Assembly Notes
PARSHAS Vayishlach 5786
Assembly Theme: Closeness to Hashem Brings Humility

Dvar Torah

In this week's Parsha, Yaakov prepares to meet Eisav. Decades earlier, he had fled Be'er Sheva in fear for his life, after Eisav vowed to kill him. Now, 34 years later, Yaakov returns as a successful man.

During those years, he faced numerous challenges. He spent fourteen years immersed in Torah study, followed by twenty years in a difficult and deceptive environment in the home of Lavan. Despite everything, he remained steadfast in Torah and Mitzvos. He built a strong, beautiful family and continued to grow spiritually. By any measure, Yaakov Avinu was extraordinarily successful.

Yet when the time came to meet Eisav, Yaakov was frightened and distressed. Why? Because he felt that all the blessings he had received may have depleted his "credit" in Heaven. He worried that perhaps he had not done enough. In his humility, he turned to Hashem in heartfelt tefillah—and ultimately, his encounter with Eisav was peaceful.

The Alter Rebbe explains in Tanya that the closer a tzaddik comes to Hashem, the more humble he becomes. Since Hashem is infinite, the deeper one perceives His greatness, the more one recognizes their own smallness. In the realm of Tumah, it is the opposite: the more a person achieves, the more arrogant they become, claiming credit for themselves rather than acknowledging Hashem as the source of all blessing.

True humility does not mean low self-esteem. It means recognizing your strengths, your blessings, and your accomplishments—while knowing that it is all a gift from Hashem's kindness and love.

On Yud Tes Kislev 5559, the Alter Rebbe was miraculously released from prison. This signified that, both in Heaven and on Earth, the teachings of Chassidus could now spread freely, illuminating the inner depth of Torah. The Chassidim rejoiced—dancing and celebrating in the streets!

Yet the Alter Rebbe instructed them: Thank Hashem for the miracle, but learn from Yaakov Avinu. Be humble. Now that Chassidus has prevailed, do not mock or belittle those who once opposed it. Instead, be warm, be kind, and share the teachings with them.

May Hashem help us be successful in spreading the Wellsprings of Chassidus outward and bring Moshiach now!

Good Shabbos!

גוט שבת!

Assembly Notes
PARSHAS Vayishlach 5786
Assembly Theme: Closeness to Hashem Brings Humility

Story of the Rebbe

Professor Velvel Greene of Minnesota was a distinguished scientist in microbiology and a strong Baal Teshuvah. He was also an exceptional speaker, invited to Chabad Houses across the United States and in London. With warmth, humour, and compelling stories, he communicated the ideas of Torah and Chassidus in a way that touched people deeply. His personal journey toward observance and his genuine dedication as a Chassid of the Rebbe earned him tremendous respect.

One year, he was invited to Detroit shortly before Yud Tes Kislev, where he delivered several talks. His presentations were so successful that the community asked him to stay a few extra days so he could be present for Yud Tes Kislev and farbreng with them. He agreed and continued inspiring many people.
Still, he felt torn. Part of him felt he should have gone to Brooklyn to be at the Rebbe's farbrengen on this special day—especially since many Detroit Chassidim traveled to New York, and he wondered whether that was where he truly belonged.

After Yud Tes Kislev, when he finally went to New York, he expressed this regret to the Rebbe. The Rebbe responded: *"When you are in Detroit inspiring people, you are closer to me than those who are physically sitting at my farbrengen."*

The message is powerful and clear: We come closest to the Rebbe not merely by being in his physical presence, but by fulfilling his mission—spreading Yiddishkeit, Chassidus, and inspiration wherever we are.

Good Shabbos!