



י' שבט הכנה תשע"ד

YUD SHVAT
HACHANA 5774

10 DAY BOOKLET

Like the four legs needed to support a table, there are four legs to Hiskashrus: Mivtzium, Shlichus, Farbrengens and writing to the Rebbe. Writing to the Rebbe is the basis and foundation of Hiskashrus. In the days of the Baal Shem Tov, the chevra kadisha would write their names in his siddur so that when he Davened, he would know their names. This was their way of being Mekushar.

א"פ - פ"א

Writing a Pan is giving yourself to the Rebbe. Before a Chossid went into Yechidus, the biggest preparation was writing. How do we enter the stage of writing a Pan?

When Reb Yoel Kahn was 12 or 13 years old, he asked his Mashpia how to write a Pan. His Mashpia started telling him "ano leorrer..." but was unable to continue. He began to cry and cry. Reb Yoel asked him again and a third time, but each time the mashpia would picture himself in Yechidus, and would become so overcome with emotion that he could not manage to get the words out. Reb Yoel eventually saw that he wouldn't be able to get anything out of his mashpia, so he asked someone else in the yeshiva who told him which words he should write. Reb Yoel later said, "This person taught me what to write. But my mashpia taught me how to write."

א"פ means "pidyon nefesh," redeeming the soul. The soul is trapped down here in the guf, and aPan is a contract asking the Rebbe to redeem us. When we fulfill the mitzvah of Pidyon Shvuyim and redeem a captured person, we need money. Before Gimmel Tammuz, people gave in their Panim with money. Now, we give money to the Rebbe's Mosdos. Through this, we bring our Pan into Gashmiyus, so that we can create the connection when there are Gashmiyusdike requests. The Rebbe always used positive language in his requests - he wrote what *should* be, not what shouldn't be.

A Pan begins with "א"פ" on the first line, no date or ד"בס. The next line says, "אנא, _____ בתִּבְנָן _____ על רבים רחמים לעורר" It should be written very neatly, clearly, and straight, without scribbles or erasures. It is good to write a draft of a Pan so that it does not contain any mistakes. (There is no תורה as to whether these drafts should be put in Shaimos -- it is a matter of Hergesh.) When mentioning someone in a Pan, including oneself, their mother's name should be mentioned as well.

It's an Inyan to write the names of other people such as family. A Pan isn't supposed to be Hachlotos or a Duch. A Pan only consists of Bakoshos. After writing a Pan we read it aloud. Those that have been in Yechidus should stand and picture that

they are standing by the Rebbe. After reading the Pan, it should be faxed to the Ohel, and we should put the original in one of the Rebbe's Seforim, such as Igros or Likkutei Sichos. Later, when we go to the Ohel, we bring it along.

מכתב - A Letter

A letter is a way to openly communicate to the Rebbe whatever is on our hearts and minds. Chassidim normally begin with ד"בס and the date, ר"אדמו"ק"כ and then write "בְּתַבְּנִי הַנְּנִי". The rest of the letter could be whatever they wanted – good news as well as Tzaros. The Rebbe wrote that Chassidim shouldn't hesitate or be embarrassed to write about their Tzaros or failures, and follow up with besuros tovos. The act itself of talking and bringing the issue into words helps to make the din better. Writing should be a Kevius -- done regularly, at set times. It is a fact that people who wrote to the Rebbe consistently got quicker answers. The Alter Rebbe and Friediker Rebbe complained about those who only became Chassidim when they had Tzaros and needed something, but were not heard from when everything was good. The Rebbe wrote in a letter that, "You have the opportunity to be Chassidim, but instead you are looking to be חסידים פוילישע, חסידים צרות, חסידים וויבישע" – all very shallow levels – "and he goes down from being chassidish, to being Balebatish, to sufficing with leaning one line of Chassidus." Still, it is better to be a "Tzaros Chassid" than not to write at all.

We should not be afraid to write about problems; the Rebbe is the one person we should be the least ashamed in front of. The Rebbe says that if a person has a problem, it will eventually become known through others anyways, in an exaggerated way, so it is better that the Chossid himself should write.

Someone once came to the Rebbe Maharash in search of a Tikkun for a very serious thing he had done. Too embarrassed to admit that he had done it, he told the Rebbe, "My friend did such-and-such an aveirah and needs a Tikkun."

"Why doesn't your friend come to me himself, then?" asked the Rebbe.

"He is too embarrassed, so he sent me," responded the Chossid.

"Why did he have to do that? He could have just come himself and told me that it was his friend who needed the Tikkun...."

Two brothers once got into a fight and cut off contact with each other. Twenty years later, one of the brothers was getting married, and wanted the other to come at least to the Chuppah. His brother refused the invitation. At the wedding, the violinist noticed the Chosson's father with a dejected face. The father told him why he was upset, and the violinist decided to do something. He went to the brother's house and played a Ga'aguim tune. The brother heard and, entranced, came out in his pajamas to follow the violinist to the Chuppah. The two brothers met, and after an emotional hug, the Chosson asked, "couldn't you have come with nicer clothing, not pajamas?"

If a person tries to hide from the Rebbe, the Rebbe sends a "musician" -- Ahavah – to arouse the Chossid. However, he says, "If you had come ten years ago and told me your failures, I would have forgiven you and you wouldn't have to be "shlepped out of bed." So it is better to write about out Tzaros now than waiting to come to the Rebbe in your pajamas!

The Rebbe says that when a bochur who learns in Yeshivas Tomchei Temimim writes about everything that's going on, his היום סדר, it causes an immeasurable תענוג "בפנימיות נפש" to the Rebbe. The same applies to a girl.

Some people are afraid to write too much to the Rebbe because they think it doesn't matter or that it is wasting the Rebbe's time. In ח"תשמ, a camp taught the kids

to write to the Rebbe just for the sake of writing. Many of the children, not understanding what they were doing, wrote shtussim. The Rebbe said not to write like that, but there is no such thing as writing too much with Tochen - our problems, needs, or good news.

Unlike Panim, letters are not limited to special dates. They can be on lined paper and in any language, and do not have to be perfect but should be readable. Similar to a Pan, one should wash Negel Vasser and look at a picture of the Rebbe prior to writing a letter. Afterwards, one should read the letter, standing, and pronounce the words aloud.

Someone goes to the Ohel should write a Pan, even if it is not a special date, and a letter separately. Someone who goes to the Ohel often should just write a letter.

A Duch - דו"ח

דו"ח stands for "וחשבון דין" - an accounting of everything a chossid has done. The Rebbe very much wanted Chassidim to report about their Peulos. A Duch puts a Chossid in place and gives him a sense of responsibility, the thought that, "I have to report back to my Rebbe!"

A Duch should be written once a month, like every Erev Rosh Chodesh and can include details about Mivtzoyim, Maamarim one has learned, etc. One should also write about things that he has not done so well that month. A Duch is the best way to awaken us to get up and do something! It is like putting a mirror to our Neshoma, to show us what we have to change.

A Duch should be headed with ד"בס, the word "דו"ח" and the date. The next line should say: "לדו"ח _בת\בן_ הנני" The rest of the Duch can be in any language and can be on lined paper. Someone who is writing about a project that he's doing, should send the schedule and a flyer. There can also be a "Duch Klali" for a group of people, like a group that went on Mivtzoyim. In a Duch Klali, include all the names and what was accomplished (i.e. how much Neshek was given out). If a Duch is being written as part of a letter, it should be headed as a letter and the report should be included in the letter.