus's President Alexander Lukashenko ordered that humanitarian aid be given to the pilgrims stuck on the border and permitted those in no-man's land to re-enter the country.<sup>74</sup>



*Jewish children sleeping on the highway blocked by armored soldiers after hundreds of people were told to come quickly to the Belarus-Ukrainian where buses were waiting to bring them to Uman. In reality, only a handful of people were allowed on the buses (those who paid a bribe of thousands of dollars). Those who weren't allowed had no way to get back to a place of lodging before nightfall and were forced to spend the night sleeping on the street like dogs.*



---

<sup>74</sup> You can watch a video of the conditions many of the Jews stuck on the border in Belarus were facing here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v\\_2VY2DT\\_KU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v_2VY2DT_KU)



Jews across the world were shocked by the scenes unfolding in Belarus<sup>75</sup>, and thousands of people were loudly asking how come the Red Cross had to step in to help the pilgrims with basic food, water, and blankets? *Where was the State of Israel?!*

A few months earlier, Netanyahu himself had flown out to India to 'rescue' a young woman imprisoned for smuggling drugs. But now, here were four-year-olds sleeping out on the pavement in cold Belarus with no food - and the State of Israel didn't give a hoot.

Rubbing even more salt into the wound, at exactly the same time that the Israeli government was closing 'Red Uman', it worked hard to open hundreds of flights to 'Green Greece'.

According to the State of Israel's own travel advisory website, countries like Canada - population 38 million, COVID deaths: 9,179 - were 'Green' and Israelis could travel to these places. Even the UK - population 66.6 million, COVID deaths: 41,637 - was 'Green'.

But for some reason, the Ministry of Health decided that Ukraine - population 42 million, COVID deaths: 3,264 - should be marked 'Red' ahead of Rosh Hashana 5780 - even though their per capita deaths from COVID were way less than Canada's or the UK's...

It was hard for regular people to understand how Prof. Gamzu was so worried about infected religious Jews spreading Covid to 'Red

---

<sup>75</sup> You can see some of that coverage here: <https://umanshalom.co.il/news-page/%d7%91%d7%a6%d7%9c-%d7%94%d7%9e%d7%a9%d7%91%d7%a8-%d7%94%d7%94%d7%95%d7%9e%d7%a0%d7%99%d7%98%d7%a8%d7%99-%d7%9e%d7%90%d7%95%d7%aa-%d7%9e%d7%90%d7%a0%d7%a9-%d7%a0%d7%a9%d7%90%d7%a8%d7%95-%d7%94/>

Ukraine’, but unconcerned that infected secular Israelis could be doing the same thing in ‘Green Greece’. It looked like a double standard being applied, and that once again, the State of Israel was demonizing and persecuting religious Jews.



Here’s how the website ‘Uman Shalom’ reported the humanitarian disaster at the border with Belarus:

*“By morning, hundreds more Breslov devotees from Belarus had arrived at the border, where they’d been waiting for days, waiting for permission to leave the country. Meanwhile, the Ukrainian border guard began pouring in additional troops of army and police. The Ukrainian border commander personally came to the scene to monitor that no one would enter, and the situation there became very tense.*

*The National Secretariat [of Breslov] said: “**The State of Israel caused this chaos.** The full responsibility for the crisis we see rests with the government of Israel, its ministers and officials, who persecute Breslov’s followers and force them to stand at the borders, rejected as refugees on the way to fulfilling their religious faith under the instruction of their rabbi.”*



Rabbi Shimon Rubinstein was an eyewitness to events on the Belarus-Ukrainian border at Homel, in the days leading up to Rosh Hashana 2020. Here’s how he described what was unfolding there, as a few thousand Breslov *chassidim* waited for word that the way to Uman had been opened by the Ukrainian authorities.

*“What’s going on here now is that every Breslov chassid in the whole of Belarus is now gathered here. It started yesterday in the morning, and by afternoon, masses of people were arriving. We got here yesterday around nightfall. They loaded us on to coaches, making out that we were about to cross the border to Uman. So then, another few hundred chassidim also came to the border, under their own steam.*

*And then we saw opposite us Ukrainian guards, who were blocking the border crossing. And that’s when we understood that there was no agreement here. Everything they told us, it was all nonsense, that they’d made an agreement [with the Ukrainians] to let a few groups of Breslovers enter. Practically, in the evening yesterday, there weren’t even basic, minimal conditions here, for the people who were being prevented from crossing the border.*



*We worked the whole day to try to open the border via all sorts of different people, and all different ways. As everyone knows, the minister Aryeh Deri published a letter, where he asked the Ukrainian President Zelensky to agree to let the chassidim in.*

***We thought that something would open up here, but after that, the Israeli Ambassador to Ukraine, Mister Yoel Lyon, showed up here. He stood on the Ukrainian side of the border and tried to speak.***

*He began by telling us that it was possible to go back to Eretz Yisrael, without having to go into bidud*

(isolation) for 14 days. There was an uproar here, and people started to ridicule him, and to say things like 'Bibi go home', and 'Deri go home'. They simply didn't let him continue to speak.

***This is a real question, if he's saying that here, where there are around 1,000 people together [stuck in no-man's land between Belarus and Ukraine], no-one has to go into bidud when they get back to Israel.... So then the question is, is there really 'Corona'? Or there isn't really 'Corona'? This is a very interesting question.***

*How can a person take the responsibility to say something like this? But the point is, that people just shouldn't be allowed to get to Uman. There, that's where there is a problem with 'Corona', but apparently back in Israel, there is not the same problem."*



Rav Rubinstein went on to quote what another leading Breslov *mashpia*, Rav Yaakov Moshe Salmanovitch, was saying about the terrible situation on the Belarus border of Homel. He said:

***"Rav Yaakov Moshe Salmanovitch is staying here, in Belarus, and all the time he's saying this, all the time, that as long as they aren't freeing Rav Berland, the border won't be opened. He is saying this to anyone who speaks to him. Yesterday, he was here at the border, but didn't want to cross over [into no man's land]."***

*I understand he said publicly that he first wanted to check what was happening with Rav Berland.<sup>76</sup> It's like we've seen all along, that as long as the Rav is under lock and key, so too the whole of Breslov... [suffers along with him].”*

*But in the midst of the awful suffering and privation, including a lack of food, facilities and shelter, that saw even small children sleeping in exhaustion on the tarmac, in the cold, there was also some good that sprouted there in Homel.”*



Rav Rubinstein continues:

*“A lot of interesting things are happening here. People who already a few years weren't speaking to me, even just to say hello, even though we'd been good friends in the past - here, Rabbenu is bringing us together in this situation, even on the same bus.*

*Here, we are in each other's dalet amot, and all of a sudden, they need some help, so we end up talking to each other again. People who didn't want to be together, Rabbenu brought us to a situation where we have no choice except to be together. Because one person is helping the other, and so now, there is no separation between us.*

---

<sup>76</sup> Rav Berland was at a court hearing in Jerusalem that same day, deliberating on whether to free him, at least to house arrest. The judges even refused to release the Rav to house arrest.

*Something else important to stress is this: Rav Berland said last week that there was no longer any point travelling [to Uman], because the Ukrainians would stand against us like a ‘wall of steel’.*

*And truly, we are seeing here armored vehicles, like a ‘wall of steel’. Maybe, they are worrying we are going to attack them, or something. These vehicles can absorb the impact from rocket propelled missiles... There are rows and rows of soldiers standing here, with steel shields. It’s simply a ‘wall of steel’.”<sup>77</sup>*



While R' Rubinstein and the thousands of Breslovers in Belarus and at other borders around the Ukraine, continued to hope that the way to Uman would open before Rosh Hashana, the hoped-for miracle didn't appear.

---

<sup>77</sup> Read the original Hebrew here: <https://www.shuvubanimint.com/rabbi-salmanovich-and-rabbi-rubinstein-how-to-open-the-border-of-ukraine/>

Rav Berland continued to sit in jail. And in the meantime, life continued to be challenging for the 2,000 Breslovers who got to Uman shortly before the 'steel wall' marched into place.



The first day of Rosh Hashana in Uman, 4-5 different pamphlets suddenly appeared on the ground of Pushkina, where they'd been dumped, 'mailshot' style.



This a free translation of what they said:

*\*Voted for Shas or Gimmel (United Torah Judaism)?  
You got Bibi and Gamzu, who chased after, with  
anti-semitism and cruelty, the Rosh Hashana of  
Rabbenu in Uman. Breslov chassid: remember, and  
don't forget!*

*\*On the way to Uman for Rosh Hashana 5781: Thousands of Breslov chassidim experienced 20 days of exile and suffering in Belarus. And the 'chareidi' leaders in the Knesset, Deri, Litzman and Porush, stayed silent. The chareidi newspapers, HaDerech, HaMevasar, HaModia, totally and utterly ignored the antisemitic persecution of Breslov Chassidut. Until when?? Breslov chassid: remember, and don't forget!*

*\* Myriads of Breslov Chassidim are pointing an accusing finger against the Chareidi parties who abandoned us and our request to fulfill the will of Rabbenu, our teacher, his merit should protect us, amen, to come to him on Rosh Hashana. And even, [they] joined with the wicked, cruel, antisemitic persecution, without parallel, at the hands of Bibi Netanyahu and the members of his government. It won't be forgotten, and it won't be forgiven!*

*\* Deri, Litzman and Porush! Myriads of Breslov Chassidim have a pained, broken, and ripped heart, from the decrees of Netanyahu and Gamzu. How could you totally ignore what was going on? Breslov chassid: Remember, and don't forget!*



But a few months earlier, R' Avraham Stern had clearly told us: ***"If we don't get Rabbi Berland out of prison, then Am Yisrael will be in a huge problem!"***

And R' Menashe Amon had clearly told us:

*"We hear about this Tzaddik, who is atoning for us, and accepting such disgrace upon himself, the most*



*difficult things imaginable, and we sit here with folded hands. Do we still believe what the media people are telling us?!”*

For as long as the government, and the government-sponsored media, had only been demonizing and persecuting Rav Berland and his community, nobody cared. But now, more and more people are starting to understand that *the State of Israel doesn't like religious Jews...*and it will pull any number of dirty tricks, and run any number of slanderous stories, to keep people away from the path of *teshuva* and Torah observance.



When some of the dust settled after ‘the Rosh Hashana that got cancelled’, another well-known Breslov mashpia, R Mota Frank Shlit”a, publicized a sharp message on behalf of the Admor of Toldos Avraham Yitzchak, together with Rabbi Moshe Brandsdorfer, Av Beis Din of Heichel Hora’a Yerushalayim, explaining why Israel was struck with ‘coronavirus’, and why the road to Uman was closed that year.<sup>78</sup>

R’ Mota Frank said:

*“Barriers to Uman started happening two years ago, then already problems at the borders started. Everyone who came to the borders would get sent back, but they didn’t realize it was a hint from shemayim; “Guys! We are trying to wake you up!”*

---

<sup>78</sup> You can read a full translation of his words here: <https://ravberland.com/why-the-road-to-uman-is-closed-the-rebbe-of-toldos-avraham-yitzchak-and-rabbi-moshe-brandsdorfer-in-a-message-to-breslov-chas-sidim/>

*Then, problems began happening at the Tzyion of Rebbe Nachman during the middle of the year, people were concerned about what will be by Rosh Hashana, and they made all kinds of preparations so the road would remain open.*

*Last year they gave us another year, but all the controversy and talk continued – I was not in heaven, I'm not going to say clear things, but **Breslov is facing a difficult reality today, everything must be taken with a cheshbon nefesh.** I am not coming to give mussar to anyone....*

***You told an 83-year-old Jew to be in prison, to be locked up – so you are also locked up. You locked him up, you caused that to happen to Rabbi Berland, a man who did a lot for the Tziyon of Rebbe Nachman.***

*Those ungrateful ones will answer me now: ‘What? Rav Berland didn’t do anything’. There are those who say that. They are like the deniers of the holocaust. They say, ‘The opposite, he just messed things up’. But from shemayim they are saying, ‘What, you don’t want to be grateful? The person did so much for so many years!’*

***You have arguments against him, you have complaints with him, that’s your business, but even in dispute there is a way to disagree.”***



R' Frank continues:

*I met Rabbi Moshe Bransdorfer on Friday. He asked me, what is happening to you Breslovers? Are you all so*

*blind? There was a mess with Corona. They said: 'It has nothing to do with us, it is a mess all over the world'. But Corona came exactly when you caused R' Laizer Berland to go to jail. 'It has nothing to do with us!' Hashem comes and tells you: 'Now I will show it to you even closer'.*

*Not only did He take some souls from you. Some important people, Rabbi Karmel and other Breslov mashpiim passed away suddenly ... He tried to arouse you. 'You do not understand? Okay, so I will close Uman. Now do you understand?! Now do you realize that it is all happening for you?!'*

**He asked me, "What do they not understand??"**



R' Frank continues:

*"[Rav Brandsdorfer] told me that he spoke with the Rebbe of Toldos Avraham Yitzchak. He asked the Rebbe what was going on in the world? The Rebbe of Avraham Yitzchak replied: "The time of redemption is awakening, and just as exile was due to sinas chinam, the Sitra Achra now arouses sinas chinam in order to spoil the geula."*

*Rabbi Brandsdorfer asked the Rebbe, is there more sinas chinam today than ever before?*

*The Rebbe from Toldos Avraham Yitzchak answered: Yes, and I will give you two examples: the story of Rabbi Steinman, and the story of Rabbi Berland'.*

*There was controversy in all of Israel, but there is a way to make a machlokes. “You are allowed to go your own way, and strengthen the one who goes your way, but to make machlokes against the other in the most severe language that can be, and humiliate him at the most severe level, this does not strengthen your path.”*



R' Frank continues:

*‘You humiliate the other, it is sinas chinam’, says Rabbi Brandsdorfer. He’s a well-respected Rabbi and posek. But in fact, there is a good hint here from our holy Rebbe Reb Nachman.*

*Rabbenu... brings the Gemara about Rabbi Eliezer, who was asked if he likes the suffering.... Hashem says to him: ‘If you find that the suffering is not agreeable to you then I will take it away from you.’*

*The first thing the Rebbe is implying here is: **do not speak any words against anyone.** If you already failed? They already closed Uman on you? You cannot go out now? Accept on yourself a thought of teshuva, regret, each person about his own affairs. ‘Why did I think badly about the other person? Why did I speak badly about the other person? Why did I do bad things to the other person?’...*

*We need ahavas chinam instead of sinas chinam, especially when it comes to Kibbutz in Uman. Learn Lesson 13<sup>79</sup>, “The Kibbutz of Rosh Hashanah” ...*

---

<sup>79</sup> Likutey Moharan I:13.

*The matter of Rosh Hashanah is inclusion and coming together in union, love, affection, peace and harmony. Through these ingredients the Tzaddik has the power to raise us up and perform tikkunim.*

*“But, if, God forbid, you do not want to be included, and vice versa - you even make machlokes, and you cause separations.... This is the most serious crime! That is why **there is a tradition that whoever makes machlokes in Breslov passes away, rachmana litzlan.**”<sup>80</sup>*



The message was crystal clear: remember what had been done to Rav Berland by the Israeli authorities; remember the enormous cost and danger of promoting strife between Jews and spreading slanders about real Tzaddikim, and ignoring the huge disgrace done to the Tzaddik - and make the necessary *teshuva!*

Because otherwise, Rebbe Nachman was going to make sure that no-one would be able to forget.



---

<sup>80</sup> You can listen to R Mota Frank in the original Hebrew, here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hNVVM3Xd0rI>

## ORDERS FROM HIGH PLACES

*A physician may use many hazardous treatments and still be totally ignorant of their effect. It is not surprising that they often do more damage than good. Why depend on a cure when it is most likely to cause harm?... “Doctors are agents of death and do little more. Happy is the man who avoids them and depends on God alone.”*

– Rebbe Nachman’s Wisdom



**B**ack in Israel, Rosh Hashana 5781 was also very challenging, as the government instituted more rules and restrictions to make it all but impossible to pray with a minyan, inside a shul.

But with Uman Rosh Hashana off the table, hundreds of the Rav’s followers decided that they would put their energies into spending Rosh Hashana with their Rebbe, Rav Berland, in the shadow of Tzalmon Prison, between Tiberius and Tzfat.<sup>81</sup>

Apart from the logistics required to arrange outdoor services and accommodations in tents that met Health Ministry legalities--a

---

<sup>81</sup> <https://ravberland.com/rosh-hashana-in-the-shadow-of-tzalmon/>

formidable task, all by itself--there was another complication: the prison authority tricks...

Even though the Rav was 83 years old and in extremely frail health, over the course of Elul the prison authorities kept moving the Rav around, requiring him to spend long hours travelling in very harsh conditions.

At the beginning of the month of Elul 5780, the Rav was in Tzalmon Prison, near the Kinneret. Then, the prison service moved the Rav down to Ramle prison, in the center of the country, for two weeks. And then, just three days before Rosh Hashana, they moved the Rav back up to Tzalmon again.

The man trying to organize Rosh Hashana close to the Rav, Aaron Schwartz, explained that he'd spent many weeks working out the logistics ahead of Rosh Hashana 5781, that would enable hundreds of the Rav's followers to spend the holiday close to Ayalon Prison, while respecting all the legalities.

Then, when the authorities unexpectedly moved the Rav down to Ramle Prison at the last moment, R' Schwartz had to rearrange everything for the new location in Ramle.

Then, when the Rav was unexpectedly moved back to Tzalmon with just three days to go before Rosh Hashana, this nearly broke R' Schwartz. But he pulled himself together, and with enormous *mesirut nefesh* (self-sacrifice), he managed to arrange for most of the amenities to be moved back up to Tzalmon, in time for the *chag*.

There were trailers for those who wanted them, tents for others, air-conditioning, and even synthetic grass to try and make a more comfortable atmosphere for the hundreds of people who

spent Rosh Hashana with the Tzaddik, in the shadow of Tzalmon Prison.



Despite the organizers' best efforts, it was still hot, it was still lacking the amenities of home – yet the atmosphere was electric, and it was a powerful spiritual experience for everyone who came. Many of the participants said afterwards that they could feel the Rav's presence praying with them.<sup>82</sup> This gave people a lot of chizzuk to face the ongoing challenges the new year was going to bring.



But while everyone was hoping to just put the 'coronavirus pandemic' behind them, already, the Government and the Ministry of Health had a very different plan in mind.

---

<sup>82</sup> You can watch the clip here: <https://youtu.be/6hdHle-q-88>



As the year progressed, more and more people got sick and tired of being fined hundreds of shekels for not masking up outside, or thousands of shekels for going to a beach or trying to hold a small wedding. Social media filled up with videos that showed police violently assaulting people who refused to wear a mask, or arresting women in the local supermarket, or violently beating a bridegroom on the day of his wedding.

After Bnei Brak was closed down for two weeks, followed by exclusively chareidi neighborhoods in Jerusalem and other chareidi cities, there was a growing sense of anger on the *street* that the ‘anti-corona’ restrictions were quickly morphing into ‘anti-chareidi’ and ‘anti-Torah’ restrictions.

The anger was starting to reach boiling point, when Netanyahu’s government extended the three-week lockdown over Rosh Hashana another week, until October 20, 2020 - effectively ruining the festival of Sukkot.



At this point, a strange ‘fractured reality’ appeared in the State of Israel. In places and communities where people believed the news and were scared of ‘catching corona’, everyone dutifully masked up, social distanced, and did whatever the Ministry of Health decreed.

But in many *chareidi* neighborhoods all over Israel and around the world, the Jewish belief that *Ein Od Milvado*, and the only thing to fear was Hashem, and not some virus, meant that many people were ignoring instructions to ‘social distance’ and stop getting married and using mikvas and praying with minyans.

And for a government bent on micro-managing every detail of its citizens' lives, this was a real problem.



Beginning November, the media was full of more horror stories about the 'Alpha' and 'Beta' super-infectious variants of Covid. Then by December 2020, international travel was banned once again by Israel, while on December 19, 2020 - just three short days before he dissolved the Knesset again to call another round of elections - PM Netanyahu appeared on Israeli TV, apparently the first person in the country to be vaccinated with the totally experimental 'mRNA' Covid shots from Pfizer.

Many in the religious world - and in other communities, too - had some valid concerns about this new, untried, experimental mRNA technology in the Covid shots, that had been 'rushed through' the regulatory process by its makers, with a wink and a nod from their buddies in the FDA.

Rav Berland was in prison, and out of reach from his community. Many other rabbis actively pushed the Covid shots. Some had obvious links with the government, and didn't have the necessary gravitas or reputation to persuade large swathes of the *chareidi* world that these experimental vaccines were really okay.

There was so much uncertainty, so much fear and anxiety, so much confusion....

Starting December, the government and the Ministry of Health decided they needed to help the religious community out of its distrust and confusion about the mRNA shots. And they knew just exactly how to do that.



On December 21, 2020, a video went viral on Youtube of the Degel HaTorah MK Yitzhak Pindrus, arriving at Shaarei Tzedek hospital in Jerusalem to get his Covid-19 vaccine. The description box underneath the video says the following:

*“[P]rior to getting vaccinated, Pindrus spoke with Hagaon HaRav Chaim Kanievsky about the vaccine, and whether a person should take it.*

*Pindrus asked HaRav Kanievsky whether it is ‘permissible’ to take the vaccine or if a person is ‘obligated’ to take the vaccine? HaRav Chaim answered that it’s a Chiyuv of “Hishtadlus” to take the vaccine, and not “an option”.*

*Pindrus then asked HaRav Chaim about the fear some people have regarding what unknown damage it can cause in the future. To which Rav Chaim responded, “tell them not to be afraid.”<sup>83</sup>*



And just like that, a huge chunk of the government’s problem with getting the *chareidi* public to trust them, and to buy into their Covid 19 vaccination campaign, disappeared.

On December 22, 2020, PM Netanyahu used the budget loophole in the rotation agreement he’d made with Benny Gantz to dissolve the Knesset and call new elections before Gantz could take over as Prime Minister.

---

<sup>83</sup> Watch this video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CGtrBvj3wOU>

Meanwhile, just to make sure that any ‘vaccine hesitancy’ would disappear, the State of Israel announced a third national lockdown would begin on December 27, 2020 -this time, ruining the holiday of Chanuka.

Schools were shuttered again, people were banned from visiting their friends or ‘another person’s home’; nasal swabbing for ‘Covid-19’ was required, while weddings, brits and funerals were again limited to 10 people or less.

Meanwhile, more voices arose, questioning why Israelis were being used as the world’s guinea pigs for these experimental, never-before-tested mRNA shots. And there were also some suggestions - quickly squashed - that *maybe, just maybe, Rav Chaim hadn’t made such a clear psak din about the Covid shots after all?*

Thursday, December 31, 2020

### Video: Rav Chaim Kanievsky Reiterates his Position on Taking Covid Vaccine

In a video taken yesterday Rav Chaim is told that there are rumors both in Chutz Laaretz and in Eetz Yisrael in his name that he has retracted on his initial psak to take the vaccine if and has now said that it is dangerous and one should not take it. Rav Chaim dispels the rumors and said that his position remains that one can take the shot and not need to worry about it.

84

From the comments:

**Anonymous** December 31, 2020 at 12:43 PM

Rav chaim told people privately not to get the vaccine

**Reply**

---

<sup>84</sup> <https://hefkervelt.blogspot.com/2020/12/video-rav-chaim-kanievsky-reiterates.html>

Anonymous December 31, 2020 at 12:52 PM

weird

why can't rav chaim issue a letter stating his opinion clearly like every other rov in the past 1000 years why does his opinion have to come from fuzzy clips and videos

Reply



The back and forth about what Rav Chaim really said would continue throughout all of 2021.

This headline is from August 2021:<sup>85</sup>

### BREAKING NEWS


## Rabbi Kanievsky on COVID vaccine: Target populations must get booster shot

By JERUSALEM POST STAFF Published: AUGUST 2, 2021 21:06



Listen to this article now

 Powered by Trinity Audio

00:00



Prominent Haredi leader Rabbi Haim Kanievsky instructed his followers, as well as the head of the Haredi Department at Clalit Health Services, to administer the third coronavirus booster shot to the target populations on Monday.

Rabbi Kanievsky met with Dr. Eyal Jacobson, Health Director of Dan PT District at Clalit, along with several others, who presented Kanievsky with details regarding the new booster initiative. After hearing the recommendations, the rabbi decreed that the vaccination should be taken, stressing that the elderly and people at risk must get the shot.

And this headline is from November 2021, when Israel had begun offering Covid 19 shots to children:<sup>86</sup>

<sup>85</sup> <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/rabbi-kanievsky-on-covid-vaccine-target-populations-must-get-booster-shot-675662>

<sup>86</sup> <https://vinnews.com/2021/11/25/rav-chaim-we-must-vaccinate-children/>



Health Israel Jewish Politics

## Rav Chaim: ‘We Must Vaccinate Children’

November 25, 2021 2:46 pm

The article informed readers that:

*BNEI BRAK (VINnews) — On Thursday, HaGaon HaRav Chaim Kanievsky instructed parents to vaccinate children, aged five and above, against COVID-19.*

*Rav Chaim came to that conclusion after meeting with top health officials at his home, amid a growing concern in Israel about a potential new wave.*

*The meeting was attended by Professor Ran Balicer, Chair of Israel’s National Experts Panel on COVID-19; Coronavirus Czar Professor Salman Zarka; and the Rav’s personal physician, Dr. Meshulam Hart.*

*The experts presented the latest data, including a recent increase in cases, as well the approval by the U.S. FDA to administer the Pfizer vaccine to kids aged five and over.*

*Rav Kanievsky examined the data with a specific focus on safety. He questioned whether the benefits and effectiveness of vaccinating children outweigh the risks associated with the vaccine, before arriving at the conclusion that children should be vaccinated.*

*In a video of the meeting, the Rav was asked by his grandson if people “are able to” give the vaccine to children, or if “they must”. He replied, “They must.”*



We will leave others to decide whether Rav Chaim, ztztl, was really giving this *psak din*, the way the chareidi media, and other propaganda sites that receive a lot of money from the government and pharmaceutical companies, claimed.

But the following comment that appeared on a different news site clearly captured just how confused and sensitive matters had become, regarding what Rav Chaim’s *psak din* really was:

---

**Try again** December 23, 2021 8:06 pm At 8:06 pm

@Yosef

I am sorry, but you got your numbers completely wrong. The data coming from major medical centers, and healthcare facilities shows exactly the opposite. Having one’s own facts that conform to one’s beliefs and opinions isn’t an option.

---

**conflicting data** December 23, 2021 10:10 pm At 10:10 pm

Peoples opinions about this vaccine are formed based on the data they have access to. I have seen very contradictory data, censored data, manipulated data and false data. At this point it’s hard to deny that there are serious risks with these vaccines unless you have access to NO data (so go to medalerts.org and start looking).

If you go to R’ Chaim yourself with all the relevant risk information and then get your personal psak, then by all means take the vaccine. Until then, you have a video that is easily edited and manipulated to follow. Unfortunately/fortunately many people in our communities are not aware of how advanced video editing is today. You could superimpose a person’s face on an actor and make him look like he’s doing anything. You can certainly make it sound like he’s saying anything you want him to be saying. You have no idea if he was even informed of the risks at all. Hashem should protect everyone.

---

These same arguments, discussions and questions were playing out across the Jewish world - and across the world generally.

In the meantime, the Rav remained behind bars, and unable to render any public *psak* about the benefits and the risks of the Covid shots. It's hard to believe that was just a coincidence.

Then, in August 2021, an article appeared on the 'emes.news' site called 'Orders from High Places'.<sup>87</sup> The article described a meeting between a group of women, including one who'd suffered terrible medical injuries since being injected with the Covid shots five months' earlier, and Rebbetzin Kolodetsky, the daughter of the late Rav Kanievsky.

The author explains that:

*"We introduced the woman injured by the vaccine – she cannot function today for more than ten minutes without having to lie down after wards. This woman only took the vaccine after a friend sent her the video of Rav Chaim saying to vaccinate. We showed the Rebbetzin the reports from VAERS of the injured and dead amongst only the 12-17 age group. She seemed genuinely shocked by what we were telling her.*

*The Rebbetzin asked us, "How can this be? Why can't you tell this to the Ministry of Health? Do they know this information?" She told us that she has no knowledge and was only doing what she was told to do – to tell people to vaccinate." We asked her. "Who told you?" She replied that her personal family doctor, Dr. Hardt, told her and that she goes after her father, Rav Chaim.*

---

<sup>87</sup> Readers are encouraged to view the full article here: <https://www.emes.news/news/orders-from-high-places/>



*We asked her if she could pass on this information to her father and she answered, “No, I can’t, because my father is ‘out of it.’ He barely recognizes me, and barely says anything.” **We were left wondering how it was possible that serious and far-reaching psakim were being said in his name...**”*



# THE WINTER OF DISCONTENT

## THE SECRET OF THE PRAYER FOR MASHIACH

*“There is a secret among the hidden tzaddikim, but because we are close to his coming and Mashiach needs the strength of the Jewish people, it’s therefore possible to reveal the secret. We’re talking about an order of chapters of Tehillim which King David said about all the wars which he went through. He went through endless wars all his life spiritually and physically.*

*“There are chapters the Tzaddikim know that David put into them awesome intentions, that he intended with this the wars Mashiach would wage in the world until the revelation of redemption. When saying them in a particular order, it gives to Mashiach awesome power to work what he needs to do in the world.*

***“The chapters that the hidden tzaddikim say for the success of Mashiach are: 31, 35, 36, 60, 68, 80, 83, 88, 89, 109. If we intend in prayer to give strength to Mashiach, he receives from this awesome strength.*** Because the power of Mashiach is the spiritual power that he needs to receive from us, as is written in chapter 2 of Likutey Moharan, that the main weapon of Mashiach is prayer.

*“At the end of that chapter it’s written that the Jewish people pray so much and don’t see salvation. Therefore, they err in thinking that the prayers don’t help. But this isn’t so. The tzaddikim take another prayer... until through an overwhelming number of prayers [God’s] mercy is aroused, and until the time of the redemption, what the prayers worked will be unseen.*

*“It’s written in Kochvey Or that the simple people who say Tehilim will place the crown on Mashiach. **The person who prays for Mashiach gains a lot more than one who prays for himself, because the role of Mashiach is to rectify all the souls, but he needs to find a good point in the person. He needs to find an ‘excuse’ to help the person. With the prayers of each individual he can say, ‘Here, Ploni prayed for me; I owe him and have to help him.’**”*

*“Mashiach needs our prayers in order to help each person. In Heaven, they expect each Jew and Jewess to join the prayers for Mashiach. We all need Mashiach and if no one prays for him it could arouse an accuser — where are the Jewish people? Why don’t they pray for Mashiach?*

***“If we pray for Mashiach, he prays for us; and every Jew who prays for Mashiach, Mashiach prays for him. This itself prevents decrees.***

*“The moment we pray for Mashiach, he doesn’t need to pray for himself, and he’s free to pray for the Jewish people... It’s impossible to describe how important this is in Heaven every time that Jews gather together to pray for Mashiach — this is part of the process of redemption. It’s written in Pirkey Hechalot Rabati that when the time of redemption arrives, [people] gather together — men, women, children — and request great mercy... This is part of the process of redemption, the wheels on which Mashiach rides...*

*“Only the hidden tzaddikim know the level of Rav Berland.”*

**– From an interview given on the Breslov Line,  
shortly after Lag BaOmer, 5781**



**I**t was hard to stay optimistic, as 2020 turned into 2021. So many Jewish holidays ruined by lockdowns, so many mitzvot ‘banned’, Uman cancelled, schools closed, whole communities under siege - and amidst it all, the Rav continued to sit in jail.

In January 2021, Rav Berland's lawyers had been working hard on putting together another plea bargain that appeared to be the only way of getting the elderly Tzaddik out of prison, and properly cared for.

Like his last arrest, the prosecution was just holding the Rav in prison, indefinitely, without going to trial - because they had no real evidence against him that would stand up in court.

So it was, that the Rav's lawyers were trying to get a 'plea bargain' agreed, as they knew that was the Rav's only route out of indefinite detention. The deal was very close to being inked when the misnamed Ministry of Justice, under Likud MK Amir Ohana, put the *kibosh* on it.

One of the people close to the Rav explained:

*“The Ministry of Justice just cancelled the plea bargain of the Rav **due to media pressure.***

*“It’s an unheard-of thing, that lawyers from both sides agree to a plea bargain but the Justice Ministry itself gets involved saying outright that it’s because of media pressure.”*



At the same time, the Israeli police were continuing their war against the Tzaddik's family, this time opening another investigation into one of the Rav's daughters, for the 'crime' of acting as a go-between for doing a *pidyon nefesh* with the Rav.

But Hashem always puts the 'balm' into the world before the 'blow', so at the same time as restrictions were ratcheting up again,

and it seemed that the Rav would never get out of prison, and that the ‘coronavirus pandemic’ would never go away, the Rav revealed a new set of 10 specific tehillim, called the Pirchei Nivrachim, or ‘Chosen Chapters’.

The person who publicized the Pirchei Nivrachim to the Rav’s English-speaking followers explained:

*...[T]he only thing that will keep us sane is holding on to the Tzaddik by reading daily:*

*The Tikkun HaKlali (preferably, seven times a day, but even if we have no kavana at all, just reading it does the job,*

*And the new series of Tehillim he just revealed (31, 35, 36, 60, 68, 80, 83, 88, 89, 109)*

And by reading the Rav’s prayers.”

In the back of the Pirchei Nivrachim booklet put out by Shuvu Banim, there is more explanation about what these special 10 chapters really are, and how they came to be revealed in the world.

There it’s written that:

*“More than 20 years ago (in the year 5759), Morenu HaRav, shlit’a, revealed the true spiritual level of these 10 chapters of tehillim to a few of his individual students.*

*A year and a half ago, (in the year 5779 [June 2019]), the Rav asked us to print them and distribute them all over the place. And when we asked the Rav ‘how should we call these chapters?’, he replied: Pirchei Nivrachim.*

*Immersing in a mikvah and reciting the Tikkun HaKlali is the rectification that Rebbe Nachman of Breslov revealed, to rectify the sin of of pgam mikreh lilah (nocturnal emissions). On the other hand, the Pirchei Nivrachim save a person from sin... by purifying his thoughts and removing all the garbage and tumah (spiritual impurity) and the poison and ‘rust’ from his mind....*

*The words pgam habrit have the same gematria as Pirchei Nivrachim, which take a person out of the pgam and save him from it.*



*“Rebbe Nachman of Breslov also revealed the Pirchei Nivrachim to Morenu HaRav. This is what we were told by the kabbalist Rabbi David HaKohen of Jerusalem, who said that this is what the Rav told him. (The words Pirchei Nivrachim also have the same gematria as Rabbenu Nachman Mi’Breslov.)*



*“The 10 chapters of the Tikkun HaKlali are equated to the 10 fingers of the Sixth Beggar<sup>88</sup>, who is called the beggar ‘who has no hands’. He heals the princess from [spiritual] weakness via the holy niggunim he plays with his hands.*

*“And these 10 chapters of the Pirchei Nivrachim are equated to the 10 toes of the Seventh Begger, who is*

---

<sup>88</sup> See Sipurey Ma’asiot, Rebbe Nachman’s Stories, the tale of the Seven Beggars.

called the beggar 'who has no feet'. He heals the prince from fallen Emunah, via dancing and jumping with his holy legs.<sup>89</sup>



*"The Pirchei Nivrachim are very beneficial for helping a person make teshuva over his very difficult sins, and help a person rediscover his emuna, and to renew his joy and enthusiasm for serving Hashem.*

*"The Pirchei Nivrachim help a person to rectify all his gilgulim (previous lives), back to the sin of Adam HaRishon.*



*"Moranu HaRav told us that each person should say these chapters at least once a week, and on another occasion, he said 'on Shabbat'.*

*"On another occasion, the Rav told us that we need to recite these chapters [because] 'Chapters of tehillim [fight] against machloket.' It seems so, because they talk about the battles that the Tzaddik fought with his enemies and persecutors, both spiritual and physical.*

*"And so, reading them protects a person, saves him from opposing the True Tzaddikim, and gives the Tzaddik strength to win all his battles...*



---

<sup>89</sup> See Kochavei Or, 'Truth and Emuna', Number 15.

*“Many thousands of people across the country and around the whole world received these Pirchei Nivrachim and are reading them regularly. Many told us that they experienced tremendous rejuvenation from reading these chapters.*



Again, it’s interesting to notice the timing. The Pirchei Nivrachim were first revealed two decades ago, but the Rav didn’t want them publicized - until June 2019, a few short months before ‘Covid 19’ would explode across the world and leave people in dire need of spiritual healing.

This was another ‘spiritual remedy’ that the Rav had prepared and set aside for the coming ‘corona pandemic’, many months and years in advance. In the meantime, governments all over the world were aggressively pushing what they claimed was the only way back to a normal life: shots, shots, and more shots.



By January 13, 2021, 10% of Israelis had lined up for their first shots in the first week of the ‘Give a Shoulder’ Covid vaccine campaign, sponsored in every sense of the word, by Pfizer.

But the ‘Winter of Discontent’ continued to roil, particularly on the Chareidi Street. On January 25, 2021, a riot broke out between the police and yeshiva students in Bnei Brak, over the never-ending Covid restrictions.



According to the Washington Post:

*“The unrest has been growing in recent weeks as police have stepped up enforcement within insular ultra-Orthodox communities, which traditionally resist government authority. On Friday, protesters attacked a police vehicle patrolling Bnei Brak.”*<sup>90</sup>

For months, the ‘anti-chareidi’ media and Ministry of Health had been running slanted stories based on faked data claiming that the religious community in Israel were most to blame for the spread of Covid.

For months, the government had been forcing large families of religious Jews to stay cooped up in small apartments, unable to leave, unable to learn Torah, on the back of yet more faked data and scaremongering reports in the media.<sup>91</sup>

Now, as the vaccine campaign kicked off in Israel, the Government, Ministry of Health, and media understood they were going to have a real issue getting the *chareidi* public to play ball, because these communities, understandably, ‘*traditionally resist government authority*.’

And what the government couldn’t achieve by fear-mongering and fake news, it was only too happy to try and achieve by force.

---

<sup>90</sup> [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle\\_east/ultra-orthodox-israel-police-covid/2021/01/25/2438e840-5ee3-11eb-a177-7765f29a9524\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/ultra-orthodox-israel-police-covid/2021/01/25/2438e840-5ee3-11eb-a177-7765f29a9524_story.html)

<sup>91</sup> [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle\\_east/as-virus-spikes-among-ultra-orthodox-israel-deploys-security-forces-to-make-them-stay-home/2020/03/31/94245adc-71f3-11ea-ad9b-254ec99993bc\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/as-virus-spikes-among-ultra-orthodox-israel-deploys-security-forces-to-make-them-stay-home/2020/03/31/94245adc-71f3-11ea-ad9b-254ec99993bc_story.html)

As the religious leaders and civil authorities worked hard to restore order in Bnei Brak, Avraham Rubinstein, the Mayor, had this to say:

*“It’s with a sad pain that we say out loud that the Israeli police and its leaders are to blame for the catastrophe that has been taking place in our city for several days.”*

First, the police had come for Rav Berland at dawn, dragging him out of his shul with maximum cruelty and brutality, in the middle of a Torah lesson. And now.... religious communities all over the country were getting the same treatment.



By February 2021, the anti-lockdown unrest had spread more widely across the country - and again, the flash points were occurring in predominantly *chareidi* locations.

According to a report on the Times of Israel site:

*“Hundreds of ultra-Orthodox men gathered in the capital’s Shabbat Square in the Mea Shearim neighborhood to protest the lockdown rules aimed at curbing a high rate of coronavirus infections, especially restrictions against opening schools... The demonstrators packed together tightly and almost none wore face masks.”<sup>92</sup>*

When this same Meah Shearim community shunned the Rav’s followers and expelled their children from schools and supported the very flawed ‘psak from Bnei Brak’ against Rav Berland and Shuvu Banim, they probably had no idea that less than six months

---

<sup>92</sup> <https://www.timesofisrael.com/hundreds-of-ultra-orthodox-lock-down-protesters-clash-with-police-in-jerusalem/>

later, they would be the ones fighting to keep their schools and institutions open. It was yet another stunning example of *midda kneged midda*.



By March 22, 2020, things came to a head, and the chareidi media was full of images of chareidim and chassidim roughed up by police on the streets of Meah Shearim, as garbage bins burned, and tempers frayed and flared on both sides.<sup>93</sup>

As the demonstrations continued, the police wheeled out their water cannons to disburse the angry crowds. But the people pushing the vaccines understood a clear lesson, that the chareidi public was not just going to roll over and do everything the Ministry of Health wanted.

Not unless something very dramatic occurred, that would crush opposition from the Chareidi street.

In the meantime, on February 21, 2021, Rav Berland was released to house arrest, on grounds of his increasingly fragile health.

The court ordered the Rav to constantly wear electronic handcuffs, and also post the astronomical sum of 1.2 million NIS as bail. Shuvu Banim organized a campaign asking all the Rav's followers to contribute at least 10 shekels, and within three days the amount was raised.

But the court wasn't done with its special conditions for releasing the Rav to house arrest. They also ordered that he should stay in a secret location with two supervisors (not part of the Shuvu Banim

---

<sup>93</sup> <https://vinnews.com/2020/03/22/police-attacked-as-they-enforce-health-ministry-directives-in-meah-shearim/>

community, who hadn't had any prior contact with the Rav) and a security company that he had to pay for himself.

And last but certainly not least, the court banned the Rav from having any direct or indirect contact with his followers - including forbidding him from giving any shiurim via the telephone, as he'd been doing until this point.



On February 21, 2021, the Ministry of Health introduced the 'Green Passport' proof of vaccination status - and overnight, Israel turned into a country that was practising 'vaccine apartheid'. But even while it was claiming 'victory over corona', the Government was still mandating masks for everyone, and swabs and PCR tests in schools and airports.

To the careful observer, there were many clues that 'the pandemic' and its restrictions were not over yet, not by a long way. Just the restrictions had gone from tyrannical, full throttle 'lockdowns' (mirroring the Rav's imprisonment in jail), to less invasive, but still horrible and restrictive measures (mirroring the Rav's slightly improved condition under house arrest).

Israel went into lockdown a fortnight after Rav Berland was arrested. And the country was only going to come out of the restrictions and 'coronavirus' madness when the Rav was well and truly free. What happened next really underlined this.



At the beginning of April, 2021, some of Rabbi Berland's followers discovered that he was staying at the home of a distant family member in Zichron Yaakov, and from a sense of tremendous

yearning to be close to their Rebbe, they started to come to the house where he was staying.

Even though the crowds of people were small, and even though a great effort was made to keep the gatherings as quiet and low-key as possible, as soon as the Rav's persecutors understood what was happening, they went around the street inciting the neighbors to make a formal complaint.

And so, on April 11, 2021, the 83-year-old Rav - with multiple, serious health issues - was sent back to Nitzan prison in Ramla. But he didn't stay there long. As soon as some of his followers set up their tents next to Nitzan, the prison authorities moved the Rav again, on April 16, 2021 - this time to a secret location.

Before he was spirited away by the authorities, the Rav managed to give over one more shiur, that hinted in a very clear way for anyone with eyes to see and ears to hear, that much worse was still to come.



## THEY WANTED TO KILL 100,000 JEWS IN 5 MINUTES

**O**n April 11, 2021, the day the Rav was taken back to Nitzan prison, one of the Rav's grandsons publicized a message from a 'hidden Tzaddik', asking people to go and pray at Meron all night until the dawn minyan.

The message stated there was a terrible decree of destruction, that needed to be 'sweetened'. A couple hundred of the Rav's followers immediately dropped everything and went to pray all night at Meron, as per the instructions of this 'hidden Tzaddik'. You can still see some of the footage of that prayer gathering on Youtube.<sup>94</sup>

There were rumors that the instructions came from Rav Berland himself, who was still under a court order to have no contact with anyone from his community, nor to give any Torah classes over the phone, as part of the agreement for him to be moved to house arrest.



---

<sup>94</sup> Watch part of that gathering here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qakUHv4O9rQ>

Once the Rav was moved back to Nitzan prison and was once again free to give over classes by phone, the Rav immediately put out the following recording.

This was still three weeks before the tragedy in Meron that saw 45 holy Jews crushed and asphyxiated to death on Lag BaOmer, 5781, but you will find many hints and illusions to what was going to happen that fateful night.

What follows is a slightly abridged version.



[The Rav is telling the famous story of the Baal Shem Tov's trip to Eretz Yisrael with his daughter Odel and his *sofer*, R' Hirsh. On the way they were captured by cannibals..]

This was about Odel'le, the daughter of the Baal Shem Tov, [the grandmother] of Rabbenu haKadosh, because they wanted to eat Odel'le. They wanted 'shwarma'. This was Seder night, and they wanted 'shwarma', melaveh malka.

The cannibals came on the way to Eretz Yisrael and wanted to eat her. They said there is no other meat as tasty as this in the world. **They were already preparing the fire. They were rolling up their sleeves, they were sharpening their knives.**



**They tied her on the fire** – Odel-le, the holy and pure one, the daughter of the Baal Shem Tov.

The Baal Shem Tov said about her... [text in Yiddish] “All day she goes around with tremendous desire towards Hashem Yisborach, and she asks herself ‘what else can I do to fulfill the Will of Hashem.’”

From the day she was born, she was a pillar of flame, a pillar of flame. They saw a pillar of flame upon Odel’le. Now, they want to eat her, the bandits. They said to make ‘melave malka’ from Odel’le, the holy and pure one.

**They were sharpening their knives, they tied her on the fire. The Baal Shem Tov... They said after this, [they also wanted] to eat the Baal Shem Tov, with Rabbi Hirsh.** And R’ Hirsh said to the Baal Shem Tov:

Why are you silent? Start to sing a little, ‘Who alone performs great miracles, for His kindness is forever’!<sup>95</sup> **Because on that day, they decided to slaughter all the Jews. 100,000 Jews in five minutes.**



**How long does it take to kill 100,000 Jews?**

Each one takes an axe, he can cut off 10 heads, 20 heads. Every household has 20 babies. They can take off their heads in 20 seconds.

**All the police will go on the microphone at 6 in the morning, on the megaphone – they still didn’t have a microphone, so they used a megaphone. And they**

---

<sup>95</sup> From Tehillim 137.



**will make an announcement to wipe out all the Jews, all the Jewish nation.**



“To be prepared for that day.”<sup>96</sup> To be prepared. The goyim are always prepared, they are always ready, they are always in a state of preparedness, ready to ‘leap’... The goyim are waiting all year to start chopping... To decapitate, to [separate] the Jews from their heads. Only [waiting] for permission from the king.

**They are just waiting for the announcement, the megaphone, and then within 10 seconds there will not remain any Jews in all of ‘Istanbul’...**

Each neighbor will cut off 10 heads, and then go-marnu, we’re finished. And each one has several axes, an axe for each Jew.

**And so at 6 in the morning, no memory [of the Jews] will remain. Judenrein, Judenrein, Judenrein. Everything will be cleansed of Jews. And Jews will not live in ‘Istanbul’, until the end of their lifetimes....**

And so, we will have a city cleansed of Jews, and then we’ll have fun! And what a good life we will have!



---

<sup>96</sup> Megillat Esther, 3:14.

**This is what they thought in their hearts – and it’s forbidden to reveal it. Whoever reveals it, oy va voy. The electric chair in the city square.**

They would always say that there was one like this who used to tell things to the Jews, always!

And the Jews would then nullify the gezeira within five minutes. They would bring a few coins; they would collect at the wall (Kotel) a few agarot (pennies) and sweeten it all. What’s the problem? A Jew knows how to sweeten everything. In a thousandth of a second, he can sweeten all the gezeirot in the world – so [the Turks decided] don’t reveal it, and that’s it!



There was a minister who couldn’t accept this decree under any circumstances, and he was a lover of Israel. *I’m not sleeping, and I’m not eating. I can’t fall asleep.* He was tossing from side to side.

**It’s already 1 in the morning, and he can’t fall asleep. He cries out, *hatzilu!* Save us! Save us! Save us! Save us! They are going to destroy all the Jews, and they don’t know anything about it!**



**So he ran to the head of the community. At 1 o’clock in the morning, everyone is already asleep.**

In Istanbul, they finished the Seder at 11. They don’t finish the seder at 4 in the morning. 11 o’clock, already

everyone is finished, without niggunim, without singing, without anything.

They've already eaten their kezayit of matzah, the kezayit of maror, the kezayit of Korech – and suddenly, **BOOM! CRASH! What an incredible banging on the door! CRASH! BOOM! They are breaking down the door.**



**And the head of the community doesn't understand what's going on. The FBI has arrived, the KGB has arrived – only the KGB would make such banging.**

He ran in a panic to open the door in his pajamas. **He sees the most important minister, the most important minister.**

He says to him, Listen, in another five minutes no memory will remain from all Am Yisrael. Run quickly to the King! I'm fleeing from here. Oy va voy, maybe they will come after me! **Today everything is recorded!**

**If they record me, I'm finished! I'm lost! The electric chair!**

He called out to the minister, *where are you running to?*



**The minister with *kol od nafsho bo* (all the soul that was left in him) jumped all the stairs in one jump.**

The head of the community did not know what to do. He did not know where to run. Where can we go? In another five minutes, there will be no trace left of all the Jews.

Six in the morning, 9.30 – there won't remain the trace of even a single Jew.

***Run quickly! Run quickly and save all the Jews! Just run, they need to run!***



How the head of the community ran! Wow! Not even the best athlete could catch up with him. He woke up all the heads of the community. It's already 3 in the morning. Everyone is running.

**They don't know their right from their left, north or south, east, or west. They don't know where to run to, in which direction, where to run, where to flee to, where to go...**



**The heads of the community saw Shuvu Banim sing one verse for three hours, 'Who performs wonders alone, because His kindnesses are forever'.**

**Everybody sing! Shimon is singing with us! [the Rav is singing with them] 'Who performs wonders alone, because his kindnesses are forever'. There are**

**still another 20 minutes before 7am, ‘to perform wonders alone, because His kindnesses are forever.’<sup>97</sup>**

This is how they sang. They began to sing with him because they didn’t know what to do, or where to go to. North, South, East. Maybe we’ll go to Mars? There, we’ll sweeten the decree.



**They didn’t know where to go, or in which direction. It’s forbidden to speak of it.**

Oy va voy, to anyone who will reveal what I told you. I will hang you in the middle of the square in Kikar Zion! Be warned not to tell anyone what they are doing! Where can we go? In another half hour, they will kill all the Jews. ‘Who performs wonders alone, because His kindnesses are forever.’



Balfour sweetened the decrees.

He said to the Jews, the time has come for you to return to Eretz Yisrael. They wanted to kill him on the spot. He wrote this to Rothschild. He wanted to be a member of the English parliament, so today the most important road is Balfour.

---

<sup>97</sup> This is a clear reference to the two coachloads of people from Shuvu Banim who went up to pray all night at Meron on April 11, 2021, on the instructions of the ‘hidden Tzaddik’.

There, they do all the demonstrations, there they destroy sifrei Torah. They use the luchot (i.e., Ten Commandments) and the sifrei Torah as armor.

**Come, let's run to Balfour! Maybe there, Bibi will sweeten something.**



B'kitzur, one said yallah, everyone go, everyone to the mother of the king! Everyone to the mother of the sultan! Everyone, yallah, run, run! How they ran! Wow!

**I remember it, they ran, they stampeded over 10 cats and 5 dogs. There are indictments, to crush a cat is worse than murdering a human being, today.**

B'kitzur, they bang to the gatekeeper, four in the morning. By six – they say there will already be no trace remaining of the Jews.

**They didn't talk about the decree because they couldn't make the announcement five minutes before. They didn't make the announcement – because people would cancel it. Only at that moment.**

And then, they would all come, and gomarnu. He will decapitate 10 people, and slaughter, and within five seconds there will not remain one Jew in 'Istanbul'.



They knock for the gatekeeper.

The gatekeeper is at his post, asleep. He drank five bottles of champagne and 10 of whiskey and cocktails, and all types of wine in the world, he drank. And now, in the morning, this is the deepest sleep that there is in the world.

**You should know that four in the morning, if you want to wake up a person, it's impossible. Even kicking them doesn't help. It's a sleep like nothing in this world. At four in the morning, a person goes into a deep sleep.**

Until he falls asleep, he begins to sleep at 10. After six hours, the body is finally relaxed, and he's able to enter a deep, deep sleep. **And they kicked the gate. They destroyed the gate.** Wow.



**The guard wakes up. What's going on here? Why are you breaking down the gate?! I'm going to bring the police on everyone!!**

They said, no, no! There is a terrible decree here! Some decree on the Jews! We are messengers of the Jews! There is a decree to wipe out all of us!

Yes, I heard it. I heard something about this. They said it's forbidden to reveal it. Yes.

So, what do you want to do?

Run to Ima! Wake up the Ima of the King! The Sultan! We will come after you! Yallah – he ran.



**He jumped 10 stairs in one jump.**

He banged on the door. She came out in her pajamas, wearing her night robe.

*What's going on? Guests? I heard that the head of the community arrived.*

*Don't ask! They are going to kill all the Jews!*

**What?! Bring them into the lobby. I'm coming down. She slid down all the 10 steps. She jumped it in one jump.**

*What's going on?*

*They said there's a decree!! They are killing the Jews!*

**They said it's forbidden for us to reveal it. If we reveal it, they will hang us all in the city square.**



His mother said don't worry. Yallah, sit, drink. Here, I've prepared some whiskey for you. Yallah, drink! It will be okay! Drink, relax, relax already!

**Yallah, I'm already going with my chariot and my four horses, they travel at 200 km an hour. Wow. They crushed 20 cats. 100 dogs, on the way. She has 100 indictments until today. To run over dogs is worse than killing a human today.**



She wakes up the king, and shouts at him. She says, *wake him up.*

What, I'm going to wake him up? Don't you know how much he drank? 10 champagnes and 20 whiskeys, that night. He's sleeping the sleep of Taramita. A sleep of half a year. **You can kick him, hit him, kick him... In the end, they gave him such kicks until he woke up.**

Yallah! Get up! Wake up the King! Here's mother, mother has arrived! The Ima woke him up, with such kicks.



**She went up 10 floors, she ran 10 floors in 10 seconds.**

*Wake up the King!* The Sultan came down 10 floors.

*Ima, what's going on?! Ima'leh, so sweet, my dear mother, what happened? What happened?*

**Do you want to kill the entire family?!** What did you do! Tell me! What sin? I saw your father in a dream. Your father – in a dream I saw him. [Your father] said that there will not remain a memory, by six in the morning, there will not remain a trace of the whole family!

Ima! I fast on Ramadan!



B'kitzur, she told him she dreamed that no trace would be left from the whole family. **Immediately, he went and tore up the decree against the Jews.**

He said, *Ima, I can sweeten the awful gezeira. I made an awful decree against the Jews.*

*Did you go mad!?! Look what happened to Pharoah! What happened to Sisera! This one drowned in the Kishon, that one drowned in the Sea of Reeds. What?! Did you go crazy?! You start up with the Jews?!*

*Look, Stalin started up with the Jews, and he had a stroke...*



## THE MESSAGE FROM THE HIDDEN TZADDIK AT MERON

Shortly after the terrible tragedy at Meron on L'ag B'omer 5781, someone named Yisrael Meir came forward to tell the Breslov Kav how he'd met a hidden *tzaddik* in the Meron forest, who foresaw the Meron tragedy shortly before it happened - and who also revealed how to be saved from evil decrees in the future.

These are the words of Yisrael Meir:

*"I got to Meron for Lag BaOmer. As we know, this isn't a simple time. This is one of the exalted moments, the revelation of the true Tzaddik. So I needed to go to the field to do hisbodedus, to prepare... In the field I saw a Jew holding the Tikkun Klali and saying it word for word and his eyes were spilling forth tears like a faucet. I've never seen such a saying of Tehilim.*

*I continued to do hisbodedus on the mountain. After a half hour, I saw him still saying the Tikkun Klali and crying, apparently saying it several times. After an hour, he was still saying the Tikkun Klali and crying. You don't see things like that.*

*I did more hisbodedus and asked Hashem to merit me to speak to this tzaddik.... Suddenly after about 15 minutes, the man approached me and called me by my name, Yisrael Meir.”*

Yisrael Meir continues:

*“I asked him how he knows my name. He answered that he knows, it’s okay. ‘You prayed that you wanted to speak to me. In Heaven, they accepted your prayer.’ I got excited and asked him, what does a person need to pray for now in Meron? He answered: **We need to pray that Rav Berland makes it to Meron.**”*

At this point, the interviewer on the Breslov line asked Yisrael Meir if this mystery man knew beforehand that he was a follower of Rav Berland.

Yisrael Meir replied:

*“I didn’t tell him anything; he said by himself! I asked him from where he knows Rav Berland? He said that he doesn’t know him personally, but they have a spiritual connection. Then, I asked him how one can merit to say the Tikkun Klali like him, with all those tears?*

*That’s when he told me: ‘If you knew what’s going to happen here in a few more hours, you would also cry like that.’ I asked him what is going to happen, but he didn’t answer. He only said that if you knew what was going to happen here you would also cry like that.’*

*So I asked him: ‘What can be done?’ And told me: ‘If Rav Berland will come here, everything will be okay.’ After the*

*fact, it was revealed that when he was saying the Tikkun Klali, it was in the field opposite the place of the tragedy.”*



But the conversation with this hidden Tzaddik didn't end there. He continued to talk with Yisrael Meir, and told him that he was praying for Rav Berland, and all the other hidden tzaddikim were also praying for him, every day.

Yisrael Meir continued:

*“He told me that every day in Heaven, they announce that he is the Tzaddik of the generation. Every generation has a tzaddik who is an aspect of Moshe, and then there are the other tzaddikim.*

*He told me that the hidden tzaddikim recite the Tikkun Haklali several times a day, for the success of Rav Berland. If all the Jewish people would join the prayers, they could sweeten all the decrees that there are, and prevent endless tears from the Jewish people, since Rav Berland fights above in Heaven with all his strength for the Jewish people.”*



Yisrael Meir continued:

*“[The hidden tzaddik] also explained the importance of saying the Tikkun HaKlali for Rav Berland at least once every day. And whoever can, should say as many as possible. In Heaven, when people pray for Rav Berland, this is one of the most exalted things....*

*If everyone gathers to pray, then everyone multiplies everyone else, as Rebbe Nachman revealed in the secret of the joining of the houses<sup>98</sup> — the prayer is something else completely. When a person prays with other people, this multiplies its power by billions.*

*He said that Mashiach is already found among us in this world, and is working awesome things. This is hidden until the time of his revelation arrives. The tzaddikim know who this is and know that Mashiach is making things happen....”*



The interviewer on the Breslov Line then repeated what Yisrael Meir had said, to make sure he'd heard it correctly:

**Interviewer: “The same tzaddik who foresaw the Meron tragedy pinned the salvation on Rav Berland arriving?”**

---

<sup>98</sup> In Chayei Moharan 205 (translated into English as ‘Tzaddik’, by the Breslov Research Institute), Rebbe Nachman explains:

“The Jews are called ‘hallowed stones’... We find in the Sefer Yetzirah: ‘Two stones build four houses, three stones build six houses, four build 24 houses, etc.’ What are the houses? ‘My house is a house of prayer.’ (Isaiah 56:7)”

“In every place where there is a gathering of Jews, each time one stone – one Jewish soul – is added, a completely different structure is formed: the entire structure is totally renewed, and completely new houses come into being....

“Six letters build hundreds upon hundreds of houses, and so it goes on, until the mouth cannot utter it, or the heart conceive it.

“Think of this, and realize the great joys, the new structures and new creations, the precious, awesome, wondrous prayers that are constantly coming into being through the souls of Israel, as the true Tzaddik works to gather them together, to bring them under the wings of holiness and draw them to God.”

Yisrael Meir replied: *“Yes. He said: If Rav Berland arrives everything will be fine. To our grief, we didn’t merit. He also told me that the more people who pray for Rav Berland, the more he can sweeten the decrees threatening the Jewish people...”*

*“A day has 24 hours. We’re talking about saying a few Tikkun Klali’s. How long does this really take? ... We need to grab this. This is the greatest treasure that we have now.”<sup>99</sup>*



---

<sup>99</sup> <https://ravberland.com/hidden-tzaddik-who-foresaw-meron-tragedy-reveals-how-to-be-saved-in-future/>

## TRAGEDY IN MERON

“On Wednesday night, Chief Rabbi of Tzfat Rabbi Shmuel Eliyahu banned Rabbi Eliezer Berland, the founder of Shavu Banim yeshiva in Jerusalem and a leader of the Breslov Chassidic movement, from attending Lag BaOmer festivities in Meron and being honored as one of the many lighters of the Meron bonfire.”<sup>100</sup>

- **Headline before Lag BaOmer, 5778 (2018)**

*“It’s almost Lag BaOmer and people are traveling to Meron.”  
“We’re not noheig like that. We received our hashpa’ah [influence] from the Brisker Rav, the Chazon Ish, the Ponevezher Rav – and they didn’t travel to Meron. Therefore we don’t go, we sit and learn. Talmud Torah K’neged Kulam....We receive the fruits [of learning Torah] in this world and the keren is in Olam Haba. Nu, so is it kadai to lose this revach? Do we want to lose the revach of the fruits in this world and the keren in Olam Haba?”<sup>101</sup>*

- **Comments made by R’ Gershon Edelstein, April 28, 2021.**

*“Israel’s Health Ministry is concerned that the Lag BaOmer gatherings will cause a renewed coronavirus outbreak.*

<sup>100</sup> <https://sephardic.org/news/hundreds-of-thousands-make-lag-b-omer-pilgrimage-to-rebbe-shimon-s-gravesite>

<sup>101</sup> <https://www.theyeshivaworld.com/news/general/1968926/hagaon-harav-edelstein-we-dont-go-to-meron-we-sit-and-learn.html>



“A senior official involved in preparing the plan for Lag BaOmer on Thursday told Kan News that Anyone going to Meron needs to know that his blood is on his own head...”<sup>102</sup>

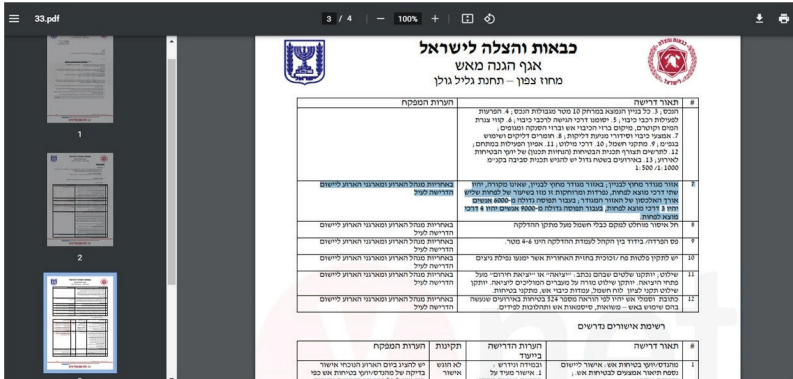
- Israel National News story before Lag BaOmer, 5781 (2021)



That terrible year, 5781, Lag BaOmer fell out on the secular date of Thursday night, the 29<sup>th</sup> April. In this chapter, we are just going to set out whatever facts are known and let readers come to their own conclusions about what really happened that night.

The story begins a few weeks earlier, on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021. That’s when Israel’s Fire and Rescue Services published a report on what needs to happen for Lag BaOmer 5781 to pass safely.<sup>103</sup>

Point #7 in the section on ‘SUGGESTIONS’ said the following (translated from the original Hebrew):



<sup>102</sup> <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/305259>

<sup>103</sup> You can see the PDF of that report, in Hebrew, here: [https://ynetimages1.yit.co.il/picsrver5/wcm\\_upload\\_files/2021/05/03/HknkGEpwd/33.pdf](https://ynetimages1.yit.co.il/picsrver5/wcm_upload_files/2021/05/03/HknkGEpwd/33.pdf)

***The enclosed area outside the building [i.e., RASHBI's Tomb]:***

***In the enclosed area outside the building, which is not covered [i.e., the Toldos Aharon plaza], there should be at least two totally separate ways out... If the gathering exceeds 6,000 people, there should be at least three exits. If the gathering exceeds 9,000 people, there should be at least four exits.”***



On the night of Lag BaOmer 5781, there was just one exit open from the Toldos Aharon plaza. Three of the four regular exits in and out of the Toldos Aharon Complex had been blocked by ‘Coronavirus’ checkpoints and fences, mandated by the Health Ministry – in direct contravention to the above report.

These exits were:

EXIT 1:

Via the back of the Tzion, down the stairs - blocked with two sets of fences.

EXIT 2:

From the top floor of the Tzion, via a ‘balcony passage’ that normally leads to a large central exit that opens out towards the Boyaner complex in Meron, and from there down some stairs to the Toldos Aharon complex. Blocked with fences.

EXIT 3:

From the Boyaner Complex itself, another wide staircase located in the women's section (but also used by men), which leads down to the Toldos Aharon complex. Blocked with fences.

That left just one exit open on the night of Lag BaOmer – the infamous 'Reb Dov Shvil' stairs.

And this exit was already known to create a dangerous, potentially fatal bottle neck, even on regular years where there were no additional fences, checkpoints, or overcrowding because of Shabbat.

What's more, for the first time ever, the authorities decided that year to enclose the normally 'open air' Reb Dov Shvil with pre-fabricated walls. This is even more perplexing to understand, as during Covid people were being told to pray *outside* and to avoid 'enclosed areas' due to fear of 'spreading Covid'.

And so in one fell swoop, an open area was turned into an enclosed and claustrophobic 'tunnel of death'.



One investigative journalist who interviewed hundreds of witnesses before coming to his conclusions stated<sup>104</sup>:

*It turns out that what caused the seemingly terrible disaster, is the placement of many barriers between all the lighting complexes and the Zion complex....In all the years that passed, before the Corona era, except for the main entrances and exits, no checkpoints had been set up inside the compound, and the events passed safely,*

---

<sup>104</sup> See the report in the original Hebrew here: <https://hm-news.co.il/153013/>

*although apparently even then the safety situation in terms of congestion was very bad.*

*As stated, this year, due to the requirement of the Ministry of Health, a number of checkpoints were set up, which caused a huge load in the stairwell where the disaster occurred.”*



On April 25, 2021, two safety engineers surveying the site transferred a ‘safety pitfalls’ report to the police where they stated that they had demanded as early as January that lighting all the bonfires at Meron be carried out at the same time, to prevent large numbers of people from moving around place to place.

*“We warned about crowding not because of COVID but because of Shabbat,” the engineers said. “We estimated that masses of people would arrive all at once and that’s what happened.”*

That same week, the Israeli government (police, MDA and Fire & Rescue services) also conducted an unusual series of ‘war games’ in Meron. This comes from Ha’aretz<sup>105</sup>:

*“Earlier in the week the police conducted war games simulating the Meron celebrations, with results that were similar to what actually transpired a few days later. The worst thing is that it shouldn’t have been a surprise.”*



---

<sup>105</sup> <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/premium.HIGHLIGHT-israeli-officials-evade-responsibility-for-the-mount-meron-disaster-1.9763073>

Then, on April 28, 2021, the police removed all non-police-controlled cameras from the site. Many different people reported that the police went through the Rashbi compound removing all the cameras – including from private institutions, including those belonging to Rabbi Shraga Schnitzer and ‘Hilula DeRashbi’, those belonging to Rabbi Kuperstock, and others.

That same day, the ‘RelaxingWalker’ tour guide took a detailed video of his ‘walking tour’ around the Meron Complex. You can clearly see how many fences and barriers were being erected on instructions from the Ministry of Health, and just how ‘penned in’ and blocked the whole compound became, as a result.<sup>106</sup>



The morning leading into Lag BaOmer, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the government put out its ‘official’ coronavirus guidelines for Lag BaOmer 5781. The following is a translated story that appeared on the ‘Bhol Chareidi’ news site<sup>107</sup>:

*Just hours before opening i celebrations for the hiloula of the RASHBI in Meron, Corona Tzar Nachman Ash publicized the full outline for celebrating Lag BaOmer in Meron, 5781.*

*A document obtained by Behadrei Haredim states that in a discussion held last night with the participation of Health Minister Edelstein, Interior Minister Deri and Internal Security Minister Amir Ohana, the outline of the celebration on Mount Meron was agreed upon, based on the work done among the relevant parties in recent weeks.*

---

<sup>106</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ELMolfiksc&feature=youtu.be>

<sup>107</sup> <https://www.bhol.co.il/news/1214105>

*At the meeting, it was agreed that the National Center for Management of Holy Places and the Israel Police will do everything possible to implement the Ministry of Health's recommendations, as follows:*

- 1. Transport only by shuttles from the parking lots. There will be no restriction on getting to the mountain area – anyone who wants to get there can do so.*
- 2. Across the mountain, the existing crowd restrictions will apply – 20 people in a closed space and 100 people in an open area.*
- 3. It was agreed that the lighting area would be conducted according to a special layout for the “tav yarok” (‘green passports’):*
  - A. The organized ascent to the fires will be made by buses, which can only be used by those with a “green passport”, i.e., those who will be vaccinated and recovered, or with negative PCR tests up to 72 hours before the event, as coordinated by the Holy Places Administration and the Israel Police.*
  - B. There will be no more than 3,000 people next to each lighting.*
  - C. There will be three lightings in parallel – for a total of up to 9000 people at one go.*
  - D. There will be up to 4 rounds of lighting.*

*E. It was agreed and clarified that the “green passport” will not be checked at the entrance to the event.*



Those ‘health’ guidelines were agreed upon by the following ministers:

Yuli Edelstein, Minister of Health

Aryeh Deri, Minister of the Interior

Amir Ohana, Minister of Internal Security,

Nachman Ash, the ‘Coronavirus Tzar’.

And of course, the whole thing then went to Netanyahu for his agreement.

These politicians then tasked the police, and the National Center for the Management of Holy Places, with implementing the dangerous ‘health’ guidelines – with deadly results.



Although only 100,000 people made it to Meron before it closed following the disaster, an official press release put out by Israel’s Ministry of Religious Affairs on April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021, shows that the government was apparently expecting half a million people to attend festivities in Meron - five times as many people.

That ‘official press release’ explained:<sup>108</sup>

*Seven government ministries are partners in preparing the celebration. This year, the Ministry of Religious Affairs will budget the celebration with about NIS 15.5 million. The Ministry of Internal Security took care of the influx of about 5,000 police officers to secure the many arrivals. The police are equipped with modern technology.*

*The Ministry of Transportation, which allocates about 4,000 buses, will make about 7,000 round trips.... The Ministries of Health and Justice were also partners in discussions concerning the revelry.*



If we return to the “guidelines’ for Meron that were put out by Nachman Ash on April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021, we find some difficult contradictions. At the same time they said:

*“There will be no restriction on getting to the mountain area – anyone who wants to get there can do so,” they also said that: “[E]xisting crowd restrictions will apply – 20 people in a closed space and 100 people in an open area.”*

Next, they said that people would only be allowed to board the buses to come to Meron, and to attend a bonfire, if they could show a ‘green passport’. But then they contradicted themselves again by saying: *“The green passport will not be checked at the entrance to the event.”*

---

<sup>108</sup> <https://www.gov.il/he/departments/news/eronispreparingtoabsorbthousandsof>



Also, even having just 3,000 people per bonfire clearly contravened the Health Ministry's own guidelines that there shouldn't be more than "100 people in an open area."

These are just a few of the glaring issues in the guidelines, but they clearly demonstrate that the pilgrims to Meron were being told to follow a set of 'rules' that were totally unrealistic, and impossible to follow. So when things went 'wrong' it would be easy to point a finger at the pilgrims for 'not following the rules.



Now, let's set out the known facts about what happened on the night itself.

Even before dusk fell, social media was exploding with videos and images showing extreme police violence against the pilgrims to Meron. <sup>109</sup>Video after video showed groups of feral policemen violently kicking and beating chareidim – for no obvious reason – all over the RASHBI complex, in the hours leading up to the tragedy.

Around 6pm on April 29<sup>th</sup>, one of Rav Berland's close students, Rav Nachman Horowitz, left a message on the Breslov Line, warning about the police brutality that was going on. Here's a little of what he said:

*"Rabotai, [this is] literally a war. They [the police] removed all the women, now they are by the men. Wars! They are not allowing entry, people are sacrificing their lives, we need to pray.*

---

<sup>109</sup> For example: <https://rumble.com/vgjb8l-gestapo-roughing-up-random-jews-at-meron.html> and <http://palmtreeofdeborah.blogspot.com/2021/05/why-are-they-suddenly-calling-it.html>

*Someone said 'if there will be Meron Lag BaOmer there will be Uman Rosh Hashana'.*

*Cry to Hashem, pray, people are sacrificing their lives, literally! They don't understand what's happening here, what's going on? What do they want? I said to someone 'that they are standing outside with their loud sirens. That is okay? This is healthy?' What's the inyan? Why are they not letting people in? Hashem should help.*

*Not for nothing would my grandfather (R Shmuel Horowitz ztz'l) say: 'Meron, Meron Rosh Hashana'.*

*Now I'm approaching the entrance and they are not letting me in, they are not allowing entrance, they are not allowing entrance, this is terrible and frightening. They are pulling people out forcefully, Hashem should help, they are standing and not allowing people to enter... Hashem should help (not clear) we will win, amen v'amen".*

Less than an hour later, Rav Horowitz collapsed and had a massive heart-attack in the Kever. There were rumors that this occurred just after he'd been 'pepper-sprayed' by the police for daring to argue with them.



Two hours **before** the disaster occurred, the Director General of the Center for the Development of Holy Places, Josef Schwinger, gave a strange live interview where he said:<sup>110</sup>

---

<sup>110</sup> <https://www.ynet.co.il/news/article/BkNxCrAvu>

*“The one who is responsible for operations in the field is the Israel Police, and it’s forbidden to let them run away from this matter.”*

In a quote that appeared on the Ynet site, Schwinger was reported as also telling the interviewer **before** the disaster occurred that: *“I’m already waiting to get to the next day...Children are almost being crushed, it’s a very unpleasant spectacle.”*

Earlier that day, Yossi Daitsh, one of the deputy mayors of Jerusalem, had also appeared on television live, to warn about the dangerous overcrowding and police brutality occurring at the site.

Daitsh said<sup>111</sup>:

*“We are standing at the entrance to the compound while thousands of people behind us were pushing to get in. There were barriers and a small and narrow passageway. A policeman told us to go back and threatened to spray us with pepper spray if we did not do as he said. I asked him if he was insane. I said there were people there, children, they would be crushed, and people would die. I asked him to let some of them through and relieve some of the pressure on the crowd. But he would not listen.”*

According to Daitsh, the same fatal crush that occurred that night could have been repeated in another five or six different locations on Mount Meron. Daitsh said: *“It is a miracle that no other such tragedies occurred...”*



---

<sup>111</sup> <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/Blot11aYPO>

Shortly before the fatal crush, many eyewitnesses stated that they had been trying to leave the dangerously overcrowded Toldos Aharon complex, but the police kept blocking them, and forcing them back into the crowd.

If all this ‘blocking’ was being done in the name of ‘COVID 19’ regulations, how can we explain that the Ministry of Health believed that penning large crowds of people behind fences and gates for long stretches of time was meant to help ‘prevent the spread of COVID’?

So, if all this deliberate overcrowding wasn’t being done to ‘prevent the spread of COVID 19’, and if it wasn’t being done to ‘crowd control’ and help people move around safely – then why was it being done?



Now that we’ve got the context in place, let’s examine the awful events that led up to the deaths of 45 martyrs in Meron that night.

The Toldos Aharon bonfire was due to be lit at 12.30am. The only exit the police left open from the Toldos Aharon plaza was the ‘Reb

Dov Shvil' exit, which they'd covered on all sides with prefabricated walls, and which led down a ramp, that ended in a sharp 90 degree turn down a flight of stairs.

Directly at the bottom of those stairs, there was the wooden building that housed the Hatzalah Headquarters on Mount Meron. Pedestrians could either go left from the stairs and walk back along the newly covered and enclosed walkway that was marked 'AREA 41'; or they could turn right and head down a very long flight of stairs that was marked 'AREA 42'.

Right next to the Hatzalah HQ on Mount Meron, at the bottom of those stairs leading to 'AREA 41 and AREA 42', is where 45 people were crushed to death.



In the days following the tragedy, a number of people shared their first-hand stories of what they'd experienced down there on the 'Reb Dov Shvil' stairs. One of them was Elad Macharish, who shared on the Breslov Line how he was miraculously saved from the jaws of death. Breslov<sup>112</sup>

Elad begins:

*"We were four, five friends who traveled to Meron together. In Meron, we branched out and each person did his own thing... Around 12:20 am, I met one of the friends, relatively close to the area where the incident happened, in the passageway. We spoke of strengthening ourselves with stories about Tzaddikim, and faith in Tzaddikim.*

---

<sup>112</sup> You can dial the Breslov Line in Israel on: \*9148.

*While we were talking, we started to hear the Toldos Aharon song — “V’Amartem Ko L’Chai” - on the loud-speaker of, and the dancing began.*

*I said to my friend, let’s go and dance. This is an important part of the Hilulah — to dance and rejoice. And he said to me that there are masses of people [in the Toldos Aharon plaza] and he was afraid to go there. I didn’t understand. I said to him that every year there are lots of people, and every year everything is okay.*

*I said to him, ‘Don’t worry. Ever year there are masses of people, and it’s possible to dance — everything is fine.’ I didn’t understand that we were talking about a completely different number of people.”*

Elad continues:

*“So my friend was persuaded, and we began to progress towards Toldos Aharon, to that plaza. We were a bit further above... When we reached that passageway [the Reb Dov Shvil] ...we were stuck to the wall. We saw a large number of people trying to go up to the plaza. At the moment we arrived, there were still some trying to ascend and some trying to descend — this was two-way.*

*Mamash, in a matter of a few seconds, while we were trying to progress through the crowd, suddenly a group arrived that was returning and saying they weren’t allowing [people] to enter [the Toldos Aharon Plaza].”*

*The path forward was blocked and already, people were unable to go back.”*

Elad describes the terrible lead-up to the tragedy:

*“A bit of pushing began. People still had where to push. I said to my friend, ‘They say that it’s impossible to pass, let’s go back.’ We were trying to go back, but then we saw there was already immense crowding. Everything mamash happened so fast. In the meantime, more and more people were being pressed [into the Reb Dov Shvil] from the direction of the plaza, and the path up from where we entered was closed.*

*The public was not allowed to exit from there, something was blocked there. So the public wasn’t exiting [at the bottom of the Reb Dov Shvil stairs], and more people continued to enter the same passageway [from the Toldos Aharon Plaza].*

*There was tremendous congestion in a matter of a few seconds. I felt that something not good was about to happen. People were shouting, ‘Don’t push!’ You could feel it in the air - there was great pressure. And it still hadn’t really begun... People were mamash being pressed until it was impossible to move even a centimeter, but they were still standing.*

*But then, it reached a situation there was so much overcrowding because people didn’t stop entering [from the Toldos Aharon Plaza], but there was nowhere to exit.”*



*Crowded in the passageway of death*

Elad continues:

*“It became a bottleneck of enormous pressure. People simply began to collapse, to fall from the weight they were under, because [the Reb Dov Shvil] was also a bit of a descent. People began to fall in a slow manner, because there was nowhere to escape, there was nowhere to move. People collapsed in the place where they stood. They fell on the floor, one fell on top of the other, one trampled the other. This also is what happened to us.*

*One person was falling on top of another. And then we started to hear shouts of: ‘I’m dying.’*

*I was next to my friend. He first fell on the person in front of him. My friend fell on him, and then I fell on my friend, mamash, we completely collapsed forward on our stomachs. Then, more people fell on me; I don’t know exactly how many, but I felt a great weight on my body. I felt great pressure.*



*My leg was twisted with a lot of pressure, but I was still okay. My head more or less still had a place to breathe. We were more or less closer to the exit, so somehow my head was more in an outward direction.”*

Elad continues:

*“Then lots of screaming and shouting began. People began to be buried, one underneath the next — children and adults mamash shouting. People began to panic, mamash. There was a feeling of very harsh din, that something very bad was happening here. We still didn’t understand to what extent, but there was that feeling in the air. People entered [a state of] panic and stress.*

*[People] started shouting, ‘I’m dying! I have no air! People are suffocating! — Save me! Save me!’ Lots of screams like that. At that stage, I couldn’t see so much what was happening around me, because I was on the floor with my face pressed into the ground. I didn’t see much, I only heard.*

*I could only see that ahead of me, people were trying to break through. There was something like a sheet metal wall which covered some depression that had been blocked. People tried to break through it to allow people to crawl into that passageway and release a bit of the pressure.*

*For some reason, people didn’t manage to exit. At some stage, they opened it, and some of the people who were on the outside border managed to escape by way of that passage. People escaped a bit, but the giant mass*

*remained stuck, and everyone was on top of one another, stuck in a way that was impossible to move.*

*Other people had to come and extricate [them] because everyone was entangled with the other. In the meantime, the rescue forces arrived and tried to pull people out. I also stretched my hand out in front of me.”*

Elad continues:

*“Before we began to fall, I had a feeling like I was being led off to the gas chambers — a feeling of helplessness. A feeling that the evil inclination had come to take a number of souls here, and there was nothing to do about it — it was simply out of our control. That was the feeling I had.”*

*The whole time, I was murmuring ‘Shema Yisrael.’ Even before I fell and we understood that the situation was very grave, I started asking Hashem to save me in the merit of Rav Berland...*

*My leg was twisted. At some point, I felt sharp pains because the blood flow was stopped. The blood wasn’t flowing well in the leg — this caused me very sharp pains in my leg. After they opened the wall [the prefabricated wall put all along the passageway by the authorities], a small passageway was formed for people to come to the rescue.*

*I stretched out my hand to one of them. He tried to pull me, but he said to me that it was impossible — ‘You’re too much inside and have a lot of weight on you.’ Really, I felt that it was impossible to pull me out.*

*That's when I promised a pidyon to Rav Berland."*

Elad continues:

*"In the meantime, the pains in my leg became very strong. At this stage, I started to scream out loud several times — 'I am going to give a pidyon in the merit of Rav Berland!!!" ... I had done this many times before, when I had minor incidents that happened to me at home — when my children were sick, or my wife.*

*I always promised to give a pidyon for all types of things that Rav Berland needed, and, really, I always saw salvation — and also, this time. The second that I started screaming, 'I'm giving a pidyon, giving a pidyon' — they managed to pull people off me and pull me out."*

Elad now explains what happened to his friend, in the 'Reb Dov Shvil':

*"My friend had already reconciled himself with death, but he heard me saying I would give a pidyon to Rav Berland... [and at that moment the rescuer] pulled me out, and also my friend, who was underneath me. Afterwards, I spoke to my friend. He told me something very beautiful. He was in much greater panic than I was. He began to cry and was screaming 'Save me!'*

*At some stage, he stopped crying and was very quiet. He told me that, after the fact, he entered a sort of despair. He could only breathe and left it at that. He understood that this was something uncontrollable and there was nothing to do — one must accept the decree. But when he heard me say I'm giving a pidyon, he said that this*

*gave him vitality, like new life — and he said, ‘I’m also giving!’ Baruch Hashem, in those seconds that we both shouted this together, they pulled us out, and baruch Hashem we were saved from this disaster.<sup>113</sup>*

We can only grieve for those who weren’t as fortunate.



In the hours leading up to the atrocity, eyewitnesses testified that they’d seen the police repeatedly pulling double gates across the bottom of the ‘Reb Dov Shvil’ stairs. There are pictures that show this was the case. There are also pictures that show that the stairs leading down to AREA 42 were also blocked with gates, at various times before the fatal crush occurred.

Immediately after the disaster occurred, social media was flooded with videos and footage from the time of the crush in Meron, as Am Yisrael struggled to make sense of what had just happened - and who was responsible for it.

Strangely, several media sites had identical headlines immediately after the disaster, all blaming a ‘collapse of the bleachers’ in the Toldot Aharon plaza. Many of these strangely ‘prescient’ stories have subsequently been scrubbed off the web or amended, but here’s an example of one that was captured before it was changed.

Here’s the original slug:

[www.jewishpress.com/news/israel/mass-casualty-event-in-meron-as-stage-collapses/2021/04/30/](http://www.jewishpress.com/news/israel/mass-casualty-event-in-meron-as-stage-collapses/2021/04/30/)

---

<sup>113</sup> <https://ravberland.com/miracle-in-meron-buried-underneath-a-mass-of-people-and-saved-in-the-merit-of-rav-berland-shlita/>

And here's an excerpt of what it said:

*“United Hatzalah volunteer EMT Yosef Chaim Ben Tzion who was one of the first responders at the scene and participated in the CPR relayed:*

*“A number of the injured are in critical condition and a large number of people were moderately injured after a grandstand collapsed with dozens of people on it.*

*“Doctors, paramedics, and EMTs from United Hatzalah who were providing medical security for the event rushed to respond and initiated CPR on a number of individuals while treating the others for their injuries.”*

But this was quickly disproven as fake news. Then the next misleading headlines being run across nearly every media site in tandem was that the disaster had happened because ‘the chareidim had stampeded’.

When that was also disproved as fake news, that's when more and more people started to take notice of the voices yelling that the police had somehow blocked the exit leading out of AREA 41 and AREA 42 - and that what had happened in Meron had not been an accident. It was murder.

Slowly, more amateur footage started to surface that contradicted the official version of events in myriad ways. The authorities initially claimed there were no police at the scene yelling at people to ‘go back’ up the Dov Shvil stairs at the time of the crush, even though eyewitnesses described the scene like this, live on TV:

*“[Q]uite a few dozen seconds after we passed the entrance to the path, a lot of policemen and at least one*

*policewoman came to the entrance to the path and blocked the exit.*

*“Anyone who knows this area at the time of L’ag B’Omer, this year and every year knows that police officers do not walk around in the mehadrin area at all [i.e. the area cordoned off for just men] ... And certainly, there are no policewomen in the whole area.*

*“Suddenly at least 10 policemen appeared in one shot?!?!“*

*“They were at the ‘disaster’ long before the first responders and Magen Dovid Adam!! And after the disaster – most of them (not all!) did not reach out at all... they were not determined and urgent to help, to say the least.”*

Then, videos turned up that showed there had been at least nine police, including a policewoman, doing just that at the time the witness had been describing, very shortly before the fatalities occurred.<sup>114</sup>



Next, there was the mind-boggling claim that Hatzalah wasn’t aware of the fatal crush for 10 minutes - even though the crush was literally occurring by the wall of the main Hatzalah Headquarters in Meron - and that’s why it took the first responders so long to show up.

But the biggest controversy of all, was whether the police had deliberately blocked the exits out from AREA 41 and AREA 42

---

<sup>114</sup> [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i\\_vM0doj7ns&t=69s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i_vM0doj7ns&t=69s)

with gates, as they'd been doing all day, leading to the deaths of 45 people, while another 150 were injured.

As the police had removed all security cameras from the compound the day before, for many days there was no video to prove things either way.



Over the next few days and weeks, the terrible grief began to turn into a building sense of anger against the authorities.

More videos turned up, showing that many of the structures, bleachers, stages, and stairs in the Toldos Aharon plaza had been constructed in a way that can only be described as criminally negligent.<sup>115</sup>

For example, there was a three-story stage held up by just one screw and two canvas straps attached to a couple of jumbo metal hooks embedded in the rock. There were handrails also secured by just a single screw (instead of four...) half hanging off the bases. There were hundreds of people standing on that structure the night of Lag BaOmer. It was simply an open miracle that this stage didn't collapse.

In another video, someone walked through the Meron compound the day after the atrocity, pointing out a number of strange things.<sup>116</sup>

---

<sup>115</sup> <https://rumble.com/vgjbef-ramp-of-death-at-meron-built-by-the-police.html>

<sup>116</sup> <https://rumble.com/vgjc4t-detailed-account-of-terrorist-attack-at-meron.html>

He found coarse salt scattered all over the bottom of the ‘Dov Shvil’ ramp - the type that is often used to absorb oil. He showed how many of the planks on the bleachers in the Toldos Aharon Complex hadn’t actually been nailed down: Even worse, many of the bleachers in the Toldos Aharon complex had just been stuck together with silver tape, instead of held together with the required metal bolts.

Another three-story walkway connecting the different bleachers in the Toldos Aharon complex had been constructed with the back left ‘leg’ of the base on a step, making the whole structure unstable and liable to topple over when people walked on it. It had been ‘stabilized’ by being propped up on a chunk of very easily dislodged wood.

The list of ‘engineering errors’ occurring within the Toldos Aharon complex, and across Meron generally, stretched on and on. So many structures with serious problems that could have led to an imminent collapse of almost every terrace, stage and walkway in the Toldos Aharon complex, if there hadn’t have been a huge number of open miracles going on.



As anger against the government and the police started to swell, a few more strange things occurred. First, several actors turned up at Meron, who started telling tales about the ‘heroic police’ who’d pulled them from out of the crush - and saying very forcefully that *there were no gates. It was all just a terrible accident.*

Then, several hundred protesters gathered at Netanyahu’s residence to demand a proper probe into what had happened. These calls for an inquiry by a state commission also came from



high-profile officials, including ex -Police chief Moshe Karadi and then Defense Minister Benny Gantz.

Every one of the ministers responsible for signing-off on the 'Merom Agreement' that year, including Aryeh Deri, Yaakov Litzman and Rafi Peretz, opposed establishing an official enquiry. But as the pressure continued to mount, on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021, the government announced it would ask Netanyahu appointee, State Comptroller Matanyahu Engelman, to conduct a 'special state audit' of the atrocity in Meron.

Here's a little of what Engelman said at the time:

*In 2008, the State Comptroller's Office published a report on the condition of the tomb of Rabbi Shimon bar Yohai at Meron and the preparations for the Lag BaOmer events. In 2011, the Office carried out a follow-up audit on the matter. These audits indicated a series of defects that, had they been fixed, the disaster might have been prevented.*

*The audit pointed out deficiencies relating to, among other things, the absence of a government agency responsible for dealing with the tomb of Rabbi Shimon bar Yohai in general and for the organization of the event, a low standard of maintenance, the failure to complete the takeover of the site by a government agency, illegal construction, inadequate roads and paths, and access roads not adapted for rescue vehicles at mass participation events.*<sup>117</sup>



---

<sup>117</sup> <https://en.globes.co.il/en/article-state-comptroller-announces-inquiry-into-meron-disaster-1001369613>

The religious public was aghast. Instead of focussing on the actions of the police, it seemed the government was intent on covering up what had really happened and using the disaster to exert control over other religious events, too.

On May 10, 2021, the two safety engineers responsible for Meron were taken in for questioning by the Lahav 443 Israeli police unit - and they put the blame for the atrocity solely on the police.

In interviews they later gave to the media, they said:

*“The disaster happened only because the police chose to ignore the professionals, despite the fact that the police themselves required the organizers to hire safety professionals.”*

The safety engineers also said that they’d sent a letter on April 26, 2021, to the police officer at the Northern Police District responsible for licensing and security, specifically telling him that the ‘Coronavirus Corridor’ the Ministry of Health had erected on site had *“narrowed the entrance of the emergency exit leading to the Toldos Aharon [stairs]. In an emergency, this obstacle poses a danger and can lead to a bottleneck.”*



All year, the State of Israel had been actively targeting the chareidi community in Israel as being ‘disease spreaders’ and ‘vectors of infection’, openly demonizing them in the press<sup>118</sup>, and treating

---

<sup>118</sup> <https://www.timesofisrael.com/police-say-they-were-helpless-to-stop-funeral-of-rabbi-that-drew-10000/>

Chareidim as second-class citizens – all in the name of ‘fighting Coronavirus’.<sup>119</sup>

After months of closing down every venue, every gathering, every religious place, the State of Israel suddenly decided to open up Meron for Lag BaOmer, with absolutely no limitations on the numbers of people attending.

And then, after a day replete with awful police brutality, life-threatening fences and over-crowding, 45 people ‘coincidentally’ died when the one remaining exit out of the Toldos Aharon complex was shut down in some mysterious way, very quickly leading to a fatal crush.



After months of stonewalling, the police finally released the uncut footage<sup>120</sup> of the minutes leading up to the fatal crush at the bottom of the ‘Reb Dov Shvil’ stairs via the Bhol.co.il chareidi media site, on October 18, 2021.

It clearly demonstrated that no gates were at the bottom of the ‘Reb Dov Shvil’ stairs at the time of the fatal crush.<sup>121</sup>



---

<sup>119</sup> <https://www.timesofisrael.com/virus-czar-warns-ultra-orthodox-crowding-at-funerals-will-beget-more-funerals/>

<sup>120</sup> <https://www.bhol.co.il/news/1287693>

<sup>121</sup> This video has an alternative explanation of what might have happened to block the stairs that night: <https://rumble.com/v06urb-the-israeli-government-murdered-the-jews-in-meron.html>

On June 27, 2021, the brand-new government of Bennett-Lapid committed to establishing an official commission into what had happened that fateful night in Meron.<sup>122</sup>

It was headed by former Supreme Court Chief Justice, Miriam Naor, who unexpectedly passed away in the middle of the inquiry, on January 24, 2022, shortly after visiting the site of the tragedy in Meron itself<sup>123</sup>, when large parts of the complex were still being bulldozed by the authorities.<sup>124</sup>

We will give the Rav the last word on the subject:

*Haman had such a cute son [Shimshi], sweet, sweet, sweet, he was supposed to write the 'Book of Remembrances'. So, he decided to arrange things so they would hang Mordechai.*

*[Shimshi] said: Me, I have so much wisdom [to do this], I have just the trick...Especially that Miriam Naor, the head advocate, she was very savvy in these sorts of thing.*

***Rabbi Shimon [Bar Yochai] simply took her away [to him]! ...***

***She wanted to say that the chareidim were guilty [for the disaster at Meron].***

---

<sup>122</sup> [https://www.gov.il/he/departments/about/about\\_the\\_official-inquiry-committee-mount-meron](https://www.gov.il/he/departments/about/about_the_official-inquiry-committee-mount-meron)

<sup>123</sup> [https://www.gov.il/he/departments/news/state-commission-of-inquiry-mount-meron\\_spokemanmessage\\_01112021](https://www.gov.il/he/departments/news/state-commission-of-inquiry-mount-meron_spokemanmessage_01112021)

<sup>124</sup> <https://hm-news.co.il/197575/>

***Even though it was the police who were guilty because they blocked the passageway.***

*She blamed everything on us! So, Rabbi Shimon is now dealing with her personally! In his beit din. She came to Rabbi Shimon, so he took her immediately on the spot, to his beit din. She's now in his beit din – Miriam Naor.”*



## THE DISGRACE OF THE TZADDIK

The month before the tragedy in Meron, on March 23, 2021, Israel had yet another round of elections- and yet again, it appeared that neither side had the 61 mandates required to ‘become king’ and form a new government.

As the squabbling and horse-trading and arguing continued in the corridors of power, it seemed as though Israel was fast heading to yet another election - the fifth in less than two years. And mostly because no-one wanted to sit in a government with Netanyahu.

Unrest over the Coronavirus restrictions was continuing to build, and the weekly demonstrations down by the Prime Minister’s residence on Balfour Street were growing in numbers, leading to several increasingly violent clashes with the police.

At this time, Rav Berland continued to sit in jail, and very troubling rumors started reaching the Shuvu Banim community that the Rav was being treated in a horrendous way by the prison authorities.

The Rav had somehow broken his arm, but the Prison Service did their best to neglect treating it as required. The Rav was also being given low-grade food that was very bad for his health; being left in the same clothes for weeks at a time, and generally receiving

the same type of ‘care’ that had come very close to killing him the first time he was imprisoned...

On May 14, 2021, the well-known kabbalist from Netanya, the late Rabbi Amos Gweta, ztzl, publicized a message with a very harsh warning, via R’ Chanan Vaknin, the gabbai of Kollel Olga.<sup>125</sup>

R’ Vaknin had been invited on to Radio Kol Chai by broadcaster Moshe Ben Lulu - but the journalist clearly didn’t know what message R’ Vaknin was about to give over.

Ben Lulu began the segment by saying to R’ Vaknin:

*“You are known as someone who is close to the kabbalist Rabbi Amos of Netanya. It’s known that you are close to great Tzaddikim: Rabbi Dov Kook [from Teveria), Rav Stern [from Bnei Brak], Rav Golan from Alma - all the great Tzaddikim. Do you have a message from Rav Amos?”*

R Vaknin replied:

*“Yes. I have an important message from him! We are close to Netanya and go to him a lot. Rabbi Amos said one thing now which needs to be said, about what is happening now:*

*For a long time the Jewish people are silent, great rabbis are silent, the entire world is silent — about the disgracing of a great Tzaddik, the Tzaddik of the generation, who is Rabbi Eliezer Berland shlit”a, whom they are disgracing from morning to evening!*

---

<sup>125</sup> <https://ravberland.com/kabbalist-reveals-reason-for-4th-intifada-and-warns-of-tragedy-a-1000-times-greater/>

*You know, the Shas party, everyone..., when you say to them about Bibi [Netanyahu], that he still hasn't been tried, they answer, Bibi is a 'tzaddik' — he's presumed innocent.*

*But Rabbi Berland shlit" a - they're torturing him for a year and a half in prison — and he still hasn't been tried, and everyone is afraid to protest! Now, they brought the Rav to the district court in a mobile intensive care unit! He needed to have intensive care inside the courthouse!*

*What they annulled for Bibi [i.e. to appear in court], for Rabbi Berland, they don't annul! The kabbalist Rabbi Amos said that if people don't protest the affront to the Tzaddik... For a year and a half, he's not with us: there was no Uman, there was no Rabbi Shimon — there was a tragedy by Rabbi Shimon.*

*This year, Rabbi Berland screamed: 'I want to go to Rabbi Shimon. I want to sweeten the decrees!' They didn't allow him... And the Sages of Israel — forgive us, we are dust at their feet — are not protesting. Not one protests. This Tzaddik is now in an ambulance, Reb Moshe."*

R' Vaknin continued:

*"There was never something like this — they take an 84-year-old Jew in an ambulance to the district court to try him for things that he has absolutely no connection to. Rabbi Amos screamed — he's on video — he screamed: "If people don't protest the insult to the honor*



*of Rabbi Eliezer Berland, there will be a tragedy 1000 times greater!*

*We need to wake up because of this. There is a presumption of innocence for everyone, yet everyone is silent!”*



At that point, the presenter Ben Lulu brought the segment to a close by saying the following:

*“Ok, listen Channan. I’m going to tell you something. I have an order here [at Radio Kol Chai] not to talk about Rabbi Berland, but because you said that the kabbalist Rabbi Amos said this, I was silent, and I know what I’ll ‘receive’ after the program [for allowing him to continue to speak about Rabbi Berland]. But here you spoke. Thank you very much.”<sup>126</sup>*



The next disaster wasn’t long in coming.

Four days after this interview, on May 18, 2021, the bleachers collapsed at the new Karlin Beit HaMidrash in Givat Ze’ev just as the festival of Shavuot began, once again in very strange circumstances.

Footage from the synagogue’s security cameras appeared on Jewish news sites<sup>127</sup> even before Shavuot began in the States and

---

<sup>126</sup> To hear the original recording in Hebrew: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AJstTHcwyT0>

<sup>127</sup> <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/synagogue-balcony-collapses-in-givat-zeev-dozens-injured-report-668322>

showed hundreds of chassidim falling as the top three rows of a set of bleachers collapsed at 7:14 p.m., killing two people and injuring over 180.

Coming as it did so hard on the heels of the atrocity in Meron, the chassidic and *chareidi* community was shaken to its core. This time, yet another tzaddik, Rabbi Yekutiel Fish, author of the series of books *Sod HaChashmal*, girded his loins to help the public understand what the true spiritual cause of all this death and destruction really was.

The following is a slightly abridged version of his words:<sup>128</sup>

Rabbi Yekutiel Fish began:

*“There is a Jew who is a Talmid Chacham and Tzaddik who told me something after the tragedy in Meron, and which he now said to me again, after the tragedy by Karlin. He said that the same thing is also true here.*

*And he added a horrifying statement: **The danger still exists because of the same reason that was in Meron and Karlin — the danger still exists.***

*I can't say everything for a lot of reasons. I'm only saying some things. Perhaps it will be of some benefit. And perhaps these words will sound strange to some of the listeners, but this doesn't matter to me. “[The Talmid Chacham] said: “You know that many Tzaddikim already say, among them Rabbi Chaim Kanievsky shlit”a who's been saying this already for ten years, and many*

---

<sup>128</sup> You can read the full translation here: <https://ravberland.com/r-yekutiel-fish-tragedies-in-meron-and-karlin-caused-by-war-against-mashiach/>

other Tzaddikim, all of them say that Mashiach is already here in the world....

*There is one Tzaddik, one Jew, that the Tzaddikim know that he will be Mashiach. His body is here in the world, and maybe he still hasn't received the soul of Moshiach from the chamber of the 'bird's nest.' **He still hasn't received all the things that he will receive in order that there will be the revelation of Mashiach to the entire Jewish people, but his body is here in the world, and they know who he is.** It could be that Mashiach himself doesn't know, but there are Tzaddikim who do know.*”

Rav Fish continued:

*“[The Talmid Chacham] said: **There are those in the world who understand that this is going to happen, the redemption of Israel, the coming of Mashiach is going to happen fast, and they're not interested in this. This doesn't work for them, mainly because of their personal vested interests. They aren't interested in this [happening], so they found for themselves a solution — to wage war against Mashiach to such an extent. Simply, they know who Mashiach is, and they decided that he should die.***

*They have spiritual means for doing this, as it were, a kind of spiritual war, and of course, literally to the end, Hashem have mercy. **They decreed death on Mashiach, and they think that through this they solved the problem.** It doesn't work for them, the program of the redemption of Israel, with their vested interests.”*

Rav Fish interjects:

*“These are very difficult things to hear, and they aren’t totally understood. But the Talmid Chacham emphasized these words:*

**THIS IS A WAR AGAINST MOSHIACH HIMSELF**

*And he said: ‘Mashiach has the soldiers of the house of David, those who are connected to him, are bound with his soul and are supposed to help him. In a war, there are sacrifices, and this is what you saw in Meron.’*

*And now, [the Talmid Chacham] added that the tragedy at Karlin was a continuation of the same thing. These are the sacrifices of the war against Mashiach himself. The whole Jewish people together with Mashiach himself will be in debt to these sacrifices—their lives, the redemption, and everything, forever — to such an extent.<sup>129</sup>*

***The punishment of those who are doing this, who are waging a spiritual war against Mashiach, will be worse than that of Titus the wicked.”***



Rav Fish continued:

*“All the reasons that the Tzaddikim said after the tragedies in Meron and Karlin... certainly they are true; certainly everything that needs strengthening needs*

---

<sup>129</sup> I.e. That these tragedies saved the lives of Mashiach and the entire Jewish people, and the redemption will also be thanks to them.

*strengthening. Everything that the Tzaddikim said is all true, but the innermost point — there are many reasons. There is the tragedy itself, and after that is the form of the tragedy — why it happened here...*

*There are many things surrounding [this], like the Tzaddikim who said that people trampled on one another, so one needs to learn not to trample [others], and so forth... The love of one's fellow Jew, modesty, to learn the inner Torah... Everything is true.*

*But this tzaddik is coming to say, 'why does this happen specifically now'? All those things we needed to rectify and strengthen have been going on by us already for many years. But what's happening now?*

*He says that there is the war against our righteous Mashiach who is found among us. Our righteous Mashiach is found among us; so say all the Tzaddikim. "We're talking about the body of Mashiach. There may also be wars against Mashiach that reach the soul — we're not going to elaborate on that point.*

*However, there is a war against our righteous Mashiach, Mashiach son of David, and this war has reached a climax which is very, very dangerous and terrible. I can't say everything that I heard; it's to the point of death, mamash. These sorts of tragedies are not happening randomly. These are horrible tragedies happening here in the holy of holies, in Meron and now in Chasidus Karlin. These things are not simple."*

Rav Fish concluded:

*“Many ask what we should do with this message? The simple answer is to pray. One always needs to pray and request from Hashem salvation. Now, we need a lot more than this, we need to literally pray that Hashem should protect our righteous Moshiach. To pray for our righteous Moshiach!*

*That’s mamash how it is. If he is in danger, and to such an extent that the danger causes what it causes... one needs to request from Hashem to ‘Save with Your great mercy Your righteous Moshiach and Your people.’ If such a thing has been revealed...why not say it and give strength to Moshiach and pray for Moshiach?...*

*HaKadosh Baruch Hu will certainly win the war. No one can stand up against Hashem. One who goes out against His Moshiach, this is also against Hashem mamash, and certainly they will have a great downfall. We need to be sure about this. However, this shouldn’t stop us from making the efforts to prevent the tragedies that are happening all around us.*

*Bloodshed is a horrible thing, and we’re still in the danger zone; it still hasn’t ended. If we can, through our prayers and strengthening, each one in his way, even though I know that all this work requires a lot of self-sacrifice; there’s no doubt about this. He said that this war is against the head of the serpent itself. Things that are not simple.*

*If they close the hotline for me (where R Fish left this audio message) ... I don’t care what they do to me. I’m prepared to go with self-sacrifice in this matter. What’s the question? To prevent the spilling of Jewish blood, to*

*do what is possible for our righteous Mashiach. One needs to act now without looking right or left.*

*And to act with the simplest faith, in this simplest of matters.”*



Let us not forget, the government that hounded the Rav for over a decade, and chased him from continent to continent, that made up lies and slanders about him on multiple occasions, and bent all the rules and all the laws, in order to imprison him with no evidence twice in a row - all this occurred under a ‘right wing’ government, with Benjamin Netanyahu at its head.

As did ‘Covid 19’ and all the lockdowns, restrictions, and persecution of the chareidi communities. And the forced closure of Uman, on Rosh Hashana.

And the disasters at Meron, and the subsequent disaster at the Karlin synagogue in Givat Ze’ev.

While parties like ‘Yesh Atid’ and ‘Blue & White, and ‘Meretz’ were clearly running on an ‘anti-Torah’ platform, the persecution against the Rav and against the Torah world was also taking place under the watchful eye of Benjamin Netanyahu.

In the meantime, on June 2, 2021, against all the odds, Yair Lapid and Naftali Bennett’s Yamina announced that they had formed a rotation government, sitting with the Arab Ra’am list, which was approved on 13 June 2021.

Perhaps Hashem gave ‘the Left’ the merit of running the country for a year was because almost the first thing this ‘Unity Government’

did, on June 27, 2021, was to set up the Public Commission into what had happened in Meron.



The month a change of guard happened on the political front, Rav Berland was forced into making another plea bargain with the State of Israel - who had made it clear that otherwise, they would keep pushing the Rav's trial off indefinitely, effectively keeping him in prison forever.

Under the terms of the plea bargain, the Rav was forced to agree to charges of: "obtaining things by deception, fraud, attempted intimidation, tax offenses and money laundering totalling tens of millions of shekels."

Unbelievably, the court sentenced the Rav to another 18 months in prison, in addition to the months of imprisonment he had already served during his detention. And they also slapped a huge fine of 2 million shekels on Rav Berland - together with a condition that he was prohibited from engaging in any fundraising of any sort, to help cover the debt.

The one small concession was that the Rav could go back to house arrest, with the proviso that if he failed to pay the monthly payments of his fine or breached any of the other conditions imposed by the court - like doing any more *pidyonei nefesh*, for example - they would fling him straight back into jail.

As the political persecution of the Rav ratcheted back up, within a week, this reality was mirrored back in the daily life of Jews in Israel.

On June 25, 2021, despite the huge percentage of people 'vaccinated' against Covid-19, the Israeli government decided to bring



back mandatory masking indoors and reinstated the hated 'Green Pass' requirements for gatherings of over 100 people - including weddings.

The Ministry of Health's bully-boy tactics continued over the following month. At the end of July, amid endless fearmongering about the 'Delta variant', Israel approved the third round of vaccination for Covid 19- even though the 'official science' was already starting to show that the Covid shots had limited efficacy, didn't prevent spread or transmission of 'Covid 19, and were increasingly causing some massive, and massively under-reported, serious side effects.

At that point, it looked like 'coronavirus tyranny' was never going to end. But in a pattern that repeated itself over and over, at exactly this time, the Rav apparently took the decree of the 'corona virus' pandemic upon himself, and was hospitalized with Covid-19, on August 17, 2021.<sup>130</sup>



<sup>130</sup> <https://ravberland.com/new-and-rare-photograph-of-rabbi-berland-shlita-learning-despite-covid/>



With hindsight, we can see that the grip the coronavirus had on the country waned from this point on, from mid-August 2021.

By the end of August, even though the new ‘Covid Tzar’, Salman Zarka, threatened that anyone who didn’t line up for the third ‘booster’ would lose their Green Pass status - most of the country decided to ignore him.



After the ‘cancelling’ of the previous Rosh Hashana in Uman, Rosh Hashana 5782 saw 29,000 pilgrims head out to Ukraine - many of them leaving a full month before Tishrei, to be sure of spending Rosh Hashana with Rabbenu.

However, that year many people in Shuvu Banim stayed home. A message had been passed along from one of the Rav’s senior students, that the Rav was telling people to stay home and not go to Uman that year.

This sounded incredible - after all, the Rav had been tirelessly fighting for people to go to Uman, even with maximum *mesirut nefesh*, for decades. So, another of the Rav’s students went to clarify the Rav’s remarks, and reported back that anyone who had already booked their ticket could go after all.

Sometimes, we don’t understand the ways of the True Tzaddikim, and just what they are trying to achieve or sweeten. But for the second year in a row, many of the Rav’s followers didn’t make it out to Uman.

That year, PCR tests before getting on the plane and Ukrainian tracing apps were still *de rigeur* for travellers to Uman, and the

State of Israel also set up a massive PCR testing center in Ben Gurion airport.

Many pilgrims were worried about more ‘dirty tricks’ from the State of Israel, following what had occurred in Meron on Lag BaOmer, and there was a lot of distrust when United Hatzalah announced a special ‘PCR testing’ out in Uman.

Rosh Hashana itself passed uneventfully - although technically with masks required in Israel. But post-*chag*, word started filtering back from Uman that nearly all the PCR tests from Hatzalah were coming back as false positives.

As the prospect of being stuck in Ukraine for two weeks of *bidud* loomed into view, many *chassidim* took matters into their own hands, and got a second PCR test done in Ukrainian testing centers.

In one of the ‘wonders’ of PCR testing, all the Ukrainian tests came back negative....

The State of Israel was not at all happy about this, and for a few days stories appeared in the press that Israel was rounding up and arresting Breslovers who had ‘faked’ their PCR tests coming back from Ukraine.

In September 2021, Salman Zarka was still making threatening noises about the ‘4<sup>th</sup> dose’, and telling the country that we’d better get used to coronavirus boosters every few months, from now on.<sup>131</sup>

---

<sup>131</sup> <https://www.rt.com/news/533981-israel-covid19-vaccine-fourth-dose/>

4 Sep, 2021 22:25 / Home / World News

## 'This is life from now on': Israel's coronavirus czar warns people to prepare for a 'fourth injection' of Covid vaccine

Israel resident receives third dose of Covid-19 vaccine in Rishon LeZion, Israel © Reuters / Nir Elias

With over 2.5 million Israelis already inoculated with three Covid-19 vaccine doses, the national coronavirus czar, Salman Zarka, has said preparations need to begin for an eventual fourth jab due to the virus'

growing variants.

'Yet another round of booster shots will be needed for the vaccinated in order to keep up with coronavirus variants, said Zarka, the head of the special task force set up to coordinate Israel's fight against Covid-19, in an [interview](#) with Kan public radio on Saturday. Despite two-thirds of the Israeli population already being vaccinated with two doses, health officials expect that the more spreadable Delta will continue to lead to a rise in cases and hospitalizations in the fall months.

The following month, the 'Unity Government' of the so-called 'Change Bloc' showed that really, there was no change at all when it came to coronavirus, by targeting chareidi schools with their so-called green classrooms pilot.

This pernicious initiative forced school children and their parents in Israel to spend hours and hours queuing up at Covid testing centers to get expensive PCR tests, just to be allowed in school. The 'green classrooms' was introduced very shortly before the Israeli government was set to approve the Covid shots for kids... even though kids were never at risk for serious Covid, and despite precious little evidence that the Covid shots were safe or effective.

Despite the massive propaganda push targeting parents across Israel, this time the 'coronavirus spell' seemed to have really been broken. Even previously law-abiding, rule-following parents decided they'd had enough of being constantly hostage to the next PCR test, and many of them simply stopped testing.

Without a steady flow of positive PCR tests to fuel the next round of fearmongering, Coronavirus was quickly becoming a thing of the past in the State of Israel. But the government wasn't about to let things rest there if they could help it.

While the general population was still mostly unaware that whatever happened to the Tzaddik personally, would also happen to the Jewish people generally, the authorities - and the evil forces waging war against the *geula*, were acutely aware of the connection.

So it was, on October 13, 2021, the State started threatening the Rav that he would have to return to prison, for not being able to pay his fine. After forbidding Shuvu Banim to directly fundraise for the Rav, this was essentially a foregone conclusion. And so, on October 28, 2021, the Rav was sent back to Nitzan prison in Ramle, and the storm clouds started to gather, once again.



## IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE

At the end of 2021, following almost two years of Covid 19 hysteria and draconian lockdowns, Rav Yoshiyahu Yosef Pinto, Head of the “Shuva Yisrael” Institutions and Av Beit Din of the Jewish Community in Morocco, published a recording where he said the following:

*Know, that this is now the time of redemption – the Gemara says that the seventh year [of the Sabbatical cycle] is a year of war. See, Tzaddikim, that this year won't pass without a war – a year of war.”*

*The war, we say, already began two years ago. This entire pandemic of Gog and Magog is a war that has begun. This began in a way... it's not written whether this will be with rifles, or with missiles, or with swords, or with knives – Gog and Magog has begun.*

*When the Nazis rose to power, it was five, six years before [World War II]. Did anyone believe [then that this would lead to the Shoah]? However, they began! With opinions, hatred, hating the foreigner, hating others – it began.*

*The War of Gog and Magog has begun, but how it develops depends on our power. Like we said at the beginning of the pandemic — if we will be... Know, Tzaddikim, that at the beginning of the pandemic, on that Passover eve, we heard: ‘No man shall leave the entrance of his home until the morning.’*

***We were at the beginning of the redemption mamash – Mashiach was at the door mamash.***

*Afterwards, began arguments, hatred – this one said, this one did – arguments among the Jewish People. Mashiach doesn't like arguments. The redemption became further away, and it's written that if Mashiach comes, 'He will come, and I will not see it.'*

*If he doesn't come in a good way, that the Jewish People are a ready vessel for receiving Mashiach, then the time will be a time of suffering and adversities.*

*We have seen in a certain holy book that before Mashiach comes, those who are furthest from the redemption will reach emunah [faith] that there is no other way – only [through] G-d.*

*And remember, that however much there is now hatred and persecution against the holy Torah, we see from afar a spirit/wind of very great repentance... which is blowing like a storm that is approaching the world. And remember, that this spirit/wind will cover the earth, and in every single place there will be a place of Torah.*



**A**t the beginning of October 2021, it looked like maybe the persecution of the Rav was turning a corner. The Rav was back in the hospital, still with serious health issues, but he was being reasonably well looked after for a change. At that time, one of the Rav's attendants explained that the situation was improving, but still very complicated. He said:

*The Police are trying nonstop to get the Rav out of hospital and back in prison, which is a death sentence. We pray that Hashem will stop it and keep him in the hospital until his release. The highest officials are trying*

*very hard to get him back in prison. There are a lot of evil things happening that we can't talk about publicly, but we need to keep praying for them to fail in their evil plans."*

*The attendant continued:*

*The hospital officials also have to stay on the "good side" of their bosses and report that the Rav is ready to go back to prison, and say that he is healthy enough, even when he clearly is not. There are some good people there who are fighting for the truth. This is a war. Constantly, there has always been a war going on around the Rav. There are people who have known the Rav for 50-60 years and they have noted that there are always people around him who want to harm him.*

*His purpose in this world is to accept all the harm with love and bring about Atonement and the Redemption.*

*Please continue to pray that the Rav will not be put back in prison, which is a death sentence for him. When the Rav was released to the hospital, there were policemen guarding him 24/7, they were leaving him handcuffed to the bed at all times. The court finally, for the first time recognized this inhuman treatment and the judge ordered that they should take off the handcuffs.*

*When the Tzaddik is bound in chains — it is Am Israel and the Shechina that are bound in chains; it is the Shechina that is in pain. And it's time now for the Shechina to be released from bondage and exile. The handcuffs getting opened is the beginning of the Shechina's release from her bondage in exile. It's the*



*Heavenly Court that decided this, not the courts here in this world.*

*Everything that happens to the Tzaddik is happening to the Shechina, they are one. The handcuffs are off, and the Rav is free to walk around the room. This is a small amount of Redemption and there is no turning back.*

*The attendant concluded:*

*This is where we are now. This is the beginning of the Shechina's release from exile. The Supreme Court saw the evil of the Lower Court and said he should stay in the hospital. They gave the other side until October 25. If they cannot come up with a justification for the Rav to be held in prison, then he is to be freed....*

*There was Haman's decree, that was sealed by the King's seal, and which could not be undone. But then, suddenly, there was a turn of events and Haman started to fall as Mordechai started to rise. Haman's wife Zerach, who was an evil witch, told Haman that he will continue to fall, and Mordechai will continue to rise.*

*She said: 'If Mordechai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of Jewish descent, then you will certainly continue to fall to oblivion.'*

*But please continue to pray for the Rav.*



On November 1, 2021, the Rav was taken for questioning again, this time on more false charges concerning the disappearance of

two young men associated with Shuvu Banim in the 1980s, Nissim Sheetrit and Avi Edri. Given the type of 'justice' the Rav had previously experienced from the State of Israel, his community feared the worst - that the authorities were never going to release the Rav from prison.

November 2021 marked the 'high water' mark of the campaign of persecution against the Rav, and no-one knew if the Rav was going to be able to get out of his current difficulties.

Not coincidentally, on November 10, 2021, Israel approved the Covid shots for kids, and as the media continued to fearmonger with non-stop stories about 'Omicron'<sup>132</sup>, it looked as though Salman Zarka was right after all, that non-stop covid injections really was going to be 'life from now on'.

## **Coronavirus czar says Omicron 'game changer', vaccines 'vital'**

Prof. Salman Zarka tells Ynet new variant is spreading fast, and officials worry over increase in hospitalization of children; adds total closure of Ben Gurion Airport unnecessary but urges Israelis to refrain from international travel

Adir Yanko, Attila Somfalvi | 11.28.21 | 14:55

Add a comment

The 'war' Rav Pinto and the other kabbalists had been talking about seemed to be warming up again, on several fronts.

While the Rav was under house arrest, and unable to make direct contact with his followers, one of his security guards started passing snippets of information from the Rav to the community, always anonymously.

---

<sup>132</sup> [https://www.ynetnews.com/health\\_science/article/sktzgebyf-](https://www.ynetnews.com/health_science/article/sktzgebyf-)

Shortly before Rosh Hashana 5782 (September 2021) a rumor swirled in Israel that the nine months of 'birthpangs of the Moshiach' before his actual coming had already begun. The security guard was constantly accompanying Rav Berland, and he'd also heard the rumors, so he decided to ask him if the rumor was true.

Rav Berland told him:

*"This isn't correct. The nine months before the redemption still haven't begun. They'll begin in Chanukah and will be accompanied by difficult events that will continue until Rosh Hashanah."*

The security guard then asked the Rav what people needed to do, to be prepared for what was coming next. At that time, there was still a great fear that the draconian Covid restrictions and heavy-handed policing would continue indefinitely - and perhaps even intensify.

The government-sponsored media was also blaring more fear-inducing headlines about food shortages on the horizon thanks to the chaos caused by the Covid 19 restrictions globally. So the guard asked the Rav: *"What do we need to prepare for this period? Do we need to prepare a lot of food?"*

The Rav replied:

*"The situation with food won't be so difficult. There will be enough food; there will be what to eat, but medicine will be difficult to get. Therefore, anyone who takes medicine routinely should see to preparing for himself a supply for the coming months."*

A little while later, the security guard asked the Rav about the ongoing rumors that Iran was able to launch a nuclear bomb targeting Israel. The Rav replied:

*“Iran will throw a nuke at Israel, but I will catch it in the air and throw it back at Iran. It will also fall on Egypt and Syria, but **mainly on Turkey.**”*



At the time of writing, the circumstances around the murder of Meir Sheetrit is still under a gag order. But let's bring some of the comments from Attorney Efraim Dimri, who represented the Rav previously, when he was interviewed by the 'Tzaddik Hotline' in Adar 5783 (March 2023).<sup>133</sup>

*“We were very happy that the Rav was released, and we had no doubt that the Rav would be released, even though we had no connection whatsoever with this case,”* Dimri began.

*I want to say a little about my personal relationship with the Rav. I sat with him for hundreds of hours, if not thousands of hours, and I greatly admire him. I said this in every media outlet that I could possibly speak to.*

*This last case that the Rav was brought in for investigation for was a practice of ‘manipulation’ that they use during their investigation of a case. They were using manipulative tactics. They took advantage of the Rav’s simplicity.*

---

<sup>133</sup> You can access the Kav Tzaddik, in Hebrew, here: 02-5326502 Extension 42.

*And they took advantage, because they know the Rav is very easy-going, and would tell them whatever they want to hear. They took advantage, because they know that the way the Rav speaks is not the way that regular people speak. He speaks on a much higher level, and a lot of times they can interpret it in a way that's good for their purposes.*

*The investigators take advantage of this, and then publicize the words that the Rav says which are taken out of context. And with the Rav, it's very easy for them to do this.*

*But Baruch Hashem, this time, they didn't succeed, and the Rav was released, as they had no power to hold him any longer....*

*So, in this case, I'm not at all surprised that the Rav was released quickly. I knew this would happen. They were just using him to strengthen their investigation, and to manipulate the words he said to their advantage. But there was no way that they could get him behind bars with this case, as he had absolutely nothing to do with this story.*

*And they knew that. The Rav has no connection whatsoever to this story.”*

Dimri then talked about some of the open miracles he'd seen the Rav do with his own eyes, which were also covered in One in a Generation II, before continuing:

*“When we used to sit and learn together, we used to learn for hours on end. And when I'd come to visit him, he'd bring a sefer with him, and he would give me the*

*sefer, and he would be without any sefer, and he would quote it word for word by heart and tell me where I'm holding and tell me where to go.*

*And when I would ask the Rav about a certain topic, and where it is, where it's talking about it - the Rav, without even looking, would open the book to a certain page and point to it - without even looking!*

*This is the power of someone whose whole entire life was spent in the Torah. He has holy power through his learning Torah all his life. And I was amazed by it, and I saw it on a regular basis. His level of wisdom and understanding is not to be compared to anything else in the world that I've ever witnessed.*

*He knows all the Torah. All parts of the Torah. He knows history. He knows other knowledge. And in the Torah, the Shechina speaks through him. Halacha, gemara, kabbalah, midrashim, I can testify about all this.*

*You could put him on a desert island and not give him food for 30 or 40 days and come back - he'll be fine! Food is not something that gives him life. He lives by the Torah. The physical world doesn't drive him. He can talk for five hours and not even think about taking a sip of water, for example."*

Dimri continued:

*"Something else that is hard for us regular human beings to comprehend, are things I would witness when I sat with him for several hours, and then I would go*

*out and say, wow, this is not normal... the way he runs his life.*

*Everyone who sits with him, he gives them a good feeling. He gives very, very positive, good energy. If there was a way to measure the energy that surrounds a person when he's with the Rav - it's very, very positive, very, very powerful.*

*This is a Rabbi of the Torah. The Rav doesn't sleep at night, he never sleeps at night. The whole day and night he's learning Torah. One time I asked him, why don't you get some rest? He told me: we're supposed to learn Torah, day and night - and the Rav takes this literally!*

*He takes it literally!*

*I represented many rabbis throughout my career, and I never had anyone like him at all, anyone else even near to his level.*

*Anyone who has any questions about the Rav, I tell them just sit with him for three minutes, and then you'll have no questions anymore. But I could say this about the Rav, that the Rav does tikkunim (spiritual rectifications) for each person who comes to him, and for Am Yisrael generally.*

*He's not just working in this world, he's also doing things on a much higher level that we can't comprehend, that we don't even understand. To think that someone like this has taken on so much suffering for nothing, someone who's over 80, someone like this - it's not a joke.*

*There are a lot of things going on that we don't see."*

Dimri then explained more about what happened in the run-up to the Rav's release:

*"The lawyers preparing the Rav for this most recent investigation told the Rav that all you need to do is say the truth, and then you're out. Just say the truth - think about the kehilla and your family, the kehilla is very important to you, and you need to be with them. You shouldn't say things that will get you in trouble, just say the truth.*

*The Rav told them: There are also other things that are very important.... But he didn't explain himself further. It was obviously connected to things that were happening on a global level, to Am Yisrael and the world. He takes on himself things that we can't understand.*

*That is what [the lawyers] were concerned about, that the Rav would say something that he didn't actually do. There are also things in the upper worlds that the Rav is involved in, that I can't really expound on. If the Rav wants to talk about these things himself... things that I witnessed that I can't really expound on."*

Attorney Dimri concluded by saying:

*"There are things I saw and I wasn't able to sleep for two days afterwards. I'm not going to talk about it. Thousands of hours, I spent with the Rav. There were people he healed, people who came to him for help, and he healed them. Anyone can see with their own eyes what is going on.*



*But regular human beings just can't understand. Someone has to be on a very high level, to do these kinds of things. It doesn't matter with the Rav if you put him in prison or in his house - he'll be the same person.*

*The physical body will be there, but the ruach, the spirit, is somewhere else completely. Put him in a freezing cold cell, minus degrees - he's the same person. It's not about his physical being, it's about his spiritual being. You see that clearly.*

*That's all I can say right now, but there's a lot more that I'm not saying. I've witnessed things with my own eyes, that I can't talk about. Part of the tikkun is that the Rav comes, and he takes things upon himself."*



What can be said, is that just when it looked as though the Rav would be kept behind bars forever, in the blink of an eye - it all turned around. Because as Rebbe Nachman explains, 'fairness exists everywhere' - even in the deepest recesses of the Israeli judicial system.

#### **JUSTICE EVEN EXISTS 'ON THE LEFT'**

[Rebbe Nachman] was once in a small village. A military commander had come there demanding horses, saying they were needed to carry mail. The villagers bribed him to leave them in peace. They kept their horses, and the officer had some easy money.

Soon, one of his junior officers arrived. The commander convinced him that he should also try this trick. The second officer went to the villagers and also demanded horses for the mail. He was also bribed and walked away with a tidy sum.

A third officer then passed through the town. He was really in charge of the mail and was short several animals. He actually needed the horses and would not be satisfied with a bribe.

A village chief went and pleaded before the commander. The people had already paid two bribes but would still have their horses taken.

This same commander had already robbed the villagers without qualm. He had even advised his junior officer to do the same. It took two crimes before his sense of fairness could even begin to function. But by the third time, even he realized that the situation was hardly fair. Then he ordered that the village be left alone.

Fairness exists everywhere. It may be buried, but it can always be accessed.

It is written in the Zohar that even the Left Side<sup>134</sup> (the side of evil) contains both right and left. Even the unholy has a spark of the Divine.

The Left Side has a right, even though its right might not even reach the left side of holiness. The right side is fairness. It even exists on the Other Side [i.e. the side of evil]. But on the Other Side, righteousness and fairness begin very late - even after the fairness of the left side of holiness. Understand this.

– Chayei Moharan 79, translated as ‘His Wisdom’  
in English, by the Breslov Research Institute.



And so, within a matter of hours the murder accusations against the Rav were thrown out - and the Rav was finally released back home, to his shocked, but elated, community.

On December 15, 2021, Wednesday, 11 Tevet 5782, after spending over a year and a half in prison on the ‘charge’ of taking

---

<sup>134</sup> This is describing the spiritual realm, not politics.

charity payments and performing *pidyon nefesh*, Rabbi Eliezer Berland, shlit'a, finally came back to his home on Ido HaNavi Street, Jerusalem.<sup>135</sup>



Thousands of the Rav's followers from Shuvu Banim Jerusalem, and from locations across the country, flocked to the Homa Shlishit neighborhood of Musrara, giving the Rav a true welcome fit for a king.

There was a palpable sense of joy, as the Rav's car slowly made its way up the road in Meah Shearim, as young men climbed up walls and hung on window railings, hoping to catch a glimpse of the Rav's face, after almost two years of not seeing him.<sup>136</sup>

---

<sup>135</sup> <https://ravberland.com/awesome-rav-eliezer-berland-released-tevet-5782/>

<sup>136</sup> You can see video footage of the Rav's return home here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XBnSBQUq668&t=1s> and also here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jeimirVJRLc&t=1s>



As thousands of people crushed into the courtyard below his home, the Rav came out on the balcony to give his first shiur in person to his followers.<sup>137</sup> This is an excerpt of what he said:

*“Add days upon the days of the king, his years like every generation.”*

*The tenth of Tevet is in essence Yom Kippur, now after Yom Kippur. The [fast of the] tenth of Tevet puts off [the mitzvah of eating on] Shabbat. Therefore, Shabbat never falls on the Yahrzeit of Rabbi Natan – because Rabbi Natan is the Rebbe [Nachman] in himself. These are the miracles of Rabbi Natan and the Rebbe because he is the Rabbi and the student who were anticipated from the creation of the world.*

*Adam HaRishon, before he sinned, before he thought to sin, the souls of the Rebbe and Rabbi Natan flew away. And they perform all the miracles [i.e. they implore Hashem to work the miracles] that will be until the end of all generations – they perform them, and they worked the release!*

***Turned over... ‘and it was turned over, that the Jews prevailed over their enemies!’***

---

<sup>137</sup> <https://ravberland.com/first-shiur-after-release-rav-eliezer-berland-shl-ita-in-words-of-redemption/>

Now, Yechezkel chapter 24, verse 2, ‘This very day’<sup>138</sup>. What is ‘this very day’? What is unique about this day from all other days?

*That on this day the Holy Temple began to be destroyed, and the Third Temple needs to be built. Then it’s written, ‘On this very day Avraham and his son Yishmael were circumcised’<sup>139</sup>. That in Hevron they said they won’t allow there to be a brit – they won’t allow [it]!*

*Like today, may their names be erased, on television they have begun to incite, to say, ‘what is this, cutting an 8-day-old child!’ Because already for 2,000 years there hadn’t been anything in the world like this, because Yitzchak was born in 2048, in 1948 Avraham was born. For 2,000 years, they hadn’t seen britot!*

*Noach was born circumcised, Chanoch was [born] circumcised, but a brit!? Cut an 8-day-old child? To pieces, pieces??! This is only a revelation of the holy Torah! According to logic and nature, there’s no such thing as cutting an 8-day-old child....”*



The Rav continued:

*“Yaakov Galinsky was in a house with a Mohel [in Russia when it was forbidden to perform a brit], and suddenly a KGB agent entered and said that he wants*

---

<sup>138</sup> The full verse reads: “Son of man, write for yourself the name of this day, this very day; the King of Babylonia has reached Jerusalem on this very day.”

<sup>139</sup> Bereishit 17:26.

*to circumcise his son, that the Mohel should come to such-and-such an address, he'll see a woman with a purse leave, he should go into the apartment, and the baby will be in a cradle.*

*The Mohel immediately fled from the door outside – there was another door there. In Russia, they must have two doors in every apartment. Like today, a person needs to have two doors in every apartment, so that if they come from this door, you already flee from the second door. Anyone who has one door is lost.*

*The Mohel returned and told Rabbi Galinsky that this is an entrapment! Why did you tell him that I'm a Mohel?! Rav Galinsky said, 'I promised that we would come. We're obligated! He told me, "Go up to the third floor, a woman with a purse will come out. Go into the apartment, the child will be in a cradle."'*

*Well, they went. Went up three floors, saw a woman with a purse come out, went into the apartment, found the baby in a cradle. They circumcised him. Yaakov Galinsky was the Sandak. He has a will that at every brit to tell this story.*

*There were 12 loaves of bread and 12 eggs there [as payment for performing a Brit - a fortune, in Communist Russia at that time]. The Mohel told the assistant: Give me coupons! You KGB have no problem, but how can I go around in the street [with all this food]? They'll think that I held up a bank! I held up a supermarket. Can a person walk around with something like this in Russia...?*

*One day, Rav Galinsky was walking in the street and suddenly the KGB agent passed by and recognized him. He said to him: "Thank you for circumcising my son for me! Today the Jews are on the bottom, but I know that the Jews will return to being on top again, one day! It will be good for the Jews. In a little while, everything will turn around! The darkness will turn to light!! Then we will see the light! I want to have a circumcised son, already!"*



The Rav continued:

*"Now we're talking about the first Brit in human history. To cut children?! So now they're saying on television, may their names be erased, Yair Lapid and his whole gang. They now want to uproot the Biirit milah! They don't know that people will jump off the roofs to circumcise their sons! The Jewish people will never relent on the Brit!!*

*And Avraham Avinu needs to circumcise his son in Hevron. Everyone hates him with deathly hatred, waiting for some little mistake and they'll slaughter him! Parashat Vayera, the first verse – everyone read this at home.<sup>140</sup>*

*Aner arrives, and they perform the first Brit on him – boom! he immediately passes out and dies! They pour three buckets of water on him, and he doesn't wake up! Then Eshkol says, 'Now circumcise me.' They circumcise*

---

<sup>140</sup> The full verse reads: "Hashem appeared to him in Eloney Mamrei, and he was sitting at the entrance to the tent in the heat of the day."

*him – baruch Hashem, he dies! He ascends to the Garden of Eden. Two ascend to the Garden of Eden.*

*Policemen arrive, KGB – ‘Avraham is slaughtering people, slaughtering children!’ Two already died. Why? Because they didn’t really want the Brit. They did it because of social pressure. Then this Mamrei arrives. What does he say? Circumcise me now! I’m the third one. Now is my turn! They circumcise him, and everything goes happily. All the angels arrive! Now they circumcise 100,000 converts. A river of blood flows in Hevron. All the Land of Israel converted.*

***And now in the merit of this release, all the Land of Israel converts! They will be Breslov, they will be Shuvu Banim! May we merit to the complete redemption and to the Third Temple speedily in our days, Amen!”***



As usual, the Rav was packing a lot of hidden hints and coded messages into his remarks to the crowd. Israel was still a full year away from the riots and demonstrations incited by Yair Lapid and the anti-Torah, ‘woke’ Left, superficially over Judicial Reform.

But really, those riots were over the future direction the State of Israel would take, away from ‘woke militant atheism’, and towards returning to God and greater Torah observance. And the Jewish nation’s *brit*, or sacred covenant with Hashem, has always been a central pillar of that *teshuva* process.

We will leave the reader to ponder some of the other hints and clues contained in the Rav’s words and return to the great joy that



was experienced by tens of thousands of the Rav's followers, upon his miraculous release.



Rav Yisrael Sharet is a well-known outreach personality in Israel. On the day of the release, he was interviewed by the Breslov Information Line, and said the following:<sup>141</sup>

*“Baruch Hashem, this made us happy, to see everyone. Everyone got together and came to see. How many Jews came! Baruch Hashem, it’s impossible to fool the Jewish people. The Jewish people know who a Tzaddik is. They don’t need to know from the media who is a Tzaddik and who isn’t. The Jewish people don’t need to know from the media who is the prince of Torah! Who is the great sage of the generation. The Jewish people know!”*

*Baruch Hashem, this was a great, awesome, and vast Kiddush Hashem. After many thought that that’s it – who knows if this will ever come back? There were those who thought about this with longing [to get the Rav back], and there are those who thought with [particular negative] goals, G-d help us.*

*However, G-d showed who really controls everything. Yonah the prophet said, ‘I said in my panic, I am cut off.’ Yonah the prophet in the depths of the sea thought that that’s it – it’s over! But ‘from the depths of the abyss I turned [to G-d], You heard my voice.’ G-d hears and answers.*

---

<sup>141</sup> <https://ravberland.com/rav-yisrael-sharet-shlita-with-fiery-words-at-the-release-of-rav-berland-shlita/>

*This is an awesome Kiddush Hashem that happened here, that the holy community of Rav Berland went, not with might, not with power, but with ‘My spirit, said Hashem Master of Legions.’*

***G-d showed the people and the world that to win, a person doesn’t need any war, argument, or mudslinging.***

*At a time when others were involved in evil speech, in slander, in libels, and fabrications, the holy community sat and learned such-and-such pages of Gemara a day, such-and-such pages of Rambam a day, focused prayers, chapters of Tehilim without end, Tikkun Haklalli without end.*

*The prayers and the Torah stood and rescued and did what people thought could never happen via natural means. G-d showed us that: Hashem reigns, Hashem reigned, Hashem reigns forever and ever!”*

*Rav Sharet then continued:*

***“My father told me that decades ago, he foresaw that Rav Berland would be one of the greats of the generation.***

*My father knew Rav Berland shlit”a already during the period that the Rav was in Bnei Brak. He told me: ‘I followed Rav Berland then when he was still young; I saw prayers and Torah learning I had never seen before.*

*Rav Berland would give a shiur for six hours, and it made no difference to him if [people] came in or left, [if*

*they were] sleeping or awake. He teaches Torah to His people Israel. Already then, I said that he would be one of the greats of the generation.*

*This is something that is seen with one's senses. Anyone who wants to see the service of Hashem can come and see—Does a person just have to make do with the rumors? You don't have to be a Breslover to know who Rav Berland is. This isn't a tzaddik who was only given to Shuvu Banim. This is a tzaddik who was given to the entire generation!...*

*Everyone who seeks the truth needs to pray about this, even those who are against [the Rav] ... They need to pray to Hashem to merit the true truth. They need to beg Hashem for this, and to cry with tears... because anyone who seeks the truth can't just live off of rumors and news headlines!*

***You don't know? Then don't talk! You want to know? Then come and see for yourself!"***



Rav Sharet also mentioned how the Rav's students and community had been conducting themselves over recent years, when they'd been at the forefront of so many vicious public attacks and smear campaigns by the Rav's main persecutors, working together with the State of Israel and the government-controlled media.

*"Rav Berland's students are testimony to his greatness,"*  
continued Rav Sharet.

*It's enough to see the honorability of the Torah scholars who are among the students of Rav Berland, that despite all the signatures against them, they didn't write a single derogatory letter in response. I saw a page in which they put out a pained cry about the signatures, but everything was in a respectful manner to those who signed. Where is there anything like this?!...*

*It's enough to see: 'Tell me who your friend is, and I'll tell you who you are.'...At a time when his antagonists are joining up with wicked people who cause Israel to sin – the entire media and its offshoots... you tell me who your friend is, and I will tell you who you are. In the meantime, the students of Rav Berland are connecting to Tzaddikim, and going to Rav Kook [in Tiveria], and to Rav Golan from Alma."*

***The opposition is drawing close to evil and the students of Rav Berland to holiness.***

*The opposition is going to wicked people, and the students of Rav Berland are going to Tzaddikim. The opposition is involved in mudslinging and slanders, and the students of the Rav are involved in Torah and prayer..."*



Then, the interviewer on the Breslov Line commented that he wished everyone would be able to see the truth so clearly, but with all the mudslinging going on around the Rav, and all the non-stop falsifying cases against him, the truth appeared to be very hidden. Rav Sharet responded:

*“Look, if there was even a tiny bit of real evidence, then the last ones to let him free would be the judges!”*

Interviewer: *“Really that’s how it is. We also see their great hypocrisy. From yesterday until now, all the media haven’t stopped talking, saying: how could they have freed him... They told everyone such stories [about the Rav] that he’s such and such, and suddenly they free him so fast. It was mamash ‘nahafochu’ - everything got overturned, as the Rav said.”*

Rav Sharet concluded:

*“And the complete redemption will also occur like this, speedily in our days. People think: when will it be over, and how much further is it possible to descend? But then suddenly, everything turns over in a single moment...”*

*The release of Rav Berland shows us exactly how the redemption will be.... in one moment all the evil will be destroyed and the good of G-d will be revealed in His world.”*



And so, just like that, in the blink of an eye, the Rav was out of prison.

But still not totally free. The court-imposed two million shekel fine still had to be paid to the tune of 50,000 shekels a month, or else the authorities could still send him back to jail. And of course, the Rav was still banned from doing *pidyon nefesh*, or making any direct pleas for funds for himself or the Shuvu Banim community.

Shortly after the Rav was released, at the end of December, some of Shuvu Banim's leading rabbis began an Emergency Fundraising Appeal, to try to pull enough money together to keep Shuvu Banim's institutions going, and the Rav out of prison.

Rav Meir Malka explained the situation like this, when he made a public plea on December 26, 2021, for people to support the campaign:

*“Our Sages say that Hashem made the pauper poor to give merit to the wealthy. So to speak, the pauper himself wasn't deserving of being poor at all. However, to give merit to the wealthy, Hashem 'made him poor'.*

*The Rav isn't a pauper... Rather, Hashem did this for us, in our generation.... All the years, the Rav has given and given endlessly – his body, his soul, his time, the depths of his heart to every soul. The Rav didn't stop, didn't rest, didn't become exhausted from his holy work with the souls of Israel.*

*There are many, many Tzaddikim and Rabbanim who are involved in outreach, but the Rav put his mind to something that isn't found anywhere else in our generation – i.e., how to offer help to souls whom no one else wants to help, or no-one else is prepared or able to help.*

*There is no need to elaborate. The Rav brought himself to these souls from love, knowing the greatness of their deep inner value. The Rav knew it was just the 'packaging' that made them appear lowly and materialistic. The Rav, in his great mercy and love for the souls of Israel, went to their places to lift them back up. And he has done that for many decades.*

*The teshuva, arousal, drawing close to Rabbeinu and to Breslov, the great warmth which is seen in the Rav's followers - where does all this come from? This is the Tzaddik, who can revive the souls who are 'lying in the dust.'*

*But we say now with grief and embarrassment, that Hashem has arranged that this Tzaddik needs us."*

Rav Malka then went on to explain some of the huge costs that the Rav and his household have been trying to cover, as a result of the ongoing State-sponsored persecution against him:

*"Let's elaborate a bit. Rav Berland's health is very delicate, and he's dealing with many, many medical issues. Even one serious health issue demands good care, and when you're talking about many issues, then it's even more necessary, and it requires the full attention of the most senior doctors, because the situation is changing from hour to hour.*

*That means a lot of money, and great expenses... Already what happened just up until now has involved tremendous expenses, and the Rav still requires expensive healthcare.*

*While it's true, that healing is from Hashem Yitbarach, Hashem has also given us this merit, to share in a portion of the great Tzaddik's health concerns....*

*The Gemara says that this merit isn't given to everyone. It's possible to give charity for all types of things, and everything is good. But the merit to give Tzedaka to such an exalted person?! This just isn't found everywhere...*

*If we want to talk about the Rav's legal expenses, the attorneys who entered the fray -- this isn't a normal battle. Against them stood and stand – antagonists. The legal costs are astronomical. The lawyers' work is very great, deep, and very difficult - and their services are still needed.*

*Fortunate is the person who merits to undertake this holy endeavor and helps," concluded Rav Malka.*



With the Rav out of prison, his followers were reinvigorated and hopeful that the coming months would prove to be much easier than the last two years, with the fear, stress, and restrictions of Covid 19.

In some ways, they were. But in other ways, Israeli society was fast approaching a watershed moment. Israel's enemies hadn't disappeared. The terrorists in Gaza and Lebanon were still rattling their sabers, the Ayatollahs in Iran were still talking about nukes, Western leaders were still pushing for a 'two state solution' that would permanently partition the Holy Land.

And perhaps the biggest difficulty was the 'status quo' that had papered over the cracks between 'secular and religious' communities for decades, now coming unstuck in a spectacular fashion.

But before any of these issues returned to the headlines, something else grabbed the world's attention, and reminded us that this was indeed 'the year of war'.





## THE YEAR OF WAR

### **TOMORROW, PUTIN IS COMING.**

*“He wants to take Eretz Yisrael. He’s complaining that everything is supposed to be his. He (i.e. Russia) was the first to buy plots of land here, like the Russian Compound.*

*The Turks didn’t want to sell plots of land to any other nation, because if they even possessed a single plot of land, they would already come and take the whole country – exactly as they ultimately did. So, the Russians said to them, but we walk 4,000 kilometers by foot.*

*It’s written in the Tanna devei Eliyahu, Chapter 8:1, that Chana and Elkana used to say [to the Israelites who weren’t coming up to the Mishkan in Shilo] – Learn from the non-Jews! They go 4,000 km on foot just to spend a single day in Eretz Yisrael.*

*They used to come and sleep by the Kotel.*

*The Kotel used to be full of non-Jewish widows who came with a lot of money, and everything went to build churches. Or, they died, and then the money was given to the church, and they built churches all over Jerusalem. The whole of Jerusalem is ‘church land’. Rehavia – everything belongs to the churches.*

*And the plot of land next to Breslov [in Jerusalem] also belongs to the church, that empty plot. They bought half of Jerusalem. Wherever the Russians wanted to buy, they were the first ones to buy [land].*

*And Putin already received two buildings in the Russian Compound, they already returned it to him. It was standing empty,*

*and now he's coming, and he already wants everything. He wants the whole Russian Compound to be returned.*

*And if not, he's going to begin a World War."*

**– Excerpted from a shiur given by Rabbi Eliezer Berland, the evening of January 22, 2020, the day before Vladimir Putin made a State Visit to Jerusalem.<sup>142</sup>**



**A**fter eight years of on-again-off-again simmering tensions, on February 24, 2022, Russia finally decided to invade the Donbass region of Ukraine.

Donbass had been in the throes of what was effectively a civil war since 2014, when the predominantly Russian-speaking population found themselves facing-off against ultra-nationalist Ukrainian militias. The militias were strongly aligned with a new Ukrainian government, installed in dramatic circumstances. Some commentators speculated that Ukraine was the target of yet another US-sponsored ‘color revolution’.

Russia, unhappy with the West and its missiles on the Kremlin’s doorstep, complained for years that the USA was using Ukraine as an informal extension of its own territory. Thus, Putin announced that the aim of the invasion was to ‘demilitarize’ and ‘de-nazify’ Ukraine.<sup>143</sup>

The West’s reaction to the invasion was swift - and monolithic. Overnight, the war in Ukraine became the main topic of conversation everywhere, and Western governments all over the world

---

<sup>142</sup> <https://ravberland.com/putin-wants-the-whole-of-eretz-yisrael/>

<sup>143</sup> <https://tass.com/politics/1409189>

moved fast to send billions of dollars, tons of ammunition and other armaments, vehicles, and equipment to Ukraine.

Russia and Russians became *persona non grata* overnight, all over the West. And each day, it appeared that the war of words between the USA and Russia was escalating higher, into some very dangerous territory. At one point shortly after the invasion, the American government put out a message that if Russia didn't abandon its plans in the Crimea, it was headed for 'catastrophic consequences'.<sup>144</sup>



"We have communicated directly, privately, at very high levels, to the Kremlin that any use of nuclear weapons will be met with catastrophic consequences for Russia, that the United States and our allies will respond decisively. And we have been clear and specific about what that will entail," Sullivan **said**, speaking to CBS Face the Nation Sunday morning.

Whether or not the invasion was really justified; whether or not Ukraine really was full of neo-Nazi 'Azov Battalion' militias; whether or not Russia was just trying to clean up a US-backed threat on its own territory or was just using the Donbass as a launchpad for its own imperial ambitions - we will leave that to others to figure out.

What is an incontrovertible fact is that Russia invaded Ukraine on the morning of February 24, 2022 - and this meant that Jewish communities located in Ukraine, including Uman, suddenly found themselves in a potentially dangerous situation.

---

<sup>144</sup> <https://sputnikglobe.com/20220925/us-threatens-russia-with-catastrophic-consequences-if-it-nukes-ukraine-distorts-putins-warning-1101212446.html>

No-one knew if the politicians were just bluffing, with their bombastic speeches and broad hints about using nuclear weapons, or if the world was once again on the cusp of a nuclear World War III.

On February 15, 2022 - a week before the actual invasion took place - the Rav's attendants released the following message from Rav Berland:

*“The Rav now said it might turn into a world war, but this generation is protected from another Holocaust. The Tzaddik is protecting the generation.”*



In the run-up to the war in Ukraine, the Rav had been singing a lot of Uman songs at communal prayers with the *kehilla* at 8.30 every night, on Ido HaNavi Street. Regulars at Ido HaNavi knew that the Rav had a custom to begin and end the prayers with *niggunim*, as that is how prayers ‘ascend’, but it was highly unusual for the Rav to sing Uman songs more than six months ahead of Rosh Hashana.

The 84-year-old Rav encouraged the crowd to clap hands and jump up and down, often leading the way by jumping up and down himself, on his balcony. Many people felt something ‘big’ was being sweetened again, and it was somehow connected to Uman.

With the backlash against Covid-19 spreading across the globe, it looked like the world's leaders were trying to take everyone's mind off the pandemic by sparking off a massive war in the Ukraine, instead.



## HOW PRAYERS ASCEND

Rav Berland said:

“Dancing with all his might” – people are not familiar with this *avodah* (service of Hashem). Rabbenu came and brought back the concept of dancing with all one’s might – to dance, jump, and sing. Without singing, the prayer does not ascend. If a person does not sing before and after, the prayer does not ascend.

“The Gra says in Teruma, that through the morning zemirot<sup>145</sup> the prayer ascends. Without the morning zemirot, Hashem does not accept the prayer at all. You need to hear the song of the birds, rising in the morning and hearing the birds sing – these are angels.”<sup>146</sup>



As well as the singing and dancing, the Rav also seemed to suggest that the war in Ukraine was not actually the beginning of Gog and Magog, as so many other Tzaddikim were saying.

On Purim 5782 (March 18, 2022) the Rav said the following:

*“Putin is not Gog and Magog, it’s stam, a meshuga (crazy person), stam, someone who is insane.*

*He’s already 69 years old, he was born the same year Stalin died. He received the soul of Stalin, to stam kill people. Already, 90,000 people died, and already 20,000 Russians died.*

---

<sup>145</sup> The songs before the prayers, which also appear in Sephardic siddurim in the “Bakashot” section.

<sup>146</sup> <https://ravberland.com/without-song-the-prayer-doesnt-ascend-daily-chizzuk-by-rabbi-eliezer-berland-shlita/> - comments made on Rosh Chodesh Nissan, 5783.

*Up until now, the Ukrainians already received \$800 trillion worth of arms, from America, anti-tank [missiles], and everything. They didn't have anything, not a weapon, nothing. From Holland they sent, from Germany they sent, from France, they sent weapons. They wiped out all the tanks for them. The Russians still can't enter Kiev.*

*The king said, on one day, I'm going to kill a whole people.*

*It's impossible to conquer a single city in one day. Here, try with Kiev. Already now, it's been four weeks. The war started at 5 and 10 minutes.*

*There was one person here, R' Shmuel Stern and his son, Yechiel. They got on the airplane five minutes before they blew up the airport in Kiev. Five minutes earlier, his son got on the airplane, and the airplane still managed to navigate to Israel. Putin really doesn't want to harm the Jews.*

*A motorcyclist was killed in Uman because a rocket fell there by mistake. Someone was travelling from Kiev to Uman – a secular Jew wanted to hide himself in Uman, but on the way there, there was shooting, and he was killed. Two Jews died, one secular and one religious.*

*But it's impossible to murder a whole people in one day.”<sup>147</sup>*



---

<sup>147</sup> <https://rivkalevy.com/rav-berland-on-the-war-in-ukraine-2/>

Later that same day, the Spinka Rebbe came to visit Rav Berland at his home, and the Rav made some more references to Putin, and what was going on in Ukraine. He said:

*“Hitler was Amalek, and now Putin is Amalek. What does he want? Already 90,000 people, and he’s not stopping. He’s gone totally mad. He’s worse than Hitler.*

*“The Jews – he says, I’m not going to touch the Jews, but it’s impossible to tolerate the ‘booms’ [of the bombs]. It’s written about Pharoah, I can’t tolerate the noise! He used to yell at them, stop!!! He used to hear ‘booms’ all day long, all the roofs were shaking.*

*In Ukraine, they damaged a beit kneset, and they damaged Chabad. **It’s impossible to continue to suffer from the booms. The noise is worse than the explosions.**”*



Right from the beginning, immediately after reports surfaced that Uman was going to be evacuated by the Ukrainians<sup>148</sup>, the Rav kept emphasizing that Uman was still safe, and that Jews could still travel there - which honestly sounded incredible, given the news reports that were coming out of Ukraine at that time.

Jewish orphanages were being evacuated in Odessa; refugees were queuing for miles to cross the borders out of Ukraine; and there were early reports of Uman being directly shelled by Russian forces, aiming at the local army base there. Nobody knew what

---

<sup>148</sup> <https://www.theyeshivaworld.com/news/headlines-breaking-stories/2063670/ukraine-evacuates-uman-after-4-locals-killed-in-explosions-videos-photos.html>

Putin's real intentions were, and rumors were sweeping the web that the Russians would move on to the rest of Eastern Europe, after conquering Ukraine.

In the middle of a shiur the Rav was giving on Parshat Vayikra (March, 2022), someone in the audience told the Rav that the word 'Putin' had the same gematria as the name 'Nachman', if spelled without the letter 'vav'.

The Rav replied:

***“Yes, because only Rabbenu will subdue him.”***

*“Because now, Zelensky asked the Jews in Uman to pray for him in the Tzion. So, there will be some miracle, because according to the usual way of the world, he has no chance.”*

*“So, either Putin will regret [going to war], or maybe all the tanks will be burned, because there are five million citizens in Kiev, so each one will burn a tank.”*



Someone else in the audience then told the Rav that a million refugees had already fled from Ukraine, because of the war. The Rav replied:

*“Yes, they stood on the 20 km road, and went around with loudspeakers, [saying] whoever has an Israeli passport, they should come.”*

*Because Zelensky is doing that now.*



*Like Rabbi Yaakov Galinsky, when he did the brit for the KGB commander. So, after that, he met him in the street, and asked him [the KGB commander] how were you not afraid [to do that]? So, he [the KGB officer] replied, I know that now it's bad for the Jews, but there will come a day when it's good for the Jews. And I want my son to be worthy of that good.*

***So now, it's good for the Jews, and whoever is a Jew, they immediately let him pass through [the border], even without a passport, and the non-Jews are exploding because of this."***



In a highly controversial move, the State of Israel announced that they were accepting 25,000 Ukrainian refugees into the country, most of whom were not Jewish. At a time when the State of Israel had barred entry for Jews around the world during Covid 19 and was still barring entrance to the country for unvaccinated Jews who weren't citizens of Israel, this abrupt volte face on entry requirements for tens of thousands of non-Jewish Ukrainians struck a very sour note.

The Rav continued:

*"Now, they conducted 200 children [Jewish children from Ukraine] from an orphanage, without passports. **Everything that the Ukrainians did [to the Jews] is being done to them.***

*But because Zelensky requested that they should pray [for him] in Uman, the war will be finished by Purim. **The fear is from the pogroms, because when there***

***is no government, there are pogroms, the same as happened by Ahashverosh.***

*They call this 'Brigades'. Because Ahashverosh didn't let people own a weapon, he just let them pile up on all the tables by the door.*

*They [i.e., the people who wanted to kill the Jews in the Purim story] had to get back by dawn, because Haman only gave them permission to kill [Jews] for one day. Whoever managed to survive until dawn was saved.*

*Like the person who told how [in World War II] it was mamash the second where they [i.e., the Nazis] were about to break down the door [and kill him and his family].*

***He said, in the zchut of Rebbe Nachman!!! – so they (the Nazis) left, and he was saved.***<sup>149</sup>



Shortly after Purim 5782, the Rav was again hospitalized - something that happened very often at these times of 'peak crisis', when the Tzaddik would yet again take all the generation's suffering upon himself, when it seemed there was no other way of 'sweetening' the problem.

When the Rav was making these statements, that "*here will be some miracle, because according to the usual way of the world, he has no chance,*" a month after the war erupted in Ukraine, it seemed incredible that the whole thing would somehow peter out.

---

<sup>149</sup> <https://rivkalevy.com/rav-berland-on-the-war-in-ukraine-part-3/>

The Americans and Europeans were pouring huge amounts of arms and money into the country. President Zelensky was being feted as a celebrity, appearing on Zoom from his bunker at countless gala dinners, events - and even being beamed directly to parliamentarians across the world.

Putin was talking about nuclear weapons<sup>150</sup>...Biden was talking about nuclear weapons<sup>151</sup>... there were stories of nuclear reactors being booby-trapped by Ukrainians, and / or targeted by Russians<sup>152</sup>....of food shortages that were going to sweep the world, as the enormous Ukrainian wheat harvest disappeared<sup>153</sup>... of 'dark winters'<sup>154</sup>, as the energy sanctions against Russia backfired<sup>155</sup> against the countries implementing them....Nordstream gas pipelines between Russia and Germany were blown up (apparently, by the USA itself<sup>156</sup>)...

And still, the war of words between the politicians continued, as people who wanted a full-blown war between the West and Russia constantly escalated and inflamed tensions.

And yet...

---

<sup>150</sup> <https://www.businessinsider.com/putin-threatens-nuclear-weapons-over-ukraine-says-not-bluffing-2022-9>

<sup>151</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-63167947>

<sup>152</sup> <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/03/04/europe/ukraine-zaporizhzhia-nuclear-plant-attack-explainer-intl/index.html>

<sup>153</sup> <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/04/07/ukraine-wheat-crop-global-shortage/>

<sup>154</sup> <https://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2022/11/27/693461/Economist-Europe-cold-weather-death-toll-exceed-number-soldiers-Ukraine->

<sup>155</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/breakingviews/how-sanctions-against-russia-could-backfire-2022-05-26/>

<sup>156</sup> <https://seymourhersh.substack.com/p/how-america-took-out-the-nord-stream>

As the year wore on, all the media hype about ‘Standing with Ukraine’ started to wear thin. People got tired of hearing the same old slogans and same old mantras, from the politicians on all sides of the fight.

And then, more awkward questions popped up about how much of the money being sent to Ukraine, especially from the USA, was actually spent on the country’s defense, and how much was siphoned off as part of Ukraine’s notorious corruption problem.<sup>157</sup>

It seems that *something* was going on to continually sweeten the harsh decrees and terrible predictions about the Ukraine situation<sup>158</sup>.

And in the meantime, the Rav and his community continued to sing songs about Uman, and continued to dance and jump up and down, and continued to clap their hands to ‘sweeten the judgments’ and get the prayers to ascend.



---

<sup>157</sup> <https://seymourhersh.substack.com/p/trading-with-the-enemy>

<sup>158</sup> Still ongoing, at the time of writing.

## THE DEATH OF A TZADDIK ATONES

*“Rabbi Nachman reveals to us<sup>159</sup>, that just as there is self-sacrifice that actually happens, that is, handing over his body to death for the sanctification of Hashem’s name, so too there is an aspect of sacrificing one’s name, which is also like real self-sacrifice.*

*“When the Tzaddik accepts upon himself that his name should be disgraced in the mouths of people, this is also counted as actual self-sacrifice; because within the name of a person rests his soul root, and when people talk about his name, [associating it with] everything forbidden, and humiliating him in public, this is considered actually giving up one’s life for Hashem; and through this, he sweetens the decrees from the souls of the Jewish People.*

*“Really, in many aspects, sacrificing one’s name for the sanctification of Hashem’s Name is more difficult than handing over one’s body to be killed, because it’s possible to kill the body only once, and after that his soul ascends to its root on high and delights in the radiance of the Divine Presence.*

*“However, with sacrificing one’s name, a person can suffer long years of scorn and spilling his blood; and every time, his blood is spilled anew, and he feels terrible and enormous suffering.”*

**– Excerpt of a shiur given by R’ Yoram Abergel, Ztzl.<sup>160</sup>**

<sup>159</sup> In Likutey Moharan I:260.

<sup>160</sup> <https://ravberland.com/the-disgrace-which-the-tzaddik-takes-upon-himself-atones-for-the-jewish-people-rabbi-yoram-abergel/>



It's known that the death of great Tzaddikim atones for the sins for the generation. And so it should come as no surprise that during these years of suffering for Am Yisrael, several of our greatest Tzaddikim also passed away.

In this chapter, we'll cover some of the Tzaddikim who were particularly associated with the Rav in recent years. The first to pass over to the next world was the famous kabbalist Rav Chaim Cohen Perachia, ztzl, affectionately known as 'the Milkman'.



Throughout the long years of the Rav's persecution, the Milkman put out a number of public statements in support of Rav Berland, and continually warned the public against speaking badly of the Rav, or believing the terrible slanders and lies being published.

Back in 2017, Rav Yehuda Sheinfeld, one of the Milkman's closest students, publicized the following story, about a talmid chacham who came to see the Milkman for advice and a blessing. Rav Sheinfeld said:

*"This talmid chacham told the Milkman that his wife had been stricken with cancer of the brain, and they'd been told that she needed to travel to the United States for treatment. The man said to the Milkman: 'There is no cure for her illness here in Eretz Yisrael, so what should I do, revered Rabbi?'"*

The Milkman responded: *'Tell me something. Did you talk badly about Rav Lazer [i.e., Rav Eliezer Berland], shlita? Did you write something bad against him? Or do something to try to hurt him?'*

*This talmid chacham started trembling violently when he heard the holy Milkman's questions, until finally he blurted out: 'How is this connected to Rav Berland? Why are you mixing Rav Berland into my wife's condition?' But the Milkman wouldn't be put off, and he firmly asked him again:*

*Did you, or did you not, say something [against Rav Berland]? Did you, or did you not, make statements [against Rav Berland]?' Finally, the talmid chacham replied: 'I spoke against him, and I made statements against him.'*

*The Milkman replied: 'In that case, there is no cure for your wife's illness. And, I also don't know if there is any way that you can rectify what you've done. Maybe, if you now go and turn the whole world upside down, and go and write and distribute things, and go and tell everyone to change their ideas about Rav Lazer, then maybe, maybe, there'll be a miracle.'*

*But we don't talk [negatively] about Rav Lazer! Do you hear?' concluded the Milkman."*



But while the two Tzaddikim maintained a very close spiritual connection throughout all the long years of the Rav's exile and initial imprisonment, it was only in May 2019 that these two giants met each other in person again, at the brit milah (circumcision) of Rav Berland's great-grandson, the son of Rabbi Tzafania Sheinfeld, which took place in the Milkman's synagogue in Givatayim.

During their meeting, Rav Berland and the Milkman greeted each other with the great warmth and feeling characteristic of two old friends reunited with each other, and they spent many minutes engrossed in conversation.<sup>161</sup>

Rav Berland then gave the Milkman a blessing that he would enjoy great length of days and good health, and continue to lead Am Yisrael to see the coming of Moshiach. In return, the Milkman kissed Rav Berland's hand, and with tremendous feeling replied: "Both of us together will!"

Sadly, that wasn't to be. On August 13, 2019, Rav Chaim Cohen Perachia, ztzl, passed away after a long illness, at the age of 84, and was buried in Jerusalem's Sanhedria cemetery.<sup>162</sup>



The years 2020 - 2022 passed in a blur, with many holy rabbis and tzaddikim passing away during the years of Covid 19. But then, on March 20, 2022, *Am Yisrael* was struck another extremely hard blow, when the 'Minister of Torah', HaRav Chaim Kanievsky, ztzl, suddenly passed away.

The Kanievskys and the Berland family had a very strong connection going back many decades, when the Berland family purchased the apartment of the Steipler Gaon (Rav Chaim's father, Rav Yaakov Yisrael Kanievsky zt"l), and became the direct neighbors and friends of Rav Chaim and Batsheva over the next two decades.

---

<sup>161</sup> You can see the meeting of these two great tzaddikim here: <https://youtu.be/924U1ZuyPo0>

<sup>162</sup> <https://ravberland.com/baruch-dayan-haemet-the-milkman-returns-his-soul-to-his-maker/>



Following the funeral, Rav Berland delivered the following public eulogy<sup>163</sup>:

*“We were neighbors for twenty years, doors across from one another. I would see him every day several times, pray with him at Lederman together. This was our regular synagogue over the course of twenty years. My children, from the day they were born, all of them prayed at Lederman together with Rav Chaim. All of them merited to see him every day.*

*Really this was something the likes of which hasn't been for hundreds of years, such a revelation of G-dliness revealed within flesh and blood.*

*This is something impossible to contain or understand. It's impossible to measure it with any measure in the world, to live in proximity to the giant among giants, 'the great man who is a giant among giants,' to live for twenty years beside him every day.*



*When the Rabbanit [Berland] would teach until four in the afternoon, and the girls would return from school and there was no food in the empty refrigerator, from the age of six to fifteen they would regularly go up to Bat Sheva [Rabbanit Kanievsky a”h], [and] she would feed them. This was every day from the age of six until the age of fifteen. All my daughters would eat by Bat Sheva. She would come down and prepare food for them.*

---

<sup>163</sup> <https://ravberland.com/maran-rav-chaim-kanievsky-ztl-rav-eliezer-berland-shlitas-eulogy/>

*We were close to each other like family mamash, more than family, and Bat Sheva mamash was a mother to my daughters. She would take care of them and nourish them, because from eight in the morning already until four in the afternoon, the Rabbanit wasn't home. [Rabbanit Kanievsky] took care of sustaining them and took care of everything. If not for Bat Sheva, who knows how they could have grown up.*

*This was material help which was totally spiritual, because Bat Sheva and Rav Chaim were an aspect of the cherubs of the Ark of the Covenant! In every generation, there is a couple who are the cherubs of the Ark of the Covenant. In our generation this was Rav Chaim and Bat Sheva. They were the cherubs whose 'faces are man [facing] his brother.'*



***So we know the situation of the generation, that Hashem forgives all iniquities, because the death of Miriam is next to the Red Heifer [in the Torah], because the death of the Tzaddik atones more than the Red Heifer.***

*The death of Tzaddikim is twice as hard as the destruction of the Holy Temple. This day is a terrible and awful day. It's totally impossible to bear it, the terrible tragedy. This is the most terrible day that could be; it's impossible to describe at all. We didn't dream that there would be such a thing.*

*We were sure that Rav Chaim would live until 120 with us together and would continue to lead and guide*

us with his light and counsel. The very fact that he is alive here in this world draws the G-dly light, the holy Shechinah [Divine presence]. Because the Tzaddik is the Shechinah, and his wife is the help to the Shechinah; she is the Sefirah [Divine emanation] of Malchut [Kingship] of the Shechinah.



Rav Chaim and Bat Sheva, both of them together, with their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, continue to illuminate the Jewish people, they continue to shine! It's forbidden to think that the soul departs. It's written in 'Gesher HaChaim' that the greatest sin is to think that the soul departs. This is the greatest iniquity of all iniquities.

The soul doesn't depart; it remains with us! As it's written in the Gemara Shabbat 152, that Rabbi Yehudah went to comfort someone who didn't have family. So he brought him ten people, and after the Shiva, he came [the dead person in a dream] and said, 'I was there!'

**As Rav says, 'Deliver a moving eulogy, because I will be standing there' (Shabbat 153a). 'Deliver a moving eulogy!' – however much we eulogize it's only a drop in the sea. It's not even a drop, from the millions and myriads of kindnesses and good that Rabbi Chaim did with us through the essence of his being amongst us, through the essence of the Divine light which he would draw onto us, because all the Torah of the generation – boys and girls, all the strengthening was in his merit.**

**Everything is in his merit.**



*Just to see him for one second, it would be possible to learn Torah all 120 years continuously without distraction, without taking the head out of the book. This was the lesson that we learned from Rabbi Chaim, because I followed him for twenty years — in his life, he never took his head out of the book! Whether walking to Kollel Chazon Ish, whether... she would run, run after him; I remember to this day. He wouldn't look at all if she was walking with him or not.*

*On the way with the children to kindergarten, he would only hold the book! His face only in the book. With difficulty he knew the streets, how to reach Kollel Chazon Ish! So I followed him for twenty years every day. Such an exceptional figure already won't be until our righteous Moshiach comes! He is the letters of Moshiach<sup>164</sup>.*



***He was the Moshiach of the generation without any doubt!***

*If we were worthy, he would have been revealed, we would have seen his revelation. As the Chatam Sofer says in Siman 98, Choshen Mishpat in Likutim, that Moshiach is found in every generation. There is no generation without Moshiach. Only that we don't have the merit. We don't have the merit that King Moshiach will be revealed to us.*

---

<sup>164</sup> The initial letters Rav Kanievsky's name, 'Maran Shemaryahu Yosef Chaim', contain the letters of the word 'Moshiach'.

*But he was King Mashiach of this generation without any doubt. He was really Mashiach, and that he departed suddenly is [because of] the sins of the generation; this atones for the generation.*

***Because really there was a decree of extermination on the entire Jewish People, and he now sweetened this decree.***



***Because in every generation there are decrees of extermination.***

*Therefore, Mordechai couldn't devote himself to learning, because then there were terrible decrees of extermination, 'to exterminate, kill, destroy all the Jews.' Therefore, he 'found favor with the multitude of his brethren,' because they didn't understand that he was obligated to fight the decrees of extermination. However, the moment that [the decrees] stopped, he ascended to the Land of Israel and returned to his learning, after the [time of] the Megilah. This was Rabbi Chaim, who sweetened all the decrees.*

*All that we're living here in the Holy Land already for 94 years, we are living here without enemy or destroyer. No enemy succeeds. **There are endless enemies and only the merit of Rabbi Chaim stands for us, and it will stand for us for our generation and for all the coming generations until our righteous Mashiach comes, speedily in our days, Amen.***



Barely nine days after Rav Kanievsky's death, Bnei Brak experienced its first ever terror attack, with multiple fatalities.

Diaa Hamarsheh, a Palestinian from the town of Ya'abad, was dropped off on one of the busiest roads in Bnei Brak at around 8pm, but inexplicably decided to walk to a quiet side road, where he first started shooting at balconies.

As the attack progressed, Hamarsheh began firing at passersby on HaShnaim street, including two people in a grocery store (who later turned out to be Ukrainian nationals), a car driver, and then 29-year-old rabbi Avishai Yehezkel, who was taking his two-year-old son for a walk. Miraculously, the terrorist didn't shoot the toddler, and his gun also jammed when he tried to fire at another pedestrian. The last fatality was one of the two police officers who responded to calls from the residents, who ended up in a shoot-out with the terrorist, that finally ended the attack.

At that time, the Bnei Brak shootings, with five fatalities, were the deadliest single terror attack in Israel since the horrible attack on the Har Nof Synagogue back in 2014, and the third fatal shooting attack in Israel in the week since Rav Kanievsky's funeral.<sup>165</sup>

That Bnei Brak had always escaped such awful things while the rest of the country had regularly been targeted by the terrorists down the years, underlined just how much 'protection' the merit of R' Chaim, and his devotion to the Torah, had been bringing down upon Bnei Brak.

As Rav Berland said in his eulogy: *"This day is a terrible and awful day."*



---

<sup>165</sup> <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-security-services-struggle-to-stop-deadliest-terror-wave-since-2<sup>nd</sup>-intifada/>

At the same time, there were signs of general ‘sweetening’ in Eretz Yisrael, particularly in connection to Covid 19. Almost immediately after the passing of Rav Chaim Kanievsky, ztzt, the State of Israel finally began to lift most of the ‘Covid 19’ restrictions. So in many tangible ways, the passing of the Tzaddik was clearly seen to have ‘sweetened’ the very difficult situation that the Jewish people were in.

But clearly, a lot more sins needed atonement, because a few months later, in November 2022, another of the generation’s biggest Tzaddikim, a strong supporter of Rav Eliezer Berland and Shuvu Banim, Rav Shimon Badani, ztzt, fell seriously ill.



Rav Shimon Badani, ztzt, the president of the Torah Sages Council and spiritual leader of the Shas political party, was admitted to Maayanei HaYeshua hospital in Bnei Brak at the end of November 2022, apparently suffering from ‘Covid’. He was sedated and put on a ventilator, but his medical condition quickly deteriorated, and on December 1, 2022, Rav Berland came to Rav Badani’s bedside, where he recited the Tikkun HaKlali, and prayed for Rav Badani for half an hour.<sup>166</sup>

Three days after the Rav’s visit, Rav Badani woke up out of the coma he’d been in for 12 days, and there was some hope again that he would pull through. Rav Berland’s grandson and attendant, Rav Dov Zucker, explained what happened in an interview he gave to the Breslov Information Line<sup>167</sup>:

---

<sup>166</sup> <https://ravberland.com/rav-berland-shlita-in-hospital-visit-to-rav-shimon-badani-shlita/>

<sup>167</sup> You can hear the full interview in Hebrew, here: <https://www.shuvubanimint.com/53694/>

He said:

*“It’s known that there is a strong bond between our Rav and Rav Badani for several years already. Through all the persecutions, Rav Badani stood as a steadfast rock and continued to come to visit our Rebbe, the Rav.*

*Two weeks ago, the Rav somehow heard that Rav Badani was anesthetized and on a respirator in serious condition and expressed his wish to visit him. At that stage, Rav Badani was diagnosed with Corona, so it wasn’t possible to enter the ward.*

*Nevertheless, we were told it was possible for the Rav to come and stand next to [Rav Badani’s] room. It’s known that it’s a big mitzvah to visit the sick, and especially by our Rebbe the Rav. There are many, many stories about sick people who have been saved through his prayers.*

*Baruch Hashem, an opportunity came up last Thursday, when we heard it would be possible for the Rav to approach [Rav Badani’s] room by himself. The Rav travelled to Bnei Brak on Thursday for a family celebration of his grand-niece, and we got a positive answer from Rav Badani’s family that it would be possible [for Rav Berland] to come.*

*The Rav got to Rav Badani’s room around five in the evening. Rav Badani’s son opened the door for the Rav but warned him it wasn’t a good idea to get too close, because of the Corona. So the Rav stood at the entrance to the room and said the Tikkun Haklali. After we asked the medical staff if it’s possible to get closer*



*to the sickbed of Rav Badani, they answered that it was something we could do if we accepted the possible consequences. Then the Rav mamash drew close to the sickbed of Rav Badani.”*

Rav Dov Zucker continues:

*“The Rav came out with a happy expression on his face. The Gemara says that you know if your prayers for the sick are accepted when you see that the prayer flows easily from your mouth... We saw the light poured out on the Rav, and we understood that we’d see some sort of salvation here.*

*Of course, we need to pray that it will continue...We already saw, mamash, a dramatic improvement...Baruch Hashem the Rav sacrificed himself [to visit Rav Badani in hospital], to repay his goodness, and also from a sense of personal obligation, to pray for a great sage of Israel.”*

Sadly, while Rav Badani’s condition improved miraculously for a short time after the Rav’s visit, a month later, on January 11, 2023, he passed away - another Tzaddik who atoned for the generation’s many sins.



The Rav has a general rule that he doesn’t participate in funerals at all. However, as soon as Rav Berland was informed about Rav Badani’s passing, he deviated from his usual practice and came to the purification room at Maayanei Hayeshua Hospital to say farewell and recite the Tikkun HaKlali, as is customary in Breslov, next to Rav Badani’s bier.

Rav Eliezer Berland stood next to the bier of his close friend for many long minutes, while he slowly recited the Tikkun HaKlali. Afterwards, he left the hospital and during the car ride home, the Rav eulogized the Elder of the Torah Sages Council Rabbi Shimon Baadani, referring to him as:

*“My Rabbi and the Rabbi of all the Jewish people.... Israel’s chariot and horseman...”*

The Rav continued:

*“For 95 years, Rav Badani served us and all of the people of Israel, and in his light we walked, we walked in his light for... at the age of fifteen he had already saved the people of Israel, for eighty years we are walking in his light. He was my Rabbi at every single moment. We merited to visit him, and he would visit us. We merited to benefit from his light and from his Torah. His Torah enlightens us for ever and ever...”*

*“[H]e lives for ever and ever in our hearts and in front of our eyes and in the eyes of all the people of Israel.”*



It was another harsh blow for the Jewish people. It seems that *shemayim* was decreeing that more *tzaddikim* should pass away, as an atonement for those who remained. But the world they left behind still continued to be extremely challenging.



## UMAN BRINGS THE GEULA

“We are obligated to travel to Uman!!

“There is no excuse! Shuvu Banim is obligated to be in Uman, there’s nothing else to say.”

– **Comment made by Rav Berland, May, 2020.**



As Elul 5782 (September 2022) rolled into view, more and more people started wondering *what’s going to be with Uman, this year?* According to the media reports, the whole Ukraine was a terrible war zone, and anyone going to *kibbutz* on Rosh Hashana would *mamash* be risking their life.

At the same time, more stories filtered back from individuals and small groups who despite everything, still made the trip to Rebbe Nachman’s Tziyon in Uman. And they reported back that despite the nightly curfews throughout Ukraine, Uman was bursting at the seams with people.

Somehow, the place got a reputation for being a ‘miracle shelter’ during the war, even among non-Jewish Ukrainians, many of whom were flocking in droves to Uman’s now empty ‘Jewish hotels’.

The following quote sums up what was happening in Uman in July 2022:

*“On day 152 of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, the hotels in the heart of Uman’s Jewish district are full. Laughing children run through the hallways, hot kosher food is served three times a day under the strict watch of a supervisor, and hundreds gather for Shabbat meals.*

*Most of these families enjoying challah and kugel, minutes from the grave of Rabbi Nachman of Bratslav are not Jewish.”<sup>168</sup>*

Uman had become a national center for Ukrainian refugees, and during the fighting developed a reputation as one of the most secure and stable cities in Ukraine - exactly as Rav Berland had promised.

But the media was still running one scare story after another, apparently to keep as many Jews as possible away from Uman for Rosh Hashana 5783. It’s said that the first casualty in any war is the truth, and it was certainly hard for the average person to know what to believe.



At the beginning of August 2023, Rav Berland made the following remarks, after a group of about 50 women loosely affiliated with Shuvu Banim made it safely to Uman and back, travelling in from Poland.

He said:

---

<sup>168</sup> <https://www.timesofisrael.com/with-pilgrims-coming-umans-miracle-refugee-shelters-will-be-forced-to-clear-out/>

*“Now fifty people returned from Uman, between the missiles. Now in Vinnytsia, a hundred people were killed. A missile fell forty minutes from Uman.*

*“Now is the moment that whoever makes it to Uman brings the entire redemption. He brings Mashiach ben David, Mashiach ben Yosef — both Messiahs.”<sup>169</sup>*

And the truth was, that apart from the nightly curfew and a couple of Ukrainian soldiers manning a solitary checkpoint in the middle of the road, there were hardly any other signs that Uman was in a country at war with Russia.

Ukrainian airspace was still closed, but there were several other options to enter Ukraine, including via Kishinev in Moldova, or entering from Romania, or even on an all-night train from Poland.

And the Rav was regularly closing the evening prayers with the remark that everyone should travel to Uman that night, and dropping other hints that travel to Uman was both possible and safe. On August 16, 2022, he said the following:

*£In Mariopul, there was the most torture of Jews, so [the Russians] destroyed it to its foundations after eighty years. This was in 1942, and now it’s 2022. They destroyed it to its foundations, the entire city. All the torture they did there to Jews, everything the Ukrainians did. Now Hashem is uprooting their cities.*

*But [the Russians] won’t reach Uman.”*

---

<sup>169</sup> <https://ravberland.com/the-trip-to-uman-brings-the-redemption-daily-chizzuk-with-rabbi-eliezer-berland-shlita/>

Just to be sure, the Rav called for a mass prayer rally at the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hevron, the night before Rosh Chodesh Elul 5782, (August 28, 2022) “for the success and salvation of the Jewish people in Israel and around the world, and for the success of the holy Rosh Hashana gathering and trip to Uman.

The Rav said:

*“Everyone must be in Hevron! No one should be missing... All the Jewish people must be there on Thursday night! All sects and divisions, it makes no difference – everyone is one man! Like a man with one heart, like one man!”<sup>170</sup>*

That Thursday night, dozens of buses from all over Israel brought thousands of men, women, and children who had heeded the Rav’s call to the Me’arat HaMachpelah in Hevron.

Rav Aharon Berkowitz led the communal recitation of the seven Tikkun HaKlalis in front of a huge crowd of people gathered by the ‘seventh step’ in Hebron.

As soon as the seven Tikkun Haklalis were completed, the Rav appeared in Hevron, and made his way to the temporary stage set up by the seventh step - where he immediately led the crowd in reciting another set of seven Tikkun HaKlalis.

At the end of the gathering, the Rav said the following:

*“All of those who merited to come to the gathering merited to the giving of the Torah, to the third Tablets, to the new Tablets.... We are now in the Land of Israel,*

---

<sup>170</sup> <https://ravberland.com/all-the-jewish-people-need-to-be-there-the-complete-statement-of-r-berland-shlita-about-prayer-rally-in-hevron/>

*mamash, and are fulfilling the verse, ‘Come and inherit.’ We don’t need any weapons — we don’t need anything, the moment that we go with the Tikkun HaKlali.”*

The Rav then concluded the prayer gathering by telling the crowd:

*“We are asking everyone, already today, to register for Uman, because the places are already running out.”<sup>171</sup>*



As word spread that Uman was safe for Rosh Hashana 5783, and thousands of people, predominantly from Israel, started mapping their routes and buying their tickets for the *kibbutz*, the usual stories trying to scare the pilgrims away started flooding the Jewish media again.

The day after the prayer gathering in Hevron, the Ukrainian Embassy in Israel issued a statement saying the Ukraine “cannot guarantee the security of pilgrims”, because of the ongoing war, and the mayor of Uman and Ukraine’s Chief Rabbi echoed that message.<sup>172</sup>

## “WHO WILL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY?": Ukraine’s Rabbi Moshe Azman Warns Against Rosh Hashana in Uman

August 29, 2022 5:45 pm



<sup>171</sup> <https://ravberland.com/the-stirring-video-clip-from-the-hevron-prayer-rally-rav-eliezer-berland-shlita/>

<sup>172</sup> <https://www.theyeshivaworld.com/news/headlines-breaking-stories/2119409/who-will-take-responsibility-ukraines-rabbi-moshe-azman-warns-against-rosh-hashana-in-uman.html>

But after 'Covid 19' and the cancelling of the Kibbutz two years earlier, many people no longer believed the media, and preferred to trust the assessment of the Breslov community in Uman, who were telling travellers it was safe to come for Rosh Hashana.

But many people, especially those outside of Israel, were still wavering, unsure who to believe. So on 11 Elul 5782 (September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022), the Rav redoubled his call for as many men as possible to travel to Uman for Rosh Hashana.

He said:

*"Everyone is afraid to travel to Uman. There are no wars – this doesn't exist! There's only Rabbenu, only Rabbenu!"*

*Everyone needs to buy a ticket to Uman. It doesn't make a difference – it's possible to buy a ticket for Saturday night and still manage to reach Uman [before Rosh Hashanah]. If you leave Saturday night, you will manage to reach there. They already spoke to the police, spoke to everyone to allow entrance to Uman, to not delay, to allow us immediately to travel, even though there is a curfew there and a war.*

*They spoke already with all the police, with all the army, that when people reach the Ukrainian borders, they'll immediately let them through without delays. Within six hours, they'll reach Uman from Kishinev, within nine hours they'll reach there from Iasi Romania, and whoever travels from Warsaw will need to travel by train.*

*Whoever doesn't manage by way of Iasi and Kishinev, there will be a special train to Uman from Warsaw. By*



*train, this is twenty hours. They already spoke with the train companies, spoke with everyone. Everything is already ready.”*

The Rav continued:

*“The tickets are already almost gone, none. So you need to get to Uman with the greatest speed without delays. The last ones will need to come by train from Warsaw. This is a twenty-hour trip until Uman, mamash.*

*We are saying now that the Tzaddik does everything. You need to know that everything is just an illusion. There are no wars. There’s nothing!!”<sup>173</sup>*



That was reassuring to hear, because the media was continuing to run its baseless scare stories, including ones suggesting that Russia would deliberately target the pilgrims heading to Uman, with rockets.<sup>174</sup>

## Ukraine Warns: “Russia Will Purposely Direct Missiles At Uman On Rosh Hashanah”

September 10, 2022 7:55 pm

🗨️ 16

<sup>173</sup> <https://ravberland.com/dont-fear-there-are-no-wars-only-rabbeinu-daily-chizzuk-by-rabbi-eliezer-berland-shlita/>

<sup>174</sup> <https://www.theyeshivaworld.com/news/headlines-breaking-stories/2123105/ukraine-warns-russia-will-purposely-direct-missiles-at-uman-on-rosh-hashanah.html>

Not for the first time, these stories turned out to be just more ‘fake news’ - and increasingly, the public was getting wise to it. When all was said and done, an incredible 29,000 people made the arduous and taxing round trip to Uman for Rosh Hashana 5783, in the middle of the ongoing war in Ukraine.<sup>175</sup>

But Rav Berland was not one of them. Even though the Rav had received special permission from the Israeli courts to travel to Uman for Rosh Hashana, his persecutors were not about to leave him alone.

On September 24, 2023, news filtered back to Israel that the Ukrainians had stopped the elderly tzaddik at the Romanian border and refused to let him through.<sup>176</sup> There were still a few short days before Rosh Hashana, and the Rav’s entourage worked around the clock to figure out why the Rav was being refused entry.

Apparently, the Rav’s persecutors had paid a huge bribe for the Rav to be placed on a ‘black list’, and had also forged articles pretending to be from the Rav that criticized the Ukrainian government’s handling of the war.<sup>177</sup>

In the meantime, the Rav’s attendants were told it would require a lot of time, effort, and money to get the Rav removed from the blacklist. That meant he would otherwise be permanently banned from entering Ukraine. - By that point, they were effectively out of time for Rosh Hashana 5783.

---

<sup>175</sup> <https://allisrael.com/thousands-of-ultra-orthodox-jews-make-pilgrimage-to-ukraine-despite-the-ongoing-russian-war>

<sup>176</sup> <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/flushes/587622>

<sup>177</sup> <https://newsrnd.com/news/2022-09-24-after-receiving-special-permission-from-israel--berland-s-entry-to-the-uman-was-blocked---voila!-news.Sy-2uRAh-o.html>



Thousands of the Rav's followers were already in Uman when word reached them that this year, Rabbi Berland would not be joining them after all, and was stuck alone in Romania, almost without a minyan. Given the complicated and expensive travel arrangements, it was not a simple matter to just go and join the Rav - but that is exactly what tens of the Rav's followers in Uman did.

They got to Romania very shortly before Rosh Hashana began, and the prayers were held in an empty hangar in the Iasi airport. The local Jewish community had generously donated food for the high holidays, but conditions were so basic there were no refrigerators to store the food, most of which spoiled before it could be eaten.

Nevertheless - or perhaps, precisely because of the self-sacrifice involved - Rosh Hashana with the Rav was accompanied with tremendous spiritual light and holy fire. At the end of the *chag*, the Rav announced that he'd still managed to perform all the spiritual rectifications required.<sup>178</sup>

At that stage, nobody knew what sort of year 5783 was shaping up to be. But with war still raging in Ukraine, Covid 19 still being pushed, and severe political unrest in Israel and abroad, one thing was clear: there was still a lot of spiritual work to do.



---

<sup>178</sup> <https://ravberland.com/the-rosh-hashanah-gathering-in-romania-with-rabbi-eliezer-berland-shlita/>

## THE HEART OF THE WORLD

When you look at Rav Berland's ongoing service of Hashem, it's hard to grasp that he's an 85-year-old man with just one kidney, a pacemaker, and a plethora of other serious health issues.

How could the Rav stand and pray with his *kehilla* for five and a half hours on Hoshana Rabbah, 5783?<sup>179</sup> Yet, that's what happened. Five days later, on the eve of Simchat Torah (October 24, 2023), the Rav arrived at the giant *sukkah* on HaAyin Chet Road and started praying *minchah*.

Then the Rav launched into maariv prayers for Simchat Torah with singing, clapping, and jumping - and so he continued long into the night, until Hakafot.<sup>180</sup> Once the prayers were concluded, the Rav began the Hakafot.

The Rav led the *kehilla* around the giant Sukkah, and then into the streets of Jerusalem, next to Town Hall dancing with the Torah scrolls more than two and a half hours: up and down HaAyin Chet street three times then to the Russian Compound and, into the middle of Kikar Safra, the main square bordered by the Jerusalem

---

<sup>179</sup> <https://ravberland.com/five-and-a-half-hours-of-prayer-on-hoshana-rabbah-with-rabbi-eliezer-berland-shlita/>

<sup>180</sup> <https://ravberland.com/simchat-torah-with-rabbi-eliezer-berland-shlita/>

City Hall buildings. The Rav did the fifth *hakafa* there, surrounded by more than a 1,000 people....

Then the Rav returned to the sukkah, singing and dancing, completed the last hakafot, and began the Torah reading. Before the crowd dispersed, the Rav announced that the morning prayers would be in the sukkah at 5:00 am.

It was hard to keep up with the Rav. The way the Rav continued to exert himself to fulfil the mitzvot; the energy he put into the prayers and the dancing; the self-sacrifice he demonstrated time and time again, the determination to pray with the community for long hours at a time, ever day—it was so easy to forget that physically, the Rav was very weak, and dealing with a complicated medical situation, a mirror of the danger threatening the Jewish People.



Around Pesach time, one of the Rav's attendants put out a message:

*“The Rav says we are in a very serious situation. [On April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023], two weeks ago, the Rav said that Hizbollah wants to destroy Eretz Yisrael, and all the nations around us are vowing to destroy us!*

The attendant continued:

*“I am sharing this information with you to provide chizzuk, not to create panic, chas veshalom. The Rav... is protecting us, by self-sacrifice, taking upon himself pain and suffering, to protect us. We should know what the Rav is going through, and what he is working on.*

*On Erev Pesach the Rav's pacemaker stopped working. It was originally installed in Holland. For an 85-year-old, this was a very complex procedure. The doctors wanted the Rav in the hospital for two weeks, but the Rav insisted on returning home to his community. We know there is no such thing as the Rav resting."*

The Attendant continued:

*"Two tzaddikim went to the grave of Shimon HaTzaddik to pray for the Rav, and two terrorists from Gaza got permission to visit Jerusalem because it was their holiday of Ramadan. These two terrorists shot at the two Tzaddikim at point-blank range. The gun jammed in one incident. Both Tzaddikim were shot and in hospital; one was scratched by a bullet. The other Tzaddik got surgery and is alive and recovering.*

The attendant then mentioned someone in the Shuvu Banim community who had just passed away from cancer, leaving five orphans, and then continued:

*Some big Tzaddikim are giving up their lives to ensure that the Rav continues to live... We must continue to daven the prayer that the Rav should live! Continue to say as many Tikkun HaKlalis as possible! That we have made it through Ramadan like this is a miracle - but these next three months are crucial.*

*During the period of counting the omer, there is din and judgment anyway... Everyone is suffering... The next three months — Nissan, Iyar, and Sivan - are each very crucial for Am Yisrael.*

*The heart of the physical world is Jerusalem. And the heart of Jerusalem is the Tzaddik.<sup>2</sup>*

As the new year, 5783 got started, it seemed that ‘the heart of world’ was once again going to come under serious attack.



## THE TIME HAS COME FOR BEN GVIR

*“We want Melech HaMoshiach. Baruch Hashem, Bibi was elected, but we wanted Melech HaMoshiach to be elected. After this kind of atzeret, we were sure that Melech HaMoshiach would come, but Bibi was chosen instead of Melech HaMoshiach.”*

**- Rav Berland, speaking after the prayer gathering in Hevron, April 8th, 2019.<sup>181</sup>**



Shortly after the High Holidays, Israel found itself going back to the polls again, for the fifth time in two years, on November 1, 2022. Unsurprisingly, many people felt apathetic about voting for anyone because every political party had shown itself to be full of corruption, graft, and incompetence, regardless of who happened to sit in the PM’s chair.

And if that was true for the general population, it was even truer for Rav Berland and Shuvu Banim, still being persecuted by the State of Israel, no matter who held the Knesset majority. So, it came as a surprise when the Rav made some strong statements about getting out to vote.

---

<sup>181</sup> <https://ravberland.com/photo-gallery-prayer-gathering-in-hevron/>



In the days leading up to the ballot, the Rav compared the elections to a battle over life and death<sup>182</sup>:

*“On Tuesday, everyone goes to vote! Even though there are many ballot slips of ‘Emet’ [the ballot symbol of the leftist “Labor” party], no one should vote for ‘Emet’ – no way! Even if it’s written ‘Emet,’ (‘truth’) we don’t vote for ‘Emet.’ Only Gimel (i.e. United Torah Judaism)! Everyone should vote Gimel, even if they say to you what they will say to you.”*

The Rav continued:

*“Anyone who votes Gimel should merit to length of years, because now they are going to fight a war against the holy Torah, to uproot the Torah, to uproot the Yeshivot, to uproot all religion from the country! There are people here who have decided to uproot everything. They are saying this in public, and this is a war, face-to-face.*

*These are not elections at all! This isn’t relevant to elections. All of those who are banning the elections have no place in the World to Come, because this is a war over life and death. Like they said that there won’t be Hitler. Everyone said that there won’t be Hitler. In the end, there was Hitler....*

*All of these are reincarnations of Hitler, and now this is a war over life and death... And if not, then all the children will be secular within a year! The goal is to turn the children secular. Lots of children are abandoning*

---

<sup>182</sup> <https://ravberland.com/this-is-war-over-life-and-death-whoever-votes-gimel-should-merit-to-long-life-r-eliezer-berland-shlita/>

*Judaism, they are on the way to abandoning it. The moment that there will a government with the same people of today<sup>183</sup>, then everyone will be secular without a doubt; all the children will lose their way.”*

The Rav continued:

*“Now, this a war over life and death! Once they would fight with guns, today they fight with ballot slips! This is a war in which whoever wins will live; whoever doesn’t win, they’ll burn him alive.*

*Therefore, we’re requesting that everyone, at eight in the morning, everyone will already be voting. At eight in the morning, the Rav will already be at the elections, will already be there at the voting station. Everyone, at eight in the morning, should already be at the voting station, and after this it’s possible to do what you want, to travel to Uman, to travel to America, to travel to Buenos Aires. But whoever doesn’t vote has no place in the World to Come!”*



These were very strong words, but with hindsight about the turmoil that was shortly about to engulf the country, when the very ugly face of ‘the left’ came out of the shadows for all to see, we can once again understand a little of the Rav’s *ruach hakodesh*.

---

<sup>183</sup> I.e. the government of Yair Lapid, Naftali Bennett, Benny Gantz and Avigdor Lieberman.

To make sure his followers had got the message, on the day of the elections itself, Rav Berland put out another public message, saying<sup>184</sup>:

*“Everyone is obligated to go vote! Immediately in the morning, immediately at seven in the morning, everyone should be at the voting stations. So that they should already see that the Agudah (Gimel) won, because the only group that defends religion is only the Agudah.*

*We only want that there should be here Shabbat, that there will be here yeshivot. The moment that they will learn Torah here, the Arabs won't bother us. And whoever doesn't vote, very simply he establishes the government of wickedness. It doesn't matter why he doesn't vote. Maybe, they didn't accept his daughter to the girl's school, or perhaps they didn't accept his son to the yeshiva – this is convenient [reason] for him [not to go and vote] ...but then, he establishes with his own hands a government that doesn't want there to remain anything of religion!”*

The Rav continued:

*“In order for there to be Gemara learning, we are obligated to vote Gimel! Their goal is to uproot all the Yeshivot through all types of excuses, and via all types of laws which they will decree...*

*Therefore, you need to know that today the war is with ballot slips. Once the war was with bullets, with gunfire, with arrows, with spears. Then people decided that*

---

<sup>184</sup> <https://ravberland.com/everyone-is-obligated-to-vote-gimel-the-holy-call-of-rabbi-eliezer-berland-shlita/>

*instead of killing each other, it's better to write ballot slips, and whoever gets the most ballot slips will be the king.*

*A person needs to know that this is more than Torah law, because we today are in a situation of destruction.*

*Everyone said that there wouldn't be Germany. All the Rebbes said that there would not be Germany, that Germany wouldn't do anything, outside of Rabbi Avraham Elimelech [of Karlin] and Rabbi Yechiel of Ostrovtzah, who fasted forty years to cancel the decree. And Rabbi Avraham Elimelech said that if they would fast on Rosh Hashanah they would cancel the decree, like they fasted on Seder night<sup>185</sup>.*

*He was here in Meron; he screamed. They heard his screams in Tzfat. His assistant ran up to him with a glass of boiling milk... This was a period when everyone said that nothing would happen. Everyone was complacent, everyone is complacent. Now the war is the same war, that they want to make all the Land of Israel "Red Haifa."<sup>186</sup>*

*We need to emphasize that this entire State is the greatest lie in the world, so today instead of arrows, they fight with ballot slips. The Ballot Slips are the War! These aren't elections!...*

*We're now in a situation in which in a little while, there won't remain... There are today iphones, and cellphones, and the "liberated" say that today, they*

---

<sup>185</sup> During the time of the Purim Miracle.

<sup>186</sup> I.e. atheist-communist.

*don't need to fight with the religious, just distribute iphones to them – automatically they'll become secular. A person who has an iphone will be secular. Even if he is religious, it's from the lips and outwards. Every child who saw an iphone is already religious from the lips and outwards.*

*Therefore, we are saying that now this is a war over life and death, and the only war is to put the Gimel slip in the ballot box....*

*They want to uproot the Torah, and we want to live the Torah, and this is the only war that's being fought for the sake of Torah. Every party, even if it's religious, has all types of goals on the side, all types of secondary goals. The only party which is only Torah learning and keeping Shabbat, and children's education – they have no other goal.*

*Anyone who votes Gimel saves the entire Jewish people from spiritual and physical destruction!”<sup>187</sup>*



At 8am on November 1<sup>st</sup>, Rav Berland arrived at the polling station in Ramat Eshkol, and was publicly photographed voting for Gimel....Many of his followers held their nose, and with tremendous *emunat tzaddikim*, went to do the same.

In the meantime, the really big winner of the election was Itamar Ben Gvir, and his 'Jewish Power' party, who gained a lot of support with promises of being tough on gun crime, and sending 50

---

<sup>187</sup> <https://ravberland.com/everyone-is-obligated-to-vote-gimel-the-holy-call-of-rabbi-eliezer-berland-shlita/>

rockets over to Gaza for every one that was fired at Jews in Israel... The whole country had been papered in posters for ‘Jewish Power’ proudly stating that: ‘The time has come for Ben Gvir’.

But time would quickly tell, if Ben Gvir really was the ‘political messiah’ many people hoped he might be, and if his promises were actually going to be kept. In the meantime, the new ‘right wing’ government headed by that same old Benjamin Netanyahu of the Likud was sworn into power on December 29, 2022 (Kislev 17, 5783).



That same day, which fell out during the week where we read about the sale of Yosef HaTzaddik in Parshat Vayeshev, Rav Eliezer Berland went to pray the morning prayers at Mitzpe Yosef, located on Mount Gerizim, overlooking the grave of Yosef HaTzaddik, who is buried below in the city of Shechem.



The Rav got to Mizpe Yosef in the early morning hours. First, he spent some time doing *hitbodedut* facing the grave of Yosef HaTzaddik, and only then, he began praying *shacharit* with tremendous excitement and energy - and copious tears. The Rav's assistants were used to the intensity of his *avodat Hashem*, but even they were blown away by the power and force of his prayers that morning.

After the prayers, Rav Berland told his attendants that they had now returned to the spot where more than 3,000 years earlier, the Jewish people had stood to accept the Torah's commandments, on Mount Gerizim and Mount Ebal. The Rav then spoke about the level of Har Bracha and said that all of the blessings and salvations there are in the merit of Yosef HaTzaddik, who was buried at the bottom of the mountain in Shechem.

Another name for 'Mount Gerizim' is 'Har Bracha' - or the 'Mountain of Blessing.' A few weeks later, 'Har Bracha' would be hitting the headlines across Israel for all the wrong reasons. Who knows, what the Rav was trying to sweeten that special December day?

What is clear is that very soon after that day when the Rav prayed on the 'Mount of Blessings' and the new 'right wing' government was sworn in, Israel plunged into the worst period of civil unrest and violence for over 30 years.



#### **HASHEM IS WAITING FOR PEOPLE TO DO TESHUVA**

*"In every generation, Moshiach needs to arrive, and Hashem puts this off. Hashem is waiting for people to return in teshuvah (repentance) through choice. Hashem is waiting for the arousal below*

and then Mashiach will come. If people don't do teshuvah, then Mashiach won't come...

*"A person who is a man of truth, they send arrows at him from all directions, and the more you are a man of truth, so they send at you more arrows, make more controversy about you, and speak more evil gossip about you.*

*"Hezekiyahu was worthy of being Mashiach. Therefore, Sancheriv came upon him with 2,600,000,000 soldiers to wage war on him.... The arrows were aimed at the man of truth, because the more truth a person has, the more Hashem tests him to see if he's going to break, G-d forbid, or fall into despair - or whether he's going to strengthen himself with emuna.*

***"The more a person is a man of truth, the more they fight against him....***

*"All the tragedies and holocausts come about because people see that they're persecuting the Tzaddik and everyone is silent. If they would protest, there wouldn't be tragedies. Everyone saw that they were pursuing King David, and everyone was silent. David was with 600 people only, with babies in their hands. They ran from forest to forest, and from hill to hill. They didn't have airplanes and cars. They walked barefooted.*

*"And just as they persecuted David — that he needed to wander about with 600 people and babies — the same thing is happening today. Everyone who was there then is present until today. People are born today, but thousands of years ago they were among the pursuers of King David, or they didn't protest. They allowed David and his people to run barefooted with their babies in their hands. Hashem doesn't forgive.*

*"If they had clung to the Tzaddik at the time of the Holocaust and said, "in the merit of the Tzaddik," they would have sweetened all the judgements. When they hold onto the Tzaddik, they sweeten all judgements.*

*"The true Neturei Karta (Guardians of the City) are those who are close to the Tzaddik. The Tzaddik guards everyone, the whole world. The Tzaddik is the morning, he is the Yechidah, he is the*



*true light. He has 370 myriads of light. So have we found the Tzaddik? People despair! But a person must say that he's not going despair and continue to search for the Tzaddik! It's not enough just to search for the Tzaddik [a little bit].*

*"You need to search more and more. And to wait! And to not to be alarmed by the evil gossip. Just wait, until Hashem reveals the true light."*

**– Comments made by Rav Berland on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022.<sup>188</sup>**



---

<sup>188</sup> <https://ravberland.com/hashem-doesnt-forgive-also-those-who-didnt-protest-the-persecution-of-the-tzaddik-and-his-followers-rabbi-eliezer-berland-shlita/>

## A DECREE OF DESTRUCTION

**“AND DAVID WAS DANCING WITH ALL HIS MIGHT”<sup>189</sup>.**

The main thing is to dance with all one’s might. All his life, David would only jump.

“Dancing with all his might” – people are not familiar with this way of serving Hashem. Rabbenu came and brought back the idea that there is a concept of dancing with all one’s might – with dancing, and jumping, and singing...

“The Rebbe says that through dancing, a person gets his livelihood, healing...

“The Rebbe says<sup>190</sup> that the reason he’s not dancing is because he has judgments upon him. The Rebbe says that the reason he decides not to dance is only because he has judgments upon him. He thinks that he’s smart, so he doesn’t dance, he doesn’t sing. He sees that everyone is singing; he is smarter than everyone – No!

“You have harsh judgments upon you. Suddenly, the child gets sick. Suddenly, the wife gets sick. And he doesn’t understand why... The fact that you don’t dance is because you have judgments on you. You don’t sing because you have judgments upon you. And then the “messengers” to deliver those judgments come...

“Through dancing, we nullify all the decrees.<sup>191</sup>

**– Comments from Rav Berland**

<sup>189</sup> Shmuel II, 6:14.

<sup>190</sup> In Likutey Moharan I:169.

<sup>191</sup> <https://ravberland.com/without-song-the-prayer-doesnt-ascend-daily-chizzuk-by-rabbi-eliezer-berland-shlita/>



On the 23<sup>rd</sup> Tevet (January 16, 2023), Rav Eliezer Berland celebrated his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday in style, together with the Shuvu Banim community: straight after the evening prayers, the band started to play in the courtyard down on Ido HaNavi Street, and the Rav and the community danced to ‘ameliorate the judgements’ for an hour and a half.

Some of the Rav’s senior followers had asked him to write a ‘birthday prayer’ for the occasion, which hinted at some of the awesome spiritual work Rav Berland had been sent down to do.



The prayer read:

*Ribono Shel Olam — Master of the World, Who can do everything, and nothing can impede [Your] purpose from You, on 23 Tevet the soul of the Rav came down to the world, on a mission from G-d.*

*That he should merit to return the entire world in teshuva — Jews and non-Jews, as it is written: “And the*

*earth shall be filled with the knowledge of Hashem as water covers the seabed.”*

*And all flesh shall call in Your name, and You will be recognised by all the wicked of the earth, all dwellers of the earth, to know that every knee shall bend, and every tongue shall swear only to You.*

*And that only You are G-d, because only the G-d of Israel reigns and His kingship is through all the earth.<sup>192</sup>*



After the morning prayers on January 28, 2023, Rav Berland told the *kehilla* praying with him on Ido HaNavi Street that the Jewish people were facing another decree of destruction, like what had occurred during the holocaust.

He told how during World War II, the Admor of Husiatyn, Rav Friedman, and Rav Yaakov Landau, the Chief Rabbi of Bnei Brak, tried to stop the German army from invading Eretz Yisrael. The Rav told the *kehilla*:

*“Then they went to the grave of the holy Or HaChaim – all the Chareidim went, all of them. Then on Shabbat, the Germans encountered complications and didn’t come to Israel, after everyone had screamed and cried at the Or HaChaim. Whatever is requested at the Or HaChaim – everything is fulfilled.”*

---

<sup>192</sup> You can download the original Hebrew version of the prayer here: <https://www.shuvubanimint.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/%D7%A6-%D7%99%D7%95%D7%9D-%D7%94%D7%95%D7%9C%D7%93%D7%AA.pdf>

Immediately after Rav Berland finished telling the story, he told his followers to go and pray at the grave of the Or HaChaim - even though the Rav usually follows the kabbalistic custom of visiting the graves of tzaddikim in the middle of graveyards during the week, and not on Shabbat or Yom Tov<sup>193</sup>.

Even though it was Shabbat, the Rav stressed: *“Go today and on the 16<sup>th</sup> – it’s possible to cancel the decrees, and everything that is requested there is accepted.”*

After hearing what Rav Berland said, a group of the Rav’s chassidim, including R’ Meir Hamburger, immediately set out from the Musrara neighborhood to the Mount of Olives cemetery, where the Ohr HaChaim is buried.

R’ Hamburger said:

*“We went in the direction of the grave of the Or HaChaim, and we thought that on the way, we would go via Kfar HaShiloh (Silwan), where the grave of Rabbi Ovadia of Bartanura is located, and also pray there. In the end, though, we decided to just get on with doing what Rav Berland, shlit’a had said, and we continued straight on to the Ohr HaChaim.*

*While we were there, we prayed a lot, and we sang the Shabbat zemirot, known to have the power of cancelling decrees. On the way back [to Musrara], we suddenly heard loud gunfire, and then immediately afterwards,*

---

<sup>193</sup> This also applies to Uman Rosh Hashana, and Rebbe Nachman’s grave, where the Rav and his community have the practise of not going to the Tziyon itself during the days of Rosh Hashana, but only immediately before and after the chag.

*we heard ambulance sirens and saw a lot of security personnel.*

*That's when we understood that something serious had just happened. So we decided to go back to the Ohr HaChaim's grave, and this time to pray even more."*

On the way back to Musrara for a second time, the Rav's followers went past the Dung Gate entrance to the Old City, which leads directly up to the Kotel Plaza, and down past the 'City of David' historical site in the heart of Silwan. They saw that the police had set up a roadblock there, and the Rav's students asked what was going on.

R' Hamburger continues:

*"Mamash at that moment, there had been a terror attack there. An Arab terrorist had fired at a Jewish family that was passing by, but miraculously, there was a paratroops officer there on break, who managed to neutralize the terrorist in a matter of a few seconds, preventing a much more serious tragedy.*

*That's when we understood why the Rav, shlit"a, had specifically asked them pray at the Or HaChaim's grave, near the place of the terror attack, and specifically on Shabbat Kodesh."*

R' Hamburger concluded:

*"When we got back from the Or HaChaim, we were sent a message from Rav Berland, shlit"a, that in the merit of our walking and prayers, not one person was killed."*



The terrorist, a 13-year-old resident of Silwan Village, had somehow got hold of a semi-automatic machine gun, and walked up the street in Silwan spraying bullets all over the place, before the off-duty paratrooper shot him.

A father and son were still seriously injured in the attack, which occurred on the same Shabbat as the Neve Yaakov atrocity, which we'll cover in more detail in a later chapter. But both survived. And everyone knew things could have been much, much worse.

The new 'Minister for National Security', Itamar Ben-Gvir happened to be in Jerusalem when the twin shootings occurred that Shabbat. When he arrived in Neve Yaakov shortly after the attack there claimed seven lives, an angry crowd told him: "We loved you, Itamar. We trusted you. This was on your watch."<sup>194</sup>

But as the year wore on, it started to become more and more obvious that the real and only 'Jewish Power' that could sweeten the harsh decrees hanging over the nation was the 'Jewish Power of Prayer', and nothing that any politician could promise or legislate.



### **100,000 Tikkun HaKlali's to save the Jewish People**

The following day, another of the Rav's followers named R' Chaim Kohen got an opportunity to go in and speak with Rav Berland, and he asked what the public could do to help the Rav and Am Yisrael.

R' Kohen said:

---

<sup>194</sup> <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-729860>

*“Our Rebbe, Rav Berland shlit”a asked me to turn to the public and request that they should say 100,000 Tikkun HaKlalis, to mitigate the decree of destruction.”*

Shortly after that meeting with R’ Kohen, the Rav released a recording where he said:

*By the 13<sup>th</sup> of the month of Adar, we must finish 100,000 Tikkun HaKlali’s! By 13 Adar, we must finish in order to cancel decrees, because now there is a decree of destruction.*

*There is a decree to annihilate all the Jewish people. All the nations have joined this decree like in the time of the Nazis, 90 years from the Shoah. Now there is a new decree to annihilate the entire Jewish people, and that all the nations will conquer the Jewish people and annihilate this people completely!*

*Therefore, we need to finish 100,000 Tikkun HaKlali’s by 13 Adar, and the Rav will join also.*



Shuvu Banim swung into action, and the ‘prayer operation’ was given top priority, with many hundreds of people signing up to say the necessary Tikkun Haklalis by the Fast of Esther, 5783 (March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023).

The Rav put out another brief note, published in the ‘Orot HaTzovot’ newsletter for the women of Shuvu Banim, that said the following:

*“To the talmidot of Rabbeinu.*



*Be strong and courageous – in the merit of the Tikkun HaKlali that you said, the complete redemption will come. Hashem is One, and Mashiach (358) ben (52) David (24) (=435) will come, and there will be the complete redemption in the blink (305) of an eye (130) (=435).*

*Eliezer Berland”*



But at this stage, no-one was quite sure what form these decrees of destruction were supposed to take. From the moment the ‘Right Wing Government’ had been elected, the State of Israel was rocked by one act of Palestinian terror after another.

Then, there was the terrible ‘almost civil war’, superficially blamed on the government’s plans for Judicial Reform, that had already begun its program of paralyzing, convulsing and dividing the country, in myriad poisonous ways.

And there were even a few more rockets thrown in from Gaza, and a strange terrorist attack near Megiddo that the security forces were blaming on a Hezbollah operative, who apparently got through the border fence with Lebanon completely undetected, and then drove two hours down to Megiddo before detonating a device that injured an Arab teen.

Back at the beginning of February 2023, there were so many different types of ‘decrees of destruction’ on the table, it was hard to know what the Rav was really warning about. But then, something happened that brought a great deal more clarity to the picture, and once again underlined Rav Berland’s tremendous *ruach hakodesh*.

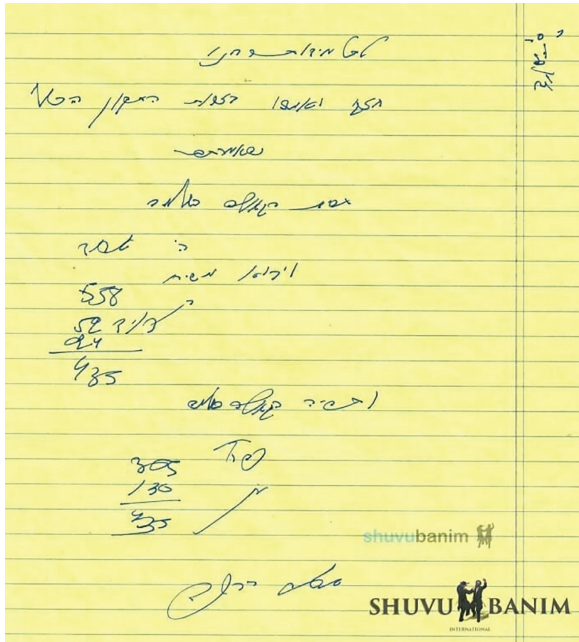


On 6 February 2023, at 4.17am in the morning, the South of Turkey and the North of Syria were hit by a massive earthquake measuring 7.8 on the Richter Scale. Barely nine hours later, at 1:24 in the afternoon, a second earthquake measuring 7.7 hit, with its epicenter 95 km further North than the original quake.

It was the second biggest quake to hit the area of modern Turkey in recorded history, and its effects were immediate - and devastating. Around 1.5 million Turkish citizens were left homeless, with around 60,000 people killed by the quakes, between Turkey and Syria.

Over the following weeks, there were more than 10,000 aftershocks felt throughout the region - and the media in Israel was full of headlines warning the country that there was a significant chance that Israel could also be hit with a serious quake, over the coming days.

Far more worryingly, that warning was being echoed by some big Tzaddikim - including Rav Berland himself, who hinted that another big earthquake was headed for Israel around Purim 5783. Unless it could be sweetened.



For reasons that are still not entirely clear, 12 days after Rav Berland first called for the public to come together and recite 100,000 Tikkun Haklalis, and three days after the massive earthquake hit Turkey and Syria, the Rav suddenly called the whole ‘prayer operation’ off.

Already, 40,000 Tikkun Haklalis had been said, and more and more people were registering on the Breslov hotlines as word spread around Israel and across the world. But then, the Rav publicized the following message:

*“It is written in Pirkey D’Rabbi Eliezer, chapter 28, that for another 189 years, until [the year] 5972, 28 years before the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> millennium – there will not be any disasters here.*

*Because he who said that we stand before a new disaster – there will be no disaster here.*

*What happened in Turkey isn't relevant to us. This isn't relevant to the Land of Israel, not relevant to Jerusalem – Jerusalem is shielded.*

*The kings of the world did not believe, nor did any of the world's inhabitants, that an oppressor and enemy would come to the gates of Jerusalem" (Eicha 4:12) – there is no threat to Jerusalem and no threat to the Land of Israel, and it's not necessary to say 100,000 Tikkun HaKlali's.*

*It's enough to say one Tikkun HaKlali a day. Someone who wants to can say 2, 3, not more than 3. One doesn't need to say more than 3 Tikkun HaKlali's.*

*There won't be any disaster, and in the merit of the dancing, as in the exodus from Egypt, through dancing [there was the redemption, so too] there will be the complete redemption, speedily in our days, Amen."*



No-one could understand why the Rav had pulled the plug on the prayer operation half-way through, especially as prayers are never wasted and can always be put to good use, spiritually, in a million different ways.

One possible explanation was put forward in reference to a passage in Likutey Halachot, which explains:

*“The main [aspect] of prayer is mercy and supplications, and mercy is dependent on knowledge... and when the Other Side draws sustenance from mercifulness, then the mercifulness is corrupted and turns into cruelty, and knowledge is blemished... and then the prayer is in an aspect of judgement... and the Other Side draws sustenance from it.”*

The idea is that sometimes, specifically these types of prayer can arouse the harsh judgement itself, particularly if they lead to people experiencing depression and despair about the difficult situation they are facing.



Whatever was going on behind the scenes, the Rav’s son R’ Nachman Berland made it clear that his father had begun the prayer operation specifically to sweeten the earthquakes.

They’d been ‘intended’ for Israel, and a great miracle occurred and Eretz Yisrael had been spared.

Here’s what one of the seismologists said, in the aftermath of the terrible disaster in Turkey:

*“The earthquakes could have ended for us in a very grave disaster and claimed many victims, because it was classified at level 8 on the Richter scale, and as known, Israel is found mamash on the Syrian-African Depression.*

*According to all the laws of physics and nature, the chances of a disaster in Israel were very high. The scientists are dumbfounded: how can it be that we in Israel*

*were spared against all the laws of nature? There was higher providence here.”<sup>195</sup>*



Even so, the Jewish people weren't out of the woods just yet. A few days after the Rav cancelled the public 'prayer operation', word went around the Shuvu Banim community that Rav Berland was now asking for 1000 people who would take upon themselves the task of completing 100 Tikkun Haklalis before Adar 13 - the Fast of Esther.

At the same time, several earthquake experts, including the alternative earthquake forecaster Michael Yanitch, aka 'Dutchsinse', were expecting another 7+ earthquake to hit the region of the Levant precisely around March 6, 2023 - the Fast of Esther.

In the end, more than 2,000 people signed up to recite 100 Tikkun Haklalis within the required period - and the second looming earthquake on the horizon somehow disappeared.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of Adar (February 23, 2023), the Rav said the following after the prayers with the community on Ido HaNavi Street:

*“The Rambam says that it's permitted for the non-Jews to build a Beit Mikdash (temple) – but for us, it's forbidden. For us, we have just one Beit HaMikdash in Jerusalem, and we have to wait until Avraham, Yitzchak and Yaakov come, and blow the shofar.*

---

<sup>195</sup> <https://ravberland.com/how-the-tzaddik-cancels-the-degree-of-destruction-and-puts-off-disaster-for-another-189-years/>

*And then, there will be an earthquake, like there was in Turkey. There will be an earthquake, and all the mosques will collapse into the ground.*

*For us, it's forbidden to destroy them. Therefore, there are earthquakes there every day. The day before yesterday, another 10 people died because of an earthquake. So now, every week there is an earthquake, but when the final earthquake [strikes] all the mosques and churches will fall.*

*We can't do anything to them. It's forbidden for us to destroy them.*<sup>196</sup>

Shortly before Ta'anit Esther, the Rav put out another public statement, saying:

*"There was a decree that the Jewish nation would be destroyed within 5 minutes. But it got canceled and now we will merit the light of Moshiach this Purim."*

A little while later, earthquake forecaster Dutchsinse posted up a video with the following description:

*"Turkey was not struck (yet), and was a miss for me in my forecasting, as I explain in detail in this video, where I got it wrong, what I think I missed, and all other relevant details."*<sup>197</sup>

Apparently, the 7+ earthquake destined for Israel and the Middle East struck far south instead, in the oceans around New Zealand.

---

<sup>196</sup> Translated from the Shivivei Or Newsletter, 303.

<sup>197</sup> <https://youtu.be/GPZPkwyRtg>



Purim 5783 was a joyous time down on Ido HaNavi. The Rav came out on the balcony at 7:43pm to pray the evening prayers on the eve of Shushan Purim, and spent the first half an hour just singing “*Ve’Tosef Esther V’Tedaber...*”

A massive crowd of more than 2,000 people were squashed into the courtyard down by the Rav’s building, and then spent the next three and a half hours with him. Some of that time was spent reading the Megillah, but the Rav then spent another hour singing, dancing - and even jumping up and down, together with the community.<sup>198</sup>

At 4.47am the next day, the Rav was back out on his balcony and immediately began leading the crowd in reciting the *Tikkun Chatzot*, or Midnight Lamentations, before spending the next 3-4 hours praying, then again reading the Megillah.<sup>199</sup>

As usual, it was hard to keep up with the Rav. But also as usual, the ‘heart of the world’ was working overtime to keep sweetening the harsh judgements that just kept piling up higher and higher. And the Rav still had a lot to do.

---

<sup>198</sup> The Rav sang “Shoshanat Yaakov” for ten minutes, and then “Ata Kadosh,” singing “Hu Yiftach” together with the community for another 50 minutes.

<sup>199</sup> Remembered and Celebrated – Review of Purim Holiday with R’ Eliezer Berland Shlit”a : Shuvu Banim





## BLOOD BROTHERS

### THE STUDENTS OF RABBI AKIVA DIED BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T TREAT EACH OTHER WITH RESPECT.

For the prayers to be accepted, a person needs to always see that he's submitting to the other person.

If a person doesn't give in to the other person, if there is some sort of 'separation', so then immediately the prayers can't be accepted.

This is what Haman said to Achashverosh, that *you need to separate Am Yisrael, only if they are scattered and dispersed - when they are separated, even if they will yell out their prayers, their prayers won't be accepted.*

So, Esther said: "Go and gather all the Jews together." A gathering - there needs to be a 'gathering' of *achdus* (togetherness), to be together.

The First Temple was destroyed because of *avoda zara* and because of bloodshed. But the Second Temple was destroyed after 420 years, despite the fact that they were learning Torah, and everything was okay - because there was *sinat chinam* (hatred with no cause).

Where there is *sinat chinam*, there is nothing worse than this.

We need to increase our *ahavat chinam* (love without cause). The explanation of what *ahavat chinam* is, is that you don't slander anyone, and that a person always needs to feel totally nullified to every other Jew.

– From the Rav's shiurim, Yeldei HaTzaddik Newsletter 66.

On October 13, 2022, in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood of East Jerusalem, Ben-Gvir took part in the clashes between Israeli Jewish settlers and the local Palestinian residents, brandishing a gun, telling the police to shoot at Palestinians throwing stones at the scene, and yelling at them that “We’re the landlords here, remember that I am your landlord.”

This was a message that was later repeated by him in a tweet on the morning after the 2022 election in his victory tweet. - Wikipedia entry for Itamar Ben-Gvir<sup>200</sup>

On the morning of November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022, 16-year-old Aryeh Schupak, a Canadian yeshiva student whose parents had made *aliyah* to the Jerusalem neighborhood of Har Nof, was sitting at the popular *trempiada*, or hitchhiking spot, located next to the main entrance into the holy city, waiting for the bus that would take him to school.

Shortly after he arrived at the bus stop, something that was rumored to be an electric bike chained to the railings exploded, killing Aryeh. At almost the same time, another device, also rumored to be an electric bike, was detonated at a bus stop in the predominantly *chareidi* neighborhood of Ramot. Apart from Aryeh Schupak, the twin blasts injured another 22 people.

Strangely, security forces initially claimed they had no footage of the attack, despite the thousands of brand-new AI ‘facial recognition’ cameras the municipality had set up all over the city - with a particular focus on bus stops and bus lanes.

---

<sup>200</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Itamar\\_Ben-Gvir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Itamar_Ben-Gvir)

Even more strangely, the following day a group calling themselves ‘Moses Staff’, who the establishment claimed were ‘Iranian hackers’, released footage from the attack that the State insisted just didn’t exist.<sup>201</sup>

Israel | World

## Police Claim Security Cams At Jerusalem Entrance ‘Not Working’, Iranian Hackers Show Bombing

November 24, 2022 9:00 am

A few hours after this strange terror attack, an anonymous ‘senior official’ with the incoming Likud released a statement urging the other parties on the ‘right wing’ slate to bury their differences over which ministerial portfolio should go to who, and to ‘come together’, in order to fight terror.<sup>202</sup>

“In this sensitive security period it is time to put personal desires aside, unite and form a national government that will restore security to Israel,” Likud said in a statement distributed to journalists, which it attributed to “senior Likud sources.”

Coincidentally, the bombing occurred just as coalition talks between Netanyahu, Otzma HaYehudit, Beit HaYehudi, Noam and the *chareidi* parties were getting seriously stuck, and apparently

---

<sup>201</sup> <https://vinnews.com/2022/11/24/police-claim-security-cams-at-jerusalem-entrance-not-working-iranian-hackers-show-bombing/>

<sup>202</sup> <https://www.timesofisrael.com/likud-right-wing-allies-cite-bombings-to-inject-new-urgency-into-coalition-talks/>

provided the necessary impetus for the talks to get ‘unstuck’, and an agreement to be reached by the various coalition partners.

While the Schupaks sat *shiva* for their son, and residents of Jerusalem puzzled over how a lone terrorist could have transported two bombs to two different bus stops and then detonate them at the same time - all by himself, while nobody noticed - Netanyahu and the Likud inked the agreement that was going to put them back into power again.

Perhaps no-one understood it then, but it was going to be a reign of ‘terror’.



Barely two months later, a terrorist armed with just a single handgun showed up in the Jerusalem suburb of Neve Yaakov shortly after Shabbat began on the eve of January 27.<sup>203</sup>

The terrorist managed to kill seven people<sup>204</sup> in a shooting attack that lasted for 20 minutes, before the police showed up and finally neutralized him. Distraught residents complained that they couldn’t understand why it had taken the police - who had a big police station located barely a minute away from where the attack occurred - more than ten minutes to respond to their calls.<sup>205</sup>

---


<sup>203</sup> [https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/app/uploads/2023/02/E\\_021-23.pdf](https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/app/uploads/2023/02/E_021-23.pdf)

<sup>204</sup> Those murdered that day were Eli Mizrahi and his wife Natalie Ziskin Mizrahi, Raphael Ben Eliyahu, Asher Natan Morli (14 years old), Shaul Shay, Irina Korolova and Ilya Shoshansky, z’l.

<sup>205</sup> <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/366596>

## Neve Yaakov terrorist attack: Local residents condemn slow police response

**"Terrorist drove around neighborhood for 20 minutes, looking for the 'best' place to attack."**

 **Ohevy Sharabi** / Jan 28, 2023, 11:30 PM (GMT+2)  
Neve Yaakov shooting attack

Residents of Neve Yaakov, a neighborhood in northern Jerusalem just minutes away from Bait Hanina, are furious at the authorities and feel betrayed at the lack of swift response to Shabbat evening's deadly attack.



Shortly after the murders in Neve Yaakov, that's when one of Rav Berland's attendants released that message saying:

*"The Rav says that they want to destroy Am Yisrael. So we must finish together 100,000 Tikkun Haklalis before the 13<sup>th</sup> of Adar."*

This was just ahead of the terrible earthquake that was being 'aimed' at Israel, but which hit Turkey instead.



With hindsight, it seems that the victims of all the terrible attacks in Israel who were dying *al kiddush Hashem* were a *kaparot l'evan-yot*, an atonement, for the nation's sins. But that didn't make the bitter pill much easier to swallow.

Two weeks later, on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Alter Shlomo Lederman, and the two young brothers Yaakov and Asher Paley, were killed when a Palestinian ran them over at a bus stop in the Jerusalem suburb of Ramot. That same week Sergeant Asil Suad was

murdered at the Shuafat checkpoint, by the Northern entrance to Jerusalem.

That same ‘right wing government’, who had made so many promises to the electorate about being tough on terror, and tough on terrorists, sat on its hands and did nothing. But there was still worse to come.

On February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023, two brothers from Har Bracha were driving on Route 60, the main road through the Shomron, when they passed through the Arab town of Huwara. For years, Jewish residents of the Shomron had been calling on the government to build a bypass road for Huwara, because of the countless attacks occurring there against Jews.

The work was meant to have begun on that bypass road two years earlier - but Meirav Michaeli, the transport minister under Yair Lapid and Naftali Bennett, cancelled it. She reportedly said that it was a shame to spend money on an area that wouldn’t be part of Israel for much longer.

On that fateful day, a terrorist first deliberately drove his car at the Yaniv’s causing an accident on the main road through Huwara - then got out and shot Hillel and Yigal Yaniv dead, at point blank range.

The day after, an expat American citizen who’d made aliya to Israel, Ilan Ganels, was murdered in the Jordan valley.



Again, the ‘right wing government’ did nothing much, and the citizens of the Shomron started to feel a mounting desperation, that

nothing had changed under this new, ‘right wing government’ - and that in many ways, things just seemed to be getting worse.

As the frustration and fear increased, some of the Jewish residents from the Shomron decided to take matters into their own hands, by setting fire to a bunch of garbage bins and old cars in Huwara. Strangely, the IDF, who have a base right next to the Northern entrance of Huwara, again went AWOL for an hour, as the settlers approached *en masse*.

To the careful observer, it appeared that they had orders to let the distraught Jews burn as many things as they could, without being disturbed. When the inevitable violent clashes with the Arabs started up, the army showed up at that point, and started shooting and arresting people.

The government-controlled media in Israel - and then later, around the world - claimed that a Jewish ‘pogrom’ had just occurred in Huwara. They claimed the settlers had set multiple buildings on fire, and even killed an Arab resident.

All of this was untrue. The Arab had been shot dead by the IDF itself, in the town of Za’atar, not Huwara, in the course of violently attacking some soldiers. And no buildings had been burnt down by the Jews, just a junk yard of old, abandoned vehicles. But since when did the facts really matter, when the press could run more defamatory stories about ‘violent Jewish settlers’ and ‘fanatical religious Jews’?



In the meantime, the terror continued unabated, both in Huwara and elsewhere in the country. On March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, terror came to Tel Aviv, when three people were shot as they sat outside at a cafe



on Dizengoff Street. One of the wounded, Or Eshkar, later died of his injuries.

On March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023, a former US marine who'd been living in Itamar for years was shot while driving the Route 60 road through Huwara, together with his wife and children. Many miracles occurred that day. Despite being shot in the head at point blank range, the former marine was released from hospital just three days later, after surgery.

Also in March, Huwara was still in the news for all the wrong reasons, when two IDF soldiers who were manning the checkpoint to keep Route 60 secure for drivers were themselves injured, one seriously, in a drive-by shooting.

Less than a month later, on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, in the middle of the Pesach holiday, two British-born sisters, Maya and Rina Dee, with their mother Lucy, were met with a hail of bullets as they drove the Route 90 through the Jordan Valley. Again, it took police 20 minutes to show up - by which time, Maya and Rina were dead. Lucy died of her injuries two days later.

And what of the terrorists? Again, they seemed to magically melt away, with the security forces initially claiming they couldn't find them for several days, after they'd escaped back to the Palestinian-Authority controlled city of Jericho.

Later that same day, April 7<sup>th</sup>, another Palestinian terrorist drove his car at high speed down the beach promenade in Tel Aviv, injuring five people - including Alessandro Parini, an Italian lawyer who'd come to Israel on vacation, before being run over by the terrorist, then shot dead.



There were so many siblings being murdered together, by the enemies of the Jewish people, at exactly the same time that the country was being convulsed by the ‘wars of the Jews’. A lot of people started making the links themselves, between all the strife within, and the terror attacks without.

That point was made even starker, when yet another pair of young siblings lost their lives when their car was caught up in a flash flood on Route 90, down to Eilat, on the penultimate day of Pesach, 5783.

As the enemies of the Jewish people continued to circle both within and without Israel’s borders, the message that we were all just one nation was being emphasized and underlined again and again with the blood of the brothers, and all the other Jews, who were being killed in such awful ways.

But as the arguments and confrontations continued to rage, and as the chaos and demonstrations continued, and the warnings about Israel facing a war on all fronts started to mount, it started to feel as though only a miracle could get Am Yisrael through the coming weeks in one piece.

And there was still the Muslim festival of Ramadan to get through when the stressful relationship between the Jews and Muslims in Israel traditionally tensed even tighter.



Around this time, on March 26, 2023, one of the Rav's senior followers, Rabbi Shlomo Elmeliach<sup>206</sup>, was interviewed for Shuvu Banim's weekly Webinar for English speakers, and told the group that the coming of the Moshiach was being delayed, to prevent significant loss of life.

Rav Elmeliach said:

*“The security situation in Israel is very dangerous, as this is the month of Ramadan, and the Arabs want to attack Israel from all directions: Hezbollah from Lebanon and Syria, and Hamas and Islamic Jihad from Gaza.*

*The left-wing liberal pilots are refusing to fly their planes, and soldiers are refusing to do Reserve Duty and mobilize in the event of a war emergency.”*

And the violent protests against honestly-elected government were continuing too, with many leftists proudly sported stickers on the cars stating: “Democracy doesn't end at the ballot box.”

There was so much din in the air, so many harsh judgements that needed sweetening. And so around this time, nobody was surprised when we heard the hard tidings that once again, the Rav had been taken seriously unwell, and had been readmitted to the hospital.



---

<sup>206</sup> Rav Elmeliach's brother Asher Elmeliach was the guard at the Jerusalem Central Bus Station who nearly died, when a terrorist stabbed him in the heart. His life was miraculously saved by a *pidyon nefesh* with Rav Berland, in a story that was widely publicized across Israel.

On April 16, 2023, a prayer rally was called for 5pm at the Kotel, to bring as many people together as possible to pray for the Rav's speedy recovery. Ahead of the prayer gathering, the Rav's attendant and grandson R' Dov Zucker gave an update about what was going on<sup>207</sup>.

R' Zucker said:

*“The blood tests came back, which showed that the Rav’s medical situation requires treatment and monitoring in the hospital. So over the last day, he has stayed in the hospital, to stabilize the indicators.*

*“With God’s help, his rates stabilized, and after consent of the doctors and according to the request of our Rebbe the Rav, shlit”a, he returned to his home for Shabbat Kodesh.”*

R' Zucker continued:

*“But he will not come out to the community for the Shabbat prayers, because he needs a great deal of rest. On the night of Bedikat Chametz, the Rav went through minor surgery to replace a pacemaker. Then he sacrificed himself for the community, to come out for every single prayer, and he also didn’t even skip the mitzvah of Aliyah L’Regel<sup>208</sup>. And all this exertion brought about a rise in his [health] indicators and led to the present situation.*

*“We want to arouse the public to continue to prayer continuously for our Rebbe the Rav, shlit”a, by saying*

---

<sup>207</sup> <https://ravberland.com/prayer-rally-for-rav-berland-today-at-kotel/>

<sup>208</sup> I.e. going to the Kotel during Passover.

*“Refa’einu”<sup>209</sup> or by saying three Tikkun HaKlalis, as our Rebbe the Rav, shlit”a, instructed, so that we may merit that he will remain with us healthy and complete until the coming of the righteous Redeemer, speedily in our days, Amen.”*



It’s known that the prayers that are said for the Rav are really just said for us - to sweeten the harsh judgments, to stop the wars with our enemies without, the arguments with our brothers and neighbors within, to end all the divorces, and health issues, and all types of other suffering.

As the period of Counting the Omer began for the year 5783, the State of Israel was in utter turmoil, and people were walking around feeling tense, anxious - and scared for what the future held, on so many levels.

At the beginning of May 2023, another of the Rav’s attendants explained:

*“The Tzaddik of the Generation has the power to cancel negative decrees but ONLY IF the people connect to him.*

*More than 2 weeks ago, the Rav was saying “We are in a very serious situation!” — Hezbollah has plans (and he gave a date) to wipe out all of Eretz Israel. The Rav asked us WHY are these things happening - and how are they being stopped? Then he explained that it’s because the Shimon bar Yochai, the Baal Shem Tov and Rebbe Nachman of the Generation, has been cancelling*

---

<sup>209</sup> The traditional prayer for healing that is part of the Amidah.

*all these decrees. Singing with the tzibur has the power to cancel the harsh decrees!”*

The attendant continued:

*“Recently, Hezbollah fired 60 rockets into Israel from Lebanon... They have rockets and missiles aimed at every inch of Israel and we know that they can fire off many times more than 60. The government has concealed this information. Hezbollah has a plan of destruction and at any moment, they can fire thousands of rockets all at once. Hamas and Islamic Jihad can do the same.*

*According to a recent interview with a Major General, a former national security advisor, the terrorist organizations and the Arabs can very, very easily wipe Israel of the map. We are not prepared for this!! It’s not “maybe” it will happen, but “WHEN” it will happen. They are just waiting for the right moment for it to happen, chas v’shalom...”*

*The Rav is also fighting to remove the din on Ukraine, which was due to be conquered by Russia. Nothing was due to be left standing except for the Tzion and surrounding buildings of Rebbe Nachman of Breslov in Uman! The Rav suffered during last Rosh Hashanah, because he was stuck in Romania - but that still prevented the destruction of Ukraine....The Rav is fighting to stop the war and remove the din from the Ukrainians and Russians.”*

The attendant concluded it was not an accident that the main Shuvu Banim yeshiva was located in the Muslim Quarter of the

Old City, literally adjacent to *Har Habayit*, with a stunning view of it.

*“Jerusalem is literally the heart of the world,” he said.  
“And the Tzaddik is the heart of Jerusalem. His suffering  
is reducing the judgment that’s resting upon all of us.”*



## THE WARS OF THE JEWS

*They had here now on the television all the time ‘bombardments’ from the Leftist government, the government of kefira (heresy), that just wanted to bring more terrorist attacks, to drive away the Jews.*

***They wanted to erase the name of ‘the Jews’ from the world, that there ‘shouldn’t remain a trace of Israel’.***

*So, they were doing programs every day against brit milah - every day! What is this, to take children eight days old and to chop them?! Chop him when he’s 18 or 20! (I know that by then, he’s going to be totally secular)...*

*In any case, they were doing this sort of awful, intimidating propaganda. There was Aaron Baumel here, and he said, now I’m going on TV to talk in favor of the brit milah - he wanted me to tell him a few words.*

*I thought they’d already stopped... [all the propaganda against circumcisions...]*

***Now, they already stopped. They can’t continue. Now, there’s already a dati (religious) government, and they are going out of their minds. At the end of the day, they just want to change one judge, that’s what they want to change. There was Aharon Barak here, who made a dictatorship here.***

*He ruled over the land and put all of the rabbis in prison. They also put me in jail, everyone....*

***This was all one co-ordinated action, to fabricate shtuyot (nonsense), to make up stories about everyone.***



*So, they want to change a judge, this is what they want to do, and not more than this. **They are still ruling here, even today.***

*– Excerpt of a shiur given by Rav Eliezer Berland,  
the last week of April 2023.*



**A**t the beginning of January 2023, the State of Israel's 37<sup>th</sup> government began passing a series of bills in the Knesset, related to reforming the country's judiciary.

Within days, a number of protests against the 'right-wing government's' judicial reform sprang up across the country. On January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, around 20,000 people gathered in Tel Aviv's Habima Square. A week later, the second demonstration had quadrupled to around 80,000 people, with separate protests also taking place in Haifa and Jerusalem.

By January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, over 100,000 demonstrators showed up on Kaplan Street in the heart of Tel Aviv, and the number of protests around the country started to mushroom, albeit with much smaller crowds.

Israel is no stranger to protests, and during the last couple of years, before, during and after the main Covid 'lockdowns', regular demonstrations were being held every Saturday night outside the Prime Minister's official residence in Jerusalem. It became a social fixture, and the highlight of the week, for many of the people attending.

The protests against Netanyahu stopped for the year and a half of the 'Unity Government', leaving a big hole in the social calendars of many left-wingers, on a Saturday night. But once Netanyahu managed to get back into office, the demonstrators began again

like clockwork, and initially, most people in Israel didn't think there was anything unusual about these demonstrations.

But then at the end of January, the USA's Secretary of State Anthony Blinken flew into Israel, apparently to speak to Netanyahu about his plans for Judicial Reform, among other things. Shortly after Blinken's visit, the demonstrations morphed into a much slicker, more organized - and way more destructive movement.

New protests popped up like mushrooms across the country, including locations like NesZiona, Herzliya and Rishon LeZion, and the number of protesters spiralled up to around 150,000 people.



On February 8, MK Simcha Rothman, the chair of the Knesset's Constitution, Law and Justice committee, announced a vote on February 13 to refer a bunch of reforms to the Knesset Plenum, including a law that would give the government a much bigger say in appointing new judges.

That led to people like the former Chief of General Staff Moshe Ya'alon, and a strange organization named 'the Movement for Quality Government in Israel', pushing for a general strike in Israel, and organizing the first of many protests that took place directly outside the Knesset in Jerusalem.

The news channels were flooded with images of tens of thousands of people swarming into Jerusalem, many of them carrying professionally produced identical signs bearing slogans like: "there is no democracy without equality", and "destroying the country to avoid trial".

There was also a liberal sprinkling of the usual ‘rainbow flags’, plus a few Palestinian flags - and the weird spectacle of tens of people showing up ‘spontaneously’ in red capes and long white bonnets that shaded their faces, apparently connected to a character from the dystopian novel ‘The Handmaid’s Tale’.

As left-wing personalities like President Herzog poured more fuel on the flames by claiming attempts to reform the judiciary would result in ‘social collapse’<sup>210</sup>, the arguments in the Knesset between the politicians on both sides descended into farce.

During the initial debate on Judicial Reform, members of the opposition jumped onto tables to scream ‘shame! shame! shame!’ in the faces of the Government ministers, while one politician after another popped up on prime time, to blame ‘the other side’ for deepening the rift across every stratum of Israeli society.

By the middle of February, tens of thousands of protestors blocked major highways across the country, and even picketed the homes of ministers and law makers involved with moving forward Judicial Reform. Somewhere along the way, the mood shifted from the usual ‘left-wing, anti-Netanyahu’ weekly social event to something uglier and more dangerous.

Netanyahu and his cohorts began to openly speak about ‘civil war and blood in the streets’, while the strangely choreographed demonstrations in Tel Aviv took on a surreal quality, when 150 members of the Bonot Alternativa (“Building an Alternative”) women’s group showed up wearing more of those strange identikit red-and-white outfits linked to ‘The Handmaid’s Tale.’

---

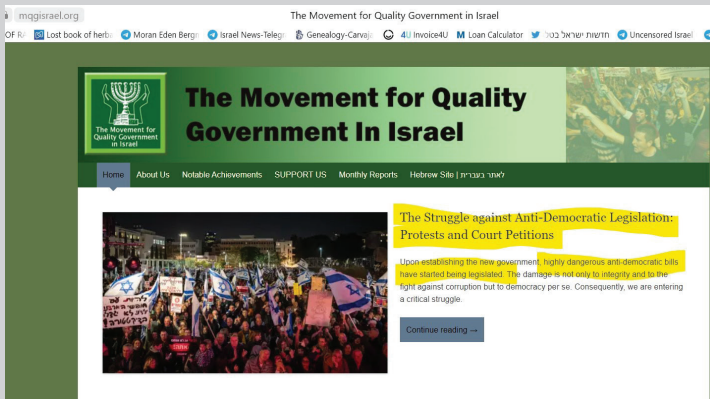
<sup>210</sup> <https://edition.cnn.com/2023/02/13/middleeast/israelis-knesset-protest-netanyahu-judiciary-intl>

No-one trusted the politicians on either side of the argument. However, when certain members of the right-wing camp muttered about ‘foreign interference’, and outside interests paying for the demonstrations, for once their words rang true.



## Who was really funding the demonstrations in Israel?

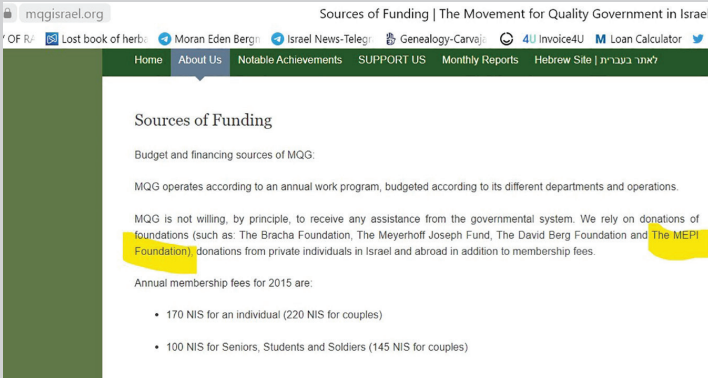
In March 2023, the Home Page of the Movement for Quality Government in Israel proudly announced the following, in connection with the Israeli judicial reforms:



*[W]e have started a broad public struggle: thousands of citizens have already joined our demonstrations across the country in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, the North, the South, and more.*

The Movement for Quality Government in Israel’ was clearly organizing and helping to fund the anti-Reform demonstrations in Israel. In turn, according to the information on their own site<sup>211</sup>, their funders included something called ‘The MEPI Foundation’.

<sup>211</sup> <https://mqgisrael.org/about/sources-of-funding/>



MEPI stands for 'US-Middle East Partnership Initiative', which is a branch of the US State Department, funding NGOs and pushing its own agenda inside the Holy Land.

As speculation continued over where the money to fund the protests was coming from - including the hundreds of thousands of professional posters, and thousands of 'performers' dressed in identikit red capes and white bonnets - in April, the notorious New Israel Fund posted something up on their site that also solved some of that mystery.<sup>212</sup>



<sup>212</sup> <https://nif.org.il/magen-grants-against-coup/>

The New Israel Fund was ‘proud’ to announce it was spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to pay for people to attend demonstrations at the Knesset and other locations across the country, and creating new initiatives to ensure that the more Torah-observant government wouldn’t be able to dismantle the secular, ‘woke’ brainwashing agenda being rolled out via the Israeli education system.

Berl Katznelson Foundation for a joint initiative with Givat Habiba and Ida-the .3 establishment of the State Education Guard, a new initiative aimed at protecting the state education stream from government interference and harming the liberal values taught in the stream – 2 20,000

Clearly, ‘democracy’ in Israel only worked as long as it pushed the ideas and agenda the Americans and anti-Torah atheists wanted. As soon as the public pushed back towards a traditional, God-fearing, Torah observant approach, the US decided it was time to show them who was boss.

In March 2023, the ‘Israel HaYom’ paper ran a piece where they estimated that a whopping 10 million shekels (about \$2.7 million dollars) had been spent on the protests for ‘democracy’, with the lions’ share coming from outside of Israel.



At the beginning of March, the shadowy group of people organizing protests announced a National Day of Disruption’, and the country took another lurch forward into anarchy and violence.

Tens of thousands of ‘left wing secular elites’ turned out to block the main Ayalon Highway in Tel Aviv - and were shocked when they got a small taste of the police brutality that the *chareidi*, settler, and Arab communities experienced for years.

One man literally had his ear blown off when a police officer casually tossed a stun grenade into a crowd of protesters at close range, totally ignoring the safety protocols. Meanwhile, the mounted

police and water cannons were also out in force, and the police arrested many of the protestors - including a lady in her eighties.

Bibi Netanyahu and Itamar Ben Gvir, the highly controversial 'Minister for National Security', appeared all over the news, calling for mass arrests of the anarchists who were bringing the country to a halt. But there was an uncomfortable feeling that the politicians and media were manipulating the public to turn on each other, for reasons that still weren't obvious.



Those strange US-sponsored 'women in red' returned on March 8<sup>th</sup>, with more than 25,000 'handmaids' in red cloaks and white bonnets deciding - spontaneously! - to form a human chain across Israel, ramping up tensions and turning the Jewish people against each other.

That was quickly followed by yet another 'National Day of Resistance', which saw more roads blocked across the country, and an attempt by protestors to block Ben Gurion airport, and prevent Netanyahu from flying out to Rome.

By March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the protests were pulling in half a million people, and the atmosphere was becoming ever more poisonous. The protest organizers started to bait the religious public.

First, a group of demonstrators set up 'segregated areas' for men and women at Tel Aviv bus stops, to show the nation 'what awaits us all around the corner'.

Then another strange group showed up in Tel Aviv, calling themselves 'Grandmothers for Democracy', and gave interviews to the media, explaining:

*“This state is based on the fact that we all work hard and we all get the public goods and a good economy. But what’s happened now is that a certain group wants to milk the cow to death and squeeze the lemon till there’s nothing left, and we won’t allow it.”*



Then on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, the anti-Reform organizers turned the demonstrations into an ‘anti-religious Jews’ movement, deliberately planning a march through the *chareidi* city of Bnei Brak. Again, the careful observer could notice how much money was poured into the march by outside interests, who even paid for a huge mock-up of the Declaration of Independence to be made and erected on site.

The organizers hoped to incite another ‘war of the Jews’ between the religious and secular public in Israel. But with God’s help, things didn’t go according to plan. The Bnei Brak municipality set up stands ahead of the march that were fully loaded with free drinks and hot cholent, while traditional Shabbos melodies were piped across loudspeakers.

As the marchers passed through Bnei Brak waving their rainbow flags and Stars of David, they were offered bottles of water and cholent by friendly *chareidim* who were determined to show that *Am Yisrael Chai* and, despite the ideological differences, underneath the Jewish People was still one nation, one family.

The demonstration passed peacefully, and the ripples of *ahavat chinam* in Bnei Brak moved beyond the city, when a man came to march but ended up crying his heart out instead, and the video went viral.



The video showed a secular older guy on a motorbike, a huge Israeli flag tied around his shoulders, overcome with emotion when he heard *Shalom Aleichem* piped across the speaker system. He got off his bike, took off his helmet, and sang along, tears streaming down his face.<sup>213</sup>

Later, he told the person who video'd him:

*“My father loved every Jew. He would turn in his grave if he could see what is happening between us today.”*

Who knows how much *sinat chinam* evaporated as millions of Jews watched that apparently secular man singing *Shalom Aleichem* as he cried his eyes out - and realized that underneath all the labels, politics, and media manipulation, we were just one big family, after all.

It was exactly as the Rav said: *“Through singing, we eliminate all the evildoers...”*



So, while the lawmakers, politicians and journalists continued their diatribes and poisonous discourse, hundreds of thousands of Jews started to realize that they had much more in common with the people ‘on the other side’ of the argument than they had thought.

When Netanyahu fired his Defense Minister Yoav Gallant on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023, for suggesting the reforms should be halted, protests on the left reached their zenith, with more than 630,000

---

<sup>213</sup> <https://vinnews.com/2023/03/23/watch-bnei-brak-residents-hand-cho-lent-to-protesters-one-cries-after-hearing-shalom-aleichem/>

people attending rallies and blocking roads across the country, making it the biggest turnout in Israel's history.

The following day, Israel's old guard elite, spearheaded by the Histadrut labor federation, announced an immediate, nationwide general strike. Within hours, the nation's ports were closed, Ben Gurion airport ground to a halt, and many other labor unions, chain stores, high tech firms and even Israel's embassies in the US and UK, all closed their doors.

Another tipping point was reached as the tension mounted, and reports appeared that the protests turned violent. This time, it wasn't just the police beating protesters, or protesters fighting the authorities. More and more reports popped up on Telegram and other social media sites, showing members of the public starting to brawl with each other.

To the careful observer watching from the sidelines, that was a new and disturbing development.

Following a pattern seen many times before, at the height of the latest round of tension, the Jerusalem police went inexplicably AWOL, the evening that hundreds of protestors announced they were converging on the Prime Minister's residence in Jerusalem. Somehow, they were able to run down the street towards the residence *en masse*, across hundreds of meters, and even scale the security barriers without being stopped.

The vested interests funding the protests in Israel were doing everything they could to set a flame to the tinder and ignite a social conflagration that would pit one section of Israeli society violently against the other. But time and time again, miraculously, the fire fizzled out before it could catch hold and lead to a real civil war.



By the end of March, Netanyahu and his government apparently cracked, and agreed to delay the Judicial Reform legislation by a month. That led to a new round of protests - but this time, from the people 'on the right'.

These protests also attracted hundreds of thousands of people, but where many on the left had made a huge effort to divide the nation with hate-filled slogans and poisonous tactics, many of the grassroots protestors on the right were carrying home-made signs with messages of unity and brotherly love.



In the meantime, Israel's little home-grown 'antisemitic' problem was starting to be noticed by more and more people.

Even after the main protests began to peter out after Israel's Independence Day in May, the secular media's incitement against 'Chareidi parasites' continued, unabated. Increasingly, the penny dropped that the riots and protests had never really been about the government's plans for 'judicial reform'.

That had just been an excuse for the hatred lurking in the basements of so many prestigious institutions, and in the hearts of 'tolerant liberals' to come into the light. Whatever new measures or bills the government announced, Lapid and his followers turned it into the same old hate-filled complaint that religious Jews in the State of Israel were bleeding the country dry.

Social media was flooded with videos of 'left wing demonstrators' showing up outside the homes of prominent figures in the *chareidi*

world, where they often threw around wads of fake 200-shekel bills for the cameras... or engaged in other public displays of hatred.

In one example that typifies them all, a professor of economics at Bar Ilan University who was demonstrating near Minister Goldknopf's home was caught on camera telling a chareidi man:

*"You're not Jewish, you're a cult".<sup>214</sup>*

The man hit the nail on the head when he responded: *"You hate me just because I'm dressed like this."*



As intolerance and hatred against orthodox Jews continued to rage across the secular world, Israeli TV host Galit Gutman took things one step further, by saying live on air what many 'tolerant, secular liberals' of Israel said when no-one was recording them.

Headlines & Breaking News | Israel News

## Israeli TV Host: "Chareidim Are Bloodsuckers, They're Milking Us"

May 20, 2023 9:05 pm



As the condemnation of Gutman's imagery flowed in, other politicians, journalists and commentators were lining up to say things like this, from Israel's Radio 103 FM Erel Segal:

---

<sup>214</sup> <https://vinnews.com/2023/05/17/incitement-against-chareidim-in-israel-increases-day-when-chareidi-is-murdered-not-far-off-warns-journalist/>

*“Bloodsuckers’ and in German ‘Sie saugen unser Blut’ – Israel, May 2023. On the most watched channel in Israel. Thank you to Keshet...I wonder if Yad Vashem would consider this the ‘slippery slope.’”*

But in truth, while Gutman’s hatred of religious Jews was horrible and disturbing, the interview given by Carmi Gillon, former head of the Shin Bet to Ha’aretz around the same time, was even more sinister. He said:

*“The haredi and more religious Zionist politicians are the Jewish jihad. They are an absolute existential threat to the State of Israel.”<sup>215</sup>*

Eleven years earlier, in June 2012, the former head of the Mossad, Efraim HaLevy had said almost the same thing, *vis*:

*“Ultra-orthodox extremism has darkened our lives. This is more dangerous than Ahmadinejad.”*

By now, we should know better than to regard these statements as being mere bombast. The Israeli security establishment had identified another ‘enemy’ within their borders. And as they have done so many times in the past, they continued to make their plans for how to ‘neutralize the threat’.



---

<sup>215</sup> <https://www.chaifm.com/2023/05/20/former-shabak-chief-calls-haredi-religious-mks-the-jewish-jihad/>

## ARROWS AND SHIELDS

“Eliyahu said to Rabbi Shimon: “Oy Rebbe, oy Rebbe, how hard is this matter, and how long is this exile, and how much suffering upon suffering the haters of Israel have prepared [for the Jews] throughout this galut, and how much longer will these brutes rule, i.e., the Nations of the World; and how much more will they roar over their prey and devour Israel, each and every day, until the end of days?”

– **Zohar Hadash, Parshat Balak 65**

*“They say that the first thing they will do is fire a nuke.... that they will fire shells that have ‘Shuvu Banim’ written on them, and this will turn the nuke, it will turn the nuke into candies....*

*“But say seven Tikkun Haklalis! If you say seven Tikkun Haklalis, it can’t harm anyone. Seven Tikkun Haklalis cancels all the harsh decrees in the world! There is no decree that it can’t nullify. There is no decree in the world that this can’t nullify!”*

– **Excerpt from one of Rav Berland’s shiurim, April 2023.**

**N**obody quite knows how or why, but after the Rav’s heart surgery, after the prayers for his recovery, after the hundreds of thousands of Tikkun HaKlalis, after all

the hours spent singing, dancing and clapping the harsh judgments away during the prayers down on Ido HaNavi, the 'left wing demonstrations' started to flop in a radical way.

When the leftists continued to play politics around Israel's 'Memorial Day', it left a bad taste in people's mouths and the weekly turnout for the mini riots on Kaplan Street in Tel Aviv dropped dramatically.

On April 27, 2023, an estimated 600,000 people in favor of judicial reform - most of them obviously religious Jews from the *dati leumi* camp - gathered at the site known as 'the Gates of Jerusalem'. Instead of sowing more violence and destruction, most of the protestors came with messages of unity and *ahavat chinam*, and recited prayers and *tehillim*.

It was a beautiful example of real 'Jewish People Power' - i.e., the power of *achdut* and the power of prayer.



Back in March 2014, shortly before 600,000 chareidim gathered at the 'Gates of Jerusalem' to protest the government's new draft laws conscripting yeshiva students into the army, some of the students of Rav Dov Kook in Teveria put together a booklet that contained what the Vilna Gaon wrote about the coming of Moshiach, as brought in the book *Kol Hator*, section 6.

There, it's written:

*"Rabbi Binyamin of Shklov asked our master the Vilna Gaon what he could do to hasten the coming of Moshiach ben Dovid and the redemption of Am Yisrael. The Vilna Gaon answered his student: 'If you*

*can gather 600,000 Jews in a place called the “Gates of Jerusalem,” whenever you’re able to do that, a gathering of 600,000 Jews can completely cancel the power of the sitra achra that rules at the Gates of Jerusalem — and then, you’ll merit the complete redemption.”*



So one way or another, “the power of the sitra achra that rules at the Gates of Jerusalem” - exactly where the Supreme Court, Knesset and other State of Israel buildings are located - got cancelled out, at least the power of political manipulation to turn Jew against Jew, and brother against brother.

But the *sitra achra* had a few other tricks up its sleeve. By the middle of April 2023, the Israeli government was once again warning its citizens to expect a ‘war on all fronts.’<sup>216</sup>

## Defense Minister Warns: “Israel Is Preparing For Multifront War”

April 23, 2023 7:25 pm

And another important issue pressed on the minds of many in the religious community - namely, what was going to be with Rebbe Shimon and Lag BaOmer 5783 (2023)? The previous year (2022), the authorities had severely limited access to the site, and had forbidden anyone from lighting a bonfire, except for one ‘central’ bonfire lit by the Boyaner Rebbe.

---

<sup>216</sup> <https://www.theyeshivaworld.com/news/headlines-breaking-stories/2182983/defense-minister-warns-israel-is-preparing-for-multifront-war.html>



Many of the people who still made it to Meron for Lag BaOmer 5782 later complained they'd been left stranded in fields and parking lots for hours, in the heat of the day, without any water or facilities. When they reached RASHBI, the authorities had already banned all music and distribution of the traditional *chai rotel* food and drink - all in the name of 'safety'.

One of the editors of Mishpacha magazine, Aryeh Erlich, captured the mood in a tweet where he said:

*"The police decided to eliminate the Rashbi festivities. They took off the music, closed the tomb, stopped the buses on the way to Meron. The courtyard is empty, the tomb is empty, and hundreds and thousands of Jews are distressed and helpless. Commander Lavi and Police Commissioner Shabtai, this is not safety, this is evil and criminal. Jews want to be by Rashbi- protect them, don't strangle them!"<sup>217</sup>*

On Lag BaOmer 2022, Meah Shearim was closed to all traffic as the different communities were forced to hold their big communal lightings close to home. Rav Berland lit a huge fire at the intersection of the Meah Shearim and HaHoma Shlishit roads, before heading up to Meron - but was clearly unhappy about what was going on.

Up in Meron itself, some members of Shuvu Banim who actually made it to the site pulled together a few old cardboard boxes and made a very small 'Shuvu Banim' bonfire - totally against all the authorities' draconian rules. The Rav later told one of his attendants that the entire year, the world had stood on the merit of that one, small bonfire in Meron.

---

<sup>217</sup> <https://vinnews.com/2022/05/19/watch-worshippers-break-through-police-barriers-at-meron-others-celebrate-in-parking-lots/>



So as Lag BaOmer 5783 rolled around, there was a lot of concern, particularly in the *chassidische* world, that the authorities and the ‘Ministry for Holy Sites’ shouldn’t wreck RASHBI’s *hiloula* for a fourth year in a row.

Meir Porush, the Minister nominally in charge of the *hiloula*, quit his position back in February 2023<sup>218</sup>, saying that he couldn’t do the job he’d been given to do, because everything had already been decided ‘in advance’.

Later he was reinstated, and with the help of Yossi Daitch, a deputy mayor of Jerusalem, the *chassidische* world was promised a *hiloula* that would return joy to the event - but still within a tightly controlled framework dictated by the State of Israel.



The followers of the Rav had an additional concern to deal with: the Rav’s persecutors were once again trying to prevent him from going to Meron and were dead set against him performing the Shuvu Banim *hadlika*.

In previous years, it had been Shmuel Eliyahu, the rabbi of Tzfat, who spearheaded the campaign to ban the Rav from Meron. This year, the torch was passed to his son, Amichai Eliyahu, who had just entered the Knesset as part of Itamar Ben Gvir’s ‘Jewish Power’ faction.

At a time when the country stood on the brink of civil war, following months of growing demonstrations, when the defense

---

<sup>218</sup> <https://www.timesofisrael.com/in-latest-coalition-sputter-utjs-porush-quits-as-minister-of-meron-pilgrimage/>

minister was warning that Israel was facing a ‘war on all fronts’; and when scores of Israelis had been killed and wounded in terrorist attacks, Amichai Eliyahu knew what his main priority was: to stop the Rav from lighting a bonfire at Meron.

Back in 2020, the Ministry of Religious Affairs had pushed through a special law that appeared to have the sole aim of preventing Rav Berland from lighting a bonfire in Meron on Lag BaOmer.

As Eliyahu Junior took to Twitter, citing the above law as the reason why the Rav should be banned from Meron, it was clear from most of the comments that this time around, the Rav’s persecutors were fighting a losing battle.

Many commentators came back to him stating the obvious, that: *“You should be dealing with things that are more critical to the people of Israel,”* or: *“We are in a democratic country. If Rabbi Berland has followers who want their rabbi to light a candle in Meron, who are you to prevent them from doing that?!”*

When he continued to rail that Rav Berland shouldn’t be allowed to light a bonfire at Meron, because he’d spent time in prison, someone closed down that argument by responding: *“But Deri can be a minister...?”*



The year after Shmuel Eliyahu successfully banned the Rav from getting to Meron in 2018, the whole place was closed because of Covid. And the year that the government kept the Rav away from Meron by throwing him in prison – that’s when the horrible (pre-planned) ‘disaster’ happened.

So when the Rav started to drop hints that this year, it was imperative that he get to Meron, and be able to light a bonfire there, many more people were listening. On April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the Rav again told his story of the Baal Shem Tov sweetening the decree to annihilate the Jews of ‘Istanbul’ - but this time, with a few new twists.<sup>219</sup>

Again, the Rav began:

*“In the meantime, in Istanbul, there was a decree.*

*The Baal Shem Tov, when he came to that place, he did there a whole bunch of sweetenings.*

*There was a decree there, like in Hebron, to wipe out all the Jews....the decree was at six in the morning. They were going to slaughter all the Jews. By seven there wouldn't be even one Jew left alive.*

*In the meantime, it wasn't revealed to a single person. They said, if the Jews would know that there was such a decree, they would nullify it within five minutes.... So, they made a ruling that this cannot be revealed to a single person.*

*There was one person, a very suspect person indeed, a renegade. He would always tell all the secrets of the king's palace. What was going on there inside the Mossad, inside the Shabak. He would reveal to the Jews each time what there was decreed. They would then go and nullify it within five minutes. They would bring a billion dollars, two billion dollars, whatever was needed, and nullify every decree....”*

---

<sup>219</sup> You can read the full translation at:



The Rav continued that this ‘suspect person’ who knew the big secret went to the head of the Jewish community to tell him about the awful decree and told him to find a way to nullify it. The Rav continued that he had to:

*“Find a way of nullifying the decree without showing that you know anything about it.”*

The Rav continued giving his ‘clues’ via that same story of the ‘decree in Istanbul’. This time, there was going to be ‘banging on the door’ at 1am.... *Boom. Suddenly, an explosion, they’re blowing up the door! They woke them up in the middle of the night with banging on the door, terrible kicking. Everyone woke up.*

The Rav continued:

*“In Istanbul the Chief was called the Sultan. He ruled over half the world. He ruled over Mecca. He ruled over the Land of Israel. He ruled over half the world. So, now let’s go to the mother [of the Sultan]. We’ll relate to her the story as it is, and maybe she’ll find a way.*

*Ok. Three in the morning they knock on the door. They wake up the guard. The guard was also in a deep sleep. Three in the morning is the sweetest sleep in the world, the deepest. He asked them, what’s going on? It’s three in the morning...?”*

And then as the story continued, the Rav continued to give more clues about what the ‘decree’ actually was:

*“Within two hours we’ll all be destroyed. There’ll be here a fire. Everyone will be burnt alive.” And then continued: Tear up the decree!!... I’m running now to tear up the decree. He ran to the archives, there was the parchment. He tore it into shreds.... look, all the shreds, the decree is nullified. You have nothing to worry about.”*

*The Rav then concluded:*

*“There, the Jews were waiting. It was already five in the morning. In another five minutes, the sunrise minyan would start. She showed them the shards of the decree. She told them, everything’s okay, don’t worry.... So, after the prayers, they told the Jews what had happened.*

*They told everyone the whole story.... And then the Baal Shem Tov said, if it wasn’t for this surprising Jew, this meshuganeh [who sweetened everything] there wouldn’t have been a miracle.”*



The next week, the government released its official guidelines for pilgrims coming to Meron for 5783: the tickets were in short supply, very few people could get there by private cars, and most people would have to take a pre-arranged bus if they wanted to get to the *hiloula* this year.

Bonfires were permitted, but not directly next to the *kever* of Rabbi Shimon. This year, a new area had been designated for the communal bonfires, about a kilometer away from the main entrance of Meron, in a massive area on the corner of Route 89.

Shuvu Banim also released details of the location and time of their *hadlika*: sometime between 3-3:45am, in the allocated plot that was right next to 'Parking Lot 60', the main carpark for all the privately chartered coaches coming to Meron.



Tickets were expensive.... it was going to be at least a four-hour bus ride either way... and no-one knew for sure if the Rav would be able to come that year or light the bonfire. But the Rav exhorted as many people as possible to get to Meron this year - and continued to drop some strange hints, like the following, that were part of a shiur he gave over on Friday May 5, three days before Lag BaOmer<sup>220</sup>:

*“Nadav and Avihu wanted to bring the geula. This was the biggest day of their life, [the biggest day] in history: the establishment of the Mishkan, the Aron, the Luchot – they were putting up the Mishkan (Tabernacle)....*

*They were putting up the Mishkan... This was the biggest day! Even bigger than the inauguration of the Temple.*

*Nadav and Avihu wanted to bring ‘fire’ down from the heavens. They wanted to bring it down....*

*Now, they moved us [i.e. the Shuvu Banim lighting site in Meron] to the gas station [to do the lighting there.] Our site is next to the gas station. They want there to be a lot of petrol for the fire.*



---

<sup>220</sup> Translated from the Shivivei Or Newsletter 309.

*So they, they – Nadav and Avihu – went to bring petrol, a ‘strange fire’. What is this ‘strange fire’? They went to bring petrol. They went to bring 20-liter jerry cans full of benzine, to spill it on the altar. They wanted to bring ‘fire’ down from shemayim.*

*For today Hashem appears to you. (Vayikra 9:4)*

*They wanted to bring down fire, so they brought 20-liter jerry cans, they poured benzine on the altar – ‘strange fire’, they brought it from the stoves. They went and brought a jerry can, they went to the gas station, and filled up the jerry can. And fire didn’t come down from shemayim!*

*They spilled the jerry cans; they poured out a whole jerry can...”*



At the time, it was hard to even guess what the Rav was really speaking about. But over the following days, many of those ‘hints’ and ‘clues’ started to be decoded.

Around 1am on the night of Lag BaOmer, the government decided to launch a massive attack on Gaza, codenamed ‘Operation Arrow and Shield’. The operation began with several missiles that killed three leading terrorists from the Islamic Jihad group.

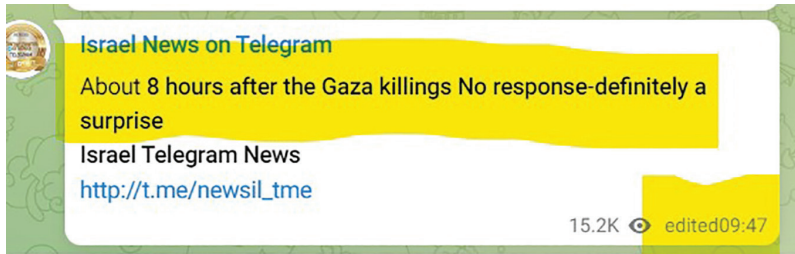
*(At 1am.... Boom. Suddenly, an explosion, they’re blowing up the door!)*

Most of the people coming to Meron knew nothing about this. By 3am, shortly before the Shuvu Banim lighting was to begin, the police began turning back buses from reaching Meron, citing their concern



that they were expecting rockets to start raining down across the country any minute.... Baruch Hashem, that didn't happen.

*(Three in the morning they knock on the door. They wake up the guard.... He asked them, what's going on? It's three in the morning...?)*



The Shuvu Banim gathering began at 3am, but no-one knew until the last minute if the Rav would come, and so for the next two hours, the crowds danced and clapped to try and 'sweeten the judgments' and pray for the Rav to make it.

*(There, the Jews were waiting. It was already five in the morning. In another five minutes, the sunrise minyan would start. She showed them the shards of the decree. She told them, everything's okay, don't worry...)*

At 4:50 am, the Rav finally got to Meron via helicopter. He came up to the stage, and a 10-meter-long telescoping pole was produced, that enabled the Rav to hold the 'torch' that was going to light the Shuvu Banim bonfire - but wouldn't give the Rav's enemies the image they were hoping to get, of the Rav directly lighting the bonfire himself.

By 5am, the Shuvu Banim compound was jumping. The vibe was electric, and the people in the crowd could palpably feel that something very big had just been ‘sweetened’ by the Rav’s arrival and *hadlaka*.

Shortly before the buses left back to Jerusalem, the Rav took a few moments to fire the customary arrows at Meron.

The Rav’s ‘Operation Arrow and Shield’ had been successfully concluded. In the meantime.... most people had no idea that another war in Gaza had been started during the night, and the authorities continued to puzzle over the total lack of ‘response’ from the Arabs in Gaza, and in Lebanon.

The Islamic Jihad waited 35 hours at the beginning of the operation from “Gan Vachar” to begin launching rockets into Israel, surprising even the top of the IDF.

According Army Radio, as the operation was launched on L’ag B’omer, the IDF had decided to revise its ‘Iron Dome’ protocol for the first day of the operation, to also intercept missiles that were heading to open areas as well. The army was clearly anticipating rockets all over Israel during L’ag B’omer.

But it just didn’t happen. Islamic Jihad didn’t launch any missiles into Israel, open areas or otherwise, for the first 36 hours of the operation.<sup>221</sup>



Of course, the quiet didn’t last for ever. Many hours after the L’ag B’omer celebrations were concluded, Islamic Jihad began launching one barrage of rockets after another at Israel. By May

---

<sup>221</sup> <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/371400>

14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the government reported that 900 rockets had been launched - with barely any casualties.

An 80-year-old woman was killed in Rehovot<sup>222</sup>; a Palestinian working in the fields near the Negev town of Shokeda was killed by shrapnel, which also seriously injured his brother<sup>223</sup> - but all told, there had been just 77 calls to Magen Dovid Adam because of the rockets - and 45 of them were panic attacks, with nearly all the others very light injuries from falling shrapnel and broken glass.

*Nissei nissim!*

But the miracles weren't over yet. On the evening of May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, an out-of-control fire began in what had been 'Parking Lot 60' up in Meron, on the corner of Route 89, near the gas station.

Video showed what looked like the remains of bleachers still on the site being totally consumed by the blaze, as the fire services looked on, helpless to stop it.

***Our site is next to the gas station. They want there to be a lot of petrol for the fire.... They went to bring petrol. They went to bring 20 liter jerry cans full of benzine, to spill on the altar. They wanted to bring 'fire' down from shemayim... They went and brought a jerry can, they went to the gas station, and filled up the jerry can. And fire didn't come down from shemayim!"***

Later that evening - just in time for the Eurovision Song Contest finals! - a cease fire was announced between Israel and the Islamic Jihad.

---

<sup>222</sup> <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/371380>

<sup>223</sup> <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/371375>

Clearly, something very big was being sweetened by the Rav in Meron on Lag BaOmer 5783. And even with all the open miracles we were experiencing as part of ‘Operation Arrow and Shield’, the story of the biggest miracle that occurred on Lag BaOmer is one that can probably never be fully told.



## BEHOLD, BEHOLD, MASHIACH IS COMING!

*“I heard that he said the Moshiach will come suddenly and there will be plenty of noise and excitement saying the Moshiach has come. Everyone will throw their business aside. The banker will throw aside his counter, and the candle-maker his wax, as Isaiah writes: “And each one will throw aside his gods of silver and gold.”<sup>224</sup>*

*“People think that when Moshiach comes the world will be different from today. It is not so. Things will be the way they are described here, and everyone will be ashamed of the folly of his ways, each according to his deeds.”*

– **Rav Natan Sternhartz**, writing about Rebbe Nachman  
in *Chayei Moharan*, no.597.



**O**n February 16, 2023, Rabbi Yaakov Moshe Salmonovitch decided to share some words of much needed chizzuk about where the geula process was really holding, shortly after the terrible earthquake that hit Turkey and Syria.

---

<sup>224</sup> Isaiah 2:20.

These are his words:<sup>225</sup>

*“We are found on Saturday night at the meal of David, the King Mashiach – the Mashiach is going to be revealed at any moment. We see mamash that Rome is falling – Great Rome and Minor Rome, Russia, Turkey, Hashem help [us] – mercy on those people but...*

*The klipah (evil husk) is certainly falling. We see that the whole world is horrified mamash, the worst fear – so much suffering with each person. “Degeneracy in a person’s home is worse than the War of Gog and Magog”<sup>226</sup>. Mamash we see that the world is horrified, and any moment Mashiach is going to be revealed....*

*There are Tzaddikim who are concerned with the rectification of the world all the time. Everyone knows that Rav Berland is sacrificing himself all the time. Anyone who looks, sees that for years he has been sacrificing himself for the sake of the Jewish People, so that there won’t be decrees and that Mashiach will come with mercy....*

*We need so much mercy, without end. Every person knows how much mercy we need. Hospitals are full, and the decrees are harsh – mamash the worst fears. Last week, Rav Berland, shlit”a, asked us to say the Tikkun HaKlali<sup>227</sup> ... – I’m nothing and nobody, but people who think that I have some kind of importance asked me [to talk].*

---

<sup>225</sup> <https://ravberland.com/ behold-behold-mashiach-is-coming-rav-yaa-kov-moshe-salmanovitz/>

<sup>226</sup> Berachot 7b.

<sup>227</sup> The Rav asked for 1,000 people to take it upon themselves to recite 100 Tikkun Haklalis each, before Adar 13, 5783.

*Yes, I know that the world is horrified, and we feel that Mashiach is going to arrive. And I believe in all the Tzaddikim and in Rav Berland. I know that Rav Berland does awesome things, so there is mamash no doubt regarding what the Rav said about the Tikkun HaKlalis. Behold, the Rav doesn't have time to make jokes. Anyone who knows Rav Berland – every word that the Rav says is uttered responsibly... Everyone knows that these are measured words.*

*...If the Rav says that this sweetens the judgments of all the Jewish People and from the whole world, then who needs to add anything to this at all?*

*Hashem should help us, that all of us should merit to strengthen ourselves and to say the Tikkun HaKlalis. The very fact that we are saying the Tikkun HaKlali – every Tikkun HaKlali that we say is certainly rectifying the world....*

*We believe that the Tikkun HaKlali is rectifying the world. Especially when the Tzaddik sees that this sweetens all the judgments over the Jewish People, and that this mamash brings the redemption closer, with mercy...*

*[W]e see that the world is waiting for the redemption, mamash. Everyone, even the non-Jews are saying that Mashiach is coming, and everyone, even we, are saying that Mashiach is coming. Even those who are found with such apathetic faces are also saying that Mashiach is coming....*

*There is no doubt at all that in the merit of the Tikkun HaKlalis, the Rav will be healthy. The Rav at all times is*

*sacrificing himself so that there will not be decrees. If we say the Tikkun HaKlali, then bezrat Hashem, the Rav won't need to suffer and to sacrifice himself so much....*

*The students of Rabbenu, especially his greatest students, are bringing and causing the redemption with great mercy. Hashem should help; behold, behold, Mashiach is coming!... And that we should merit to our righteous Mashiach, speedily in our days mamash....*

*Over the ten years that the Rav went through all the suffering in the world, in health and in legal terms... there weren't such prayers, there were never Tzaddikim that [encouraged others to say] so many prayers for them.*

*It's possible to say that millions of Tikkun HaKlalis were said. The whole world knows that only the prayers helped. According to the natural order, there was no chance there....*

*And Hashem should help us, that bezrat Hashem we should all merit to continue the miracles which are above nature... There's no nature, only the Tikkun HaKlali, only prayers, bezrat Hashem, until our righteous Mashiach.”*



Nearly four years ago, before Covid 19 began, Benjamin Golden and some of the other well-known autistics put out several messages stating that ‘Eliezer ben Ettia’ was the *hezkat* Moshiach ben David of our generation.



A few weeks later, Rav Berland asked the facilitators to stop the communication, at least at that point. It seems the world was not yet ready to hear what the autistics were saying back in May 2019.

Back then, an autistic young man named Menachem said the following:

*“For the last 26 years, we’ve been writing essays all the time, to strengthen Am Yisrael, and to demonstrate where the sheker, all the lies are to be found, and where the truth is to be found.*

*But now, there is no more need for our talents. We are now obligated to leave this work because the King Moshiach has come. And he will provide the answers to all the questions everybody has, and he will direct Am Yisrael towards complete redemption, and we are going into retirement.”*



However, after taking the break that the Rav had asked for, the autistics started communicating again. In April 2023, Ben Golden put out another message about the Rav, which seems fitting to conclude Volume 3 of ‘One in a Generation’.

Ben Golden said:

*“The Mashiach is working hard to save Am Yisrael! Hashem’s most beloved nation! No one in the world can attain his level of prayer, learning and love of the Jewish people! At the same time, he is very humble and has taken on the mission of helping Am Yisrael to do teshuvah! He prays that his people will accept the Truth of Hashem.*

*Even though the world is falling apart, wherever you are in the world, if you are connected to the Tzaddik in some way, you can successfully do teshuvah, and return to Hashem and His Torah. The Mashiach has been sent specially to save you. Don't miss out on this, it is not just your physical life, but also your Olam Haba."*



May Hashem help us connect to the True Tzaddikim, and to find that 'One in a Generation' who will lead us forward into *geula* the sweet way, speedily in our days, Amen.



# EPILOGUE

## WHAT WILL PEOPLE DO, WHEN MOSHIACH ACTUALLY COMES?

“Through peace we then merit prayer, by which we merit universal peace, peace in all the worlds.

And when we merit universal peace, all business transactions will disappear from the world, for all business transactions arise from a lack of peace, since it is impossible that the desire of the buyer and seller be the same – one wishes to sell and the other to buy. If their desires were the same, it would be impossible to make any transaction.

“Hence, all business transactions and trading arise only from an aspect of dissent, of a lack of harmony between wills....

**But in the future, when there will be wonderful peace in the world, as the verse says, ‘The wolf will dwell with the sheep, and the leopard will lie down with the goat,’ business transactions will then disappear.”**

– Rebbe Nachman of Breslov, writing in Likutey Moharan I:14.



**I**n one of his more recent shiurim from 2023, Rav Eliezer Berland said the following:

*“Everyone says, we want Moshiach now! We want Moshiach now!*

*How is Moshiach going to help you? You still need to do the same work, and to walk around guarding your eyes, and to have the right intentions when praying Shmoneh Esrei.*

***Moshiach is just going to teach you how to guard your eyes, that’s what Moshiach is going to do for you. He will teach you how to pray the Shemoneh Esreh with kavana. Rabbenu says that Moshiach is going to teach people how to pray the Shemoneh Esreh with correct intention, and how to distract your mind from everything that’s going on around you.***

### ***Regular life will continue with Moshiach***

*When Moshiach comes, people will continue to build houses, and to build cities, and to make tables and cupboards. **Just, the Rebbe says, everything will be distributed for free.** The ‘buying and selling’ will be nullified, in the secret of: ‘Until the last person leaves the marketplace.’*

*Whoever can’t learn [Torah], they’ll tell him, so make cabinets...”*



## GLOSSARY

**R**abbi Berland's teachings contain many references to lofty *kabbalistic* concepts and to numerous texts. For the sake of brevity, we have focused on translating just the main terms and have not included more esoteric concepts and references contained within the lessons translated in this book.

<i>Ain</i>	Literally nothing, or 'nothingness'.
<i>Aliya</i>	Literally 'going up', to the Land of Israel (moving country).
<i>Banim zchorim</i>	Male sons.
<i>Beit HaMikdash</i>	The Temple.
<i>Brit</i>	Literally, 'covenant', but often used to refer to man's sexual purity.
<i>Chametz</i>	Unleavened bread that is forbidden on Passover.
<i>Chatan</i>	A bridegroom.
<i>Chatzot</i>	Also called, 'Tikkun Chatzot'. The midnight lamentation.
<i>Chevruta</i>	A learning partner for the study of Torah.
<i>Chuppah</i>	The wedding canopy, under which the bride and groom are married.
<i>Chutz La'aretz</i>	Literally, 'outside the land'. Outside Israel.
<i>Davening</i>	The daily prayers.
<i>Elul</i>	Hebrew month.
<i>Gan Eden</i>	The Garden of Eden.

## *The Footsteps of Moshiach*

<i>Gemara</i>	The Talmud.
<i>Elokim</i>	A name for G-d.
<i>Emuna</i>	Trust, faith, belief in G-d.
<i>Halacha</i>	Torah law.
<i>Hashem</i>	G-d.
<i>Hashem Yitbarach</i>	'G-d who is blessed'.
<i>Hatzlacha</i>	Success.
<i>Hitbodedut</i>	The practice of talking to G-d in one's own words.
<i>Kallah</i>	A bride.
<i>Kohen Gadol</i>	The high priest in the Temple.
<i>Lashon Hara</i>	Speaking negatively about a person.
<i>Melavah Malkah</i>	The fourth meal of Shabbos (which takes place after Shabbos finishes).
<i>Mikva</i>	A ritual bath or pool that gives purity to one who immerses in it.
<i>Mishna</i>	The Oral Law, forming part of the Talmud.
<i>Mishkan</i>	The Tabernacle.
<i>Mitzvah</i>	A commandment or good deed.
<i>Mizbeach</i>	The Altar.
<i>Moshiach</i>	The Messiah.
<i>Neshama</i>	Soul.
<i>Nissan</i>	A Hebrew month.
<i>Rabbanit</i>	The wife of the Rav.
<i>Rabbenu</i>	Literally, 'our teacher', but used mostly in reference to Rabbi Nachman of Breslov.
<i>Rav</i>	Another expression for Rabbi. When used in the expression "the Rav", it is a reference to Rabbi Berland.
<i>Refuah</i>	<i>Healing.</i>
<i>Rosh Chodesh</i>	The new moon, new month.
<i>Rosh Hashanah</i>	The new year.
<i>Shabbos</i>	The Sabbath.
<i>Shalom Bayit</i>	Marital peace/harmony.
<i>Shavuot</i>	Jewish Festival.

<i>Shechina</i>	The feminine aspect of Hashem's Presence.
<i>Sheva Brachot</i>	The seven marriage blessings recited under the <i>chuppah</i> , and on each of the seven days following the wedding.
<i>Shidduch</i>	A proposed marriage partner.
<i>Shmirat haBrit</i>	Lit: Guarding the covenant, a reference to sexual purity.
<i>Sitra Achra</i>	The 'Other (dark) Side'.
<i>Tammuz</i>	Hebrew month.
<i>Tehillim</i>	Psalms
<i>Teshuva</i>	Repentance
<i>Tikkun</i>	Rectification (plural 'Tikkunim').
<i>Tishbi</i>	A reference to Eliyahu the prophet.
<i>Tzaddik</i>	A righteous person.
<i>Uman</i>	The burial place of Rabbi Nachman of Breslov.
<i>Yetzer Hara</i>	The Evil Inclination.
<i>Yishuv HaDa'at</i>	A settled mind, peace of mind.





## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

If you would like to learn more about Rabbi Eliezer Berland, you can read **One in a Generation, Volumes I and II**, which contain hundreds of hours of interviews, stories, and first-hand sources about who he really is.

There are many additional books available in both Hebrew and English, including collections of Rabbi Berland's Torah lessons, miraculous stories of the people he's helped and compendiums of his advice and prayers. A good place to start is the **www.ravberland.com** bookstore, which you can access here:

**<https://ravberland.com/product-category/english-books/>**

With God's help, we hope to be translating many more of Rav Berland's works into English in the near future.

---

**LEARN MORE ABOUT RAV ELIEZER BERLAND AND SHUVU BANIM**

**For the latest news and updates in English about Rabbi Eliezer Berland and Shuvu Banim, please visit our website at:**

**[www.ravberland.com](http://www.ravberland.com)**

**You can also listen to real-time updates, announcements, and stories in Hebrew by calling the Shuvu Banim hotline.**

**THE SHUVU BANIM HOTLINE (in Hebrew):**

**In Israel, please call:** \*9148 or 02-800-8800

ext: 82 for English

**In the USA, please call:** 845-640-0007

**In the UK and Europe, please call:** +44-203-807-3333

**THE SHUVU BANIM HOTLINE (direct in English):**

In Israel, please call: 02-301-1995



**To join the WhatsApp Group in English:**

wa.me/972583327618



If you would like to send a name for a blessing from Rav Berland, or for information or queries, please contact us at: [ravberland.com/contact](http://ravberland.com/contact)

To make a donation please visit:

**<https://ravberland.com/donation/>**