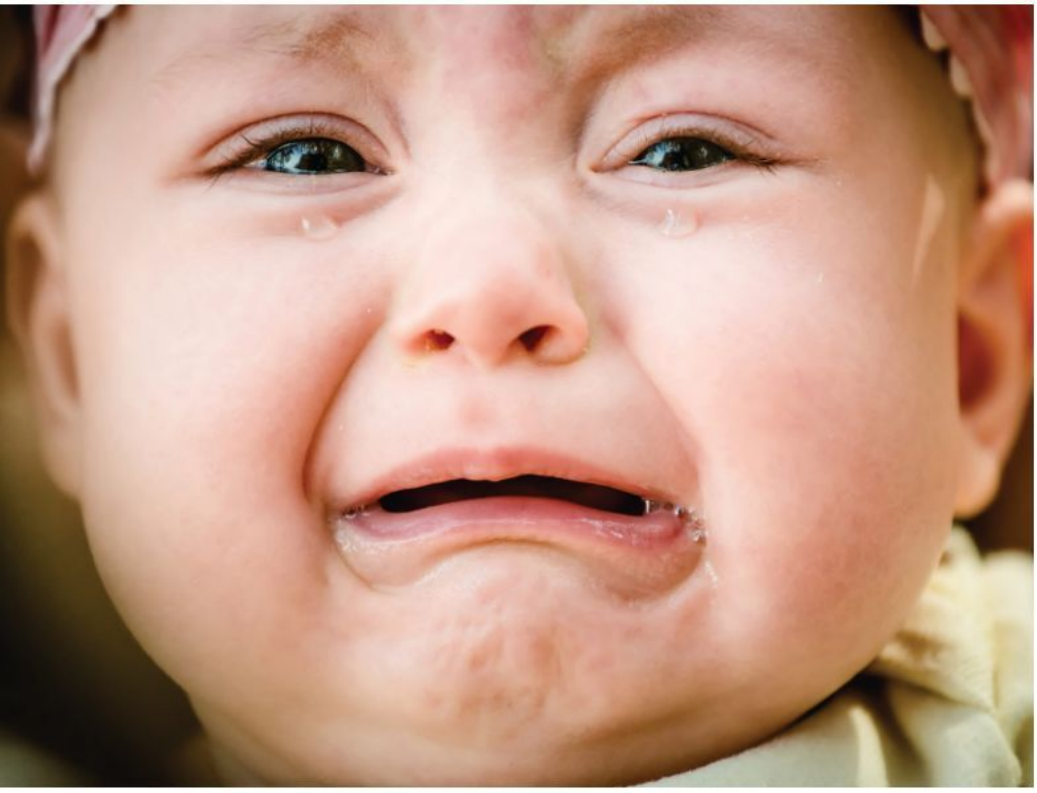


IS IT TIME TO GROW UP?

Chanie Wolf

When a newborn baby wants or needs something, he cries. What else is he to do? Immobile and unable to speak, he is helpless. As the child grows older and develops, however, he becomes more capable of helping himself to food and drink, dressing himself, and doing whatever else he needs to be comfortable. Crying is reserved for pain that is beyond his control. Thirsty? Bored? Go do something about it.

It is natural to think of *Geulah* as something beyond our control. And to a certain extent, it is. Hashem must ultimately decide to send Moshiach. Yet we are not helpless infants who must resort to crying in the hope that our needs will be met; if we want Moshiach to come, we have work to do.

Three times a day, in the *Shemoneh Esrei,* we *daven* for Moshiach's coming. *Vesechezena eineinu b'shuvcha l'Tzion…* The Rebbe notes, "When any Jew says these words, and means what he says, he no doubt asks himself: 'What have I done today towards this goal?'"[1]

The *Geulah* is a state in which G-dliness will be revealed in our physical world.[2] The collective mission of mankind for thousands of years has been to bring the world closer to that reality. This began with Avraham Avinu, about whom it says, "ויקרא שם בשם ה' ק-ל עולם"[3] – He called out in the name of Hashem, Ruler of the World. We are taught to read the word ויקרא as ויקריא[4], meaning that he made others recognize Hashem. Searching for and inviting weary travelers, he provided them each with a hearty meal and then asked them to thank the Creator for it. Thus, Avraham began the process of making this world a home for Hashem – one in which it is apparent to all that this is His world and we are here to serve Him.

When the Rebbe accepted the *nesius* in 5711 (1951), he set forth a mission statement for our generation: We would complete the work that Avraham Avinu began. Uniting *ahavas Hashem, ahavas haTorah* and *ahavas Yisroel,* the *chassidim* were to reach out to their fellow Yidden, inspiring them to connect to Hashem one *mitzvah* at a time. Through this, the Rebbe taught us, we would finally bring the world to a point where it would be ready for the revelation of Moshiach.

By "our generation," the Rebbe meant each and every one of us:

"Every Jew — man, woman and even child — ought to augment their divine service in order to bring about the actual coming of our righteous Moshiach. One should not rely on others, nor should one pass on this responsibility to others; this is the task of every individual man and woman, and every individual man and woman has to fulfill it…"

"What does this kind of divine service consist of? — Increasing one's study of both the revealed and the mystical dimensions of the Torah, and enhancing one's fulfillment of the mitzvos. In addition, encouraging others to do likewise. And, more broadly, making Torah and Yiddishkeit increasingly widespread, and disseminating the wellsprings of Chassidus abroad, for this

1. Likutei Sichos, Vol. 20, p. 384
2. See previous Moshiach Page articles
3. Vayeira 21: 33
4. Sotah 10: 1

in particular secures the arrival of the King Moshiach."[5]

About women specifically, the Rebbe wrote:

"We find ourselves in a time when without the active assistance of the Jewish woman to strengthen and spread Torah and mitzvos in daily life, our nation cannot proceed to the Redemption that Hashem has promised us. In all areas of Jewish life, especially in the area of chinuch al taharas hakodesh, Jewish women and girls must feel the responsibility that Divine Providence has placed upon them. This the duty of ***all*** *Jewish women and girls, especially that of* ***Lubavitcher women and girls****, who have merited to be illuminated and inspired by Chabad Chassidus and the Lubavitcher Rebbeim."*[6]

Think of it this way:

There are over seven billion people on this planet.

Of this, the Jewish population is estimated to be around 16 million.

How many of these Yidden are committed to Torah and *mitzvos*? Estimates are around 2 million.

How many of those are inspired by Chassidus to help other Yidden keep *mitzvos* and bring Moshiach? Several tens of thousands perhaps.

Do the math. How many Yidden does that make every Lubavitcher responsible for?

That's right. A few hundred. That's hundreds of *neshamos* whom only you can inspire. They may be your classmate, your neighbor, or the receptionist at your dentist's office. They may be your children, your siblings or a class of fifth graders. Millions of Yidden whose lamps need to be lit so that Moshiach can finally come. [7]

And we haven't even taken into account spreading the message of goodness and kindness to the non-Jews.

Can we afford to opt out? Can any one of us, who has been fortunate to be inspired by the Rebbe's message, not enlist in the Rebbe's army? If we truly want Moshiach to come, it is up to us. If we long for a world in which Elokus is revealed, we need to do the work of revealing it – one *mitzvah* at a time, one Shabbos invitation at a time, one *shiur* at a time.

And no, that does not mean you must be an official *shliach.* If you can, that's amazing! But the shortage of available positions for official *shlichus* does not exempt any of us from the responsibility to devote our lives to spreading Yiddishkeit in general and Chassidus in particular. Not finding a new community in which to establish a Chabad House does not mean that our home should not serve as a lighthouse wherever we live. We don't need to be an official Rebbetzin to reach out to Yidden in our communities, be a *mashpia* to others, go on *mivtza'im*, or get involved in *chinuch* in some way. If you live in Crown Heights and you say yes to some of the phone calls from *shluchim* asking you to take guests, you are an integral part of their *shlichus.*

As the Rebbe teaches us, the Gematria of *shliach* totals 348; add ten, corresponding to the faculties of the soul, and the total comes to 358, which is the numerical equivalent of the letters of Moshiach. Every Jew is Hashem's *shliach* to make this world a home for Him. When we care enough to invest our energy and abilities in this mission, we will accomplish our goal – the coming of Moshiach.[8]

5. Sichah of Shabbos Parshas Shemini 5751

6. Igros Kodesh Vol 23, p. 208

7. Although not every Jew must do complete teshuvah for Moshiach to come, we don't know which action will tip the scale



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< This twelfth installment of The Moshiach Page is dedicated to our beloved Founder, Mrs. Brana Sheina Deitsch, a"h, shown here with grandsons Mendel Malka (L) and Abie Malka.

8. Sefer HaSichos 5748, Vol. 1, p. 81