

Yaakov Werzberger

Rabbi Bader

5/19/21

Biography

The Life Of The Chofetz Chaim

Your Biography is really special. You did a great job using high vocabulary words. I especially enjoyed your ending -

and may you be able to learn from the *Orn Pan / Mrs. Steinhart's*

The Chofetz Chaim was one of the greatest Talmidai Chachumim of modern times. He was the first person to compile the all-encompassing Sefer on Lashon Horah. It has sources from all over the Torah which delineate all the complex laws of when and how Lashon Horah is permitted. In fact, his very name that he is known by is by that groundbreaking Sefer, The Chofetz Chaim. In addition, he compiled the landmark Halacha Sefer called the Mishna Berura, a Sefer which covers the pertinent laws of daily living. Both have been widely received and accepted by all varieties of Jews.

The Chofetz Chaim was born in Zhetel in the year 1838. He sat and learned Torah day and night. Even when he was a child he was always at the top of his class. He was so advanced that when he transferred to a private school, where it was way more advanced than his old standard school, he still needed to skip three grades! Even though he was very successful in Yeshiva, he had other great challenges to deal with. When he was a baby, his mother died, and his father then got remarried to her sister. Then, tragedy struck yet again as his father then died as well. The Chofetz Chaim, an orphan from both parents, was now left with his aunt to be his mother.

After he finished school, he decided to look for a wife, and a husband for his mother, but he did not know where to start. Reb Shimon was one of the wealthiest men in Radin, but his wife died a few years after giving birth to a girl. Reb Shimon was looking to get remarried and was also looking for a learner as a husband for his daughter. When he about Yisroel Meir, [The Chofetz Chaim] and that his mother Dobrusha was also a widow he thought he might have solved both problems in one marriage. After talking about it with Dobrusha she agreed, but she still had to confirm with Yisroel Meir. After some time, he agreed AS WELL

Yisroel Meir was not always called the Chofetz Chaim, he got that name after he wrote a book on Lashon Harrah which was called The Chofetz Chaim. He also wrote Shemiras Halashon which is about watching what you say, but there was a book that he made further on which was made for the Jewish soldiers that were drafted by the Russians to stay Frum, and the book was called

machaneh Yisroel. In the book it contained laws and advice for the Jewish Soldiers and told them how to keep the Jewish traditions in the army

The Chafetz Chaim was a great leader who led all the Jews. The year 1930 was a very hard time for the Jews in Europe. The Poland government tried to make the Jews forget Yiddishkeit by giving them Christian laws. When The Chafetz Chaim heard about this he declared a meeting in Vilna. He decided that he was going to go down to the Poland government where he would meet the prime minister. The Chafetz Chaim was over ninety years old and yet he still went with the other rabbonim. To get to the prime minister's office, you would have to walk up a huge flight of steers. It was very hard for The Chafetz Chaim to walk up but he pushed through it. After speaking with the prime minister he saw how holy The Chafetz Chaim really was and so they stopped the evil decree.

Even after all the books Yisroel Meir wrote he was mostly known for being careful on Lashon Harrah. That's why they called him The Chafetz Chaim [man who desires life] because when you speak Lashon Harrah it is like you don't want to live. Reb Yisroel Mayer watched every word he said, and after reading about it I started watching what I say as well, and I hope that now you will to.

Yitzy Nacca

R' Bader

Biography

5/13/21

You did an
outstanding job!
Your biography is
a true inspiration for
others to learn
from the ways of
Re Yaakov Yosef.
May I beteh you
to grow & become
like him! Mrs. Steinhilber

The Biography of Reb Yaakov Yosef Herman

Reb Yaakov Yosef Herman was a great person, and he inspires me. He inspires me, because even when it was hard for him to keep Yiddishkeit in America, he kept doing Mitzvahs. For example, if you did not work on Shabbos you would get fired from your job, but Reb Yaakov Yosef always kept Shabbos.

Reb Yaakov Yosef was born in the early 1900's in Russia, followed by a younger sister. They decided to move to America because of their financial difficulties that they had in Russia. After they had spent some time in America the Herman family discovered just how harsh their new reality was. Very soon after their arrival they understood that no factory or office would employ them if they refused to work on Shabbos. Their neighbors also made fun of their observance of Mitzvahs and their Yiddish appearance. They wanted to move back to Russia so they could keep Yidishkiet properly, however in order to return, they had to purchase tickets, but they had very little money. They were able to put together two and a half tickets: Enough for Yaakov Yosef's father, mother and, younger sister, but not for Yaakov Yosef himself. His parents had no alternative but to leave him with distant cousins until they could find enough money to bring him home, while they themselves returned to Russia with their daughter.

The cousins agreed to host Yaakov Yosef if he paid them one dollar every week. That was fine for Yaakov Yosef to get paid pay

his cousins because he worked as a handy boy at a fur shop. Yaakov Yosef got paid one dollar and twenty-five cents a week from his work; one dollar would go to his hosts and the other twenty five cents were for his basic necessities. Several weeks passed until, suddenly, one Friday, his cousins told him if he still wants to live with them he has to pay them one dollar and twenty-five cents. "If all the money would go to the cousins then how will I be able to purchase tickets to go to Russia were my family lives", thought Yaakov Yosef. Yaakov Yosef had no choice but to abandon his cousins, and sleep in the streets. Since it was almost Shabbos he took his last penny and bought three Challis Lkuvid Shabbos. That Shabbos night he spent huddled on the hard bench. When morning came he made a vow: When he married he would invite any poor people to come over and eat by their Shabbos meal. After Shabbos he was able to find a different place to stay for cheaper.

Yaakov Yosef grew up and matured, and became a young man. He was also really professional at his fur shop job and got a higher raise. Four years had passed since he said goodbye to his parents and little sister and things had changed for Yaakov Yosef, and he was able to convince his family to return to America. Finally, the day arrived when he was able to send for his family. It was a joyful day for the Herman family when they were at last reunited. Together they had a Jewish life of Torah and Yiras Shamayim.

When R' Yaakov got married he kept his vow and always invited poor guests to eat by his Shabbos meal. Having guest on Shabbos was central to their Shabbos. One day R' Yaakov's sister who name was Esther became very ill, and had been rushed to the hospital. Esther had diphtheria and lay in the hospital hovering between life and death, as diphtheria was almost always fatal in those days. Everyone davened for Esther but her condition seemed to worsen. Thursday

afternoon came, and R' Yaakov and his wife started to worry about the preparations for Shabbos. R' Yaakov's wife told R' Yaakov that perhaps it will be better if we do not invite the poor people to eat by our Shabbos meal since we all have a lot of pressure about your sister. "No way" said R' Yaakov, "if anything this will be a big mitzvah and in that zechus my sister would hopefully feel better". When Shabbos arrived everybody was really scared of what will be with R' Yaakov's sister but R' Yaakov, he told everybody to calm down and have Amuna in Hashem. At Moitzay Shabbos everybody rushed to the hospital to see if R' Yaakov's sister was okay, and to their surprise she was not sick. R' Yaakov's sister was not sick only because R' Yaakov invited his guest on Shabbos, so now we see how great it is to invite people to your house on Shabbos.

Besides his greatness in Shabbos, and Hachnasas Orchim, he was also great in Torah. R' Yaakov would study Torah for one hour a day from nine o'clock to ten o'clock. In this hour his family never dared to disturb him, for this hour was very precious to him. When someone wanted to talk to R' Yaakov during his learning time R' Yaakov's family would keep that person busy by until R' Yaakov finished learning. One day a professional fur dealer came to R' Yaakov's house to talk to R' Yaakov because he wanted to make a deal with an offer of fifteen thousand dollars. When the fur dealer came R' Yaakov was in middle of learning, so as usual the family tried to keep him busy but the fur dealer seemed to be in a rush and did not want to wait. R' Yaakov's family had no choice but to knock on R' Yaakov's door, when he opened the door his family explained that a fur dealer had a really good deal and would pay you fifteen thousand dollars. R' Yaakov seemed to not like the deal and closed the door to continue learning and the fur dealer left without making the deal. When R' Yaakov was finished learning his wife said to him, "with this deal, you could've close down

the business and you can learn way more than one hour". R' Yaakov said "do you really think that I missed something special? No way! In fact, the Satan himself sent me a test to see if I'd be mavatal on Torah or not. Torah! Have you forgotten that Torah is more precious than gold and silver!?" R' Yaakov would not even give up one word of Torah for gold and silver!

R' Yaakov Yosef's Legacy was that he was a great person, and was dedicated to keep Yiddishkeit and keep Shabbos under any circumstances. He also had great Middos and he invited many guests on Shabbos. These things are what really got me to write about him. Torah was everything to him, and he wouldn't give up Torah for anything, that's what a true Tzaddik is.

Eli Slater
Rabbi Bader

beautifully
written!
Its really special how
you brought out both
points - his *אני* & *אני*!
June 3, 2021
May you be
to follow
in his ways?
Mrs. Steiner

Biography

Rabbi Moshe Feinstein was the Gadol Hador and Posek Hador during the past generation. It what said at his levaya "Reb Moshe was the Gadol Hador without embellishment, and without exaggeration. There was no halachic question no matter how complicated that he did not answer." He studied every spare minute he had, and needless to say, he immersed himself in learning during the night. The speed of his comprehension was astounding. His brother in law said "All it took was a quick glance or brief listen-to and he immediately grasped something from every angle".

Reb Moshe was born in the Soviet Union on the 7th day of Adar. His father Reb Dovid was the Rav in the town of Uzda. Reb Moshe was highly influenced by his father. From a young age he demonstrated exceptional diligence and intelligence in Torah study. By age 11 he was fully versed in Sedarim Nashim, Nezikin, Moed. He became the Rav and Av Beis Din Luban at a young age. During this time of the Communist Revolution, the government would persecute Rabbis. Despite this persecution, Reb Moshe continued his learning with great diligence.

In 1936, Reb Moshe left the Soviet Union and came to America. He became the Rosh Yeshiva of Tiferes Yerushalyim, and held this post for the rest of his life. In just a few years he became known as one of the greatest rabbis, and a Gaon who was perfectly versed in all areas of Torah. If a serious question was presented to Rabbis and they couldn't reach a decision, they would address themselves to Reb Moshe who would decide the matter.

Despite his greatness, Reb Moshe was very humble. All who came to ask him a question in Halacha did not feel in anyway uncomfortable, for Reb Moshe would speak to everyone as equals. He had the habit to visit people's homes during Yom Tov and also during Shiva. He treated everyone who he met with great respect, and his heart was always open to anyone with troubles rushing to help them. Reb Moshe would usually lay down during the day for 45 minutes. One time a man saw him studying during this time and asked Reb Moshe why he wasn't laying down. Reb Moshe answered him "A young boy came to me and said he wanted to lay down, so I got up". Reb Moshe then pointed to the bed and the man saw a 3 year old sleeping there.

On Tannis Esther, at the age of 91 Reb Moshe was Niftar. Approximately two hundred thousand people came to the Levaya. People came from all over the

world to honor the man who devoted his entire life to Klal Yisroel. Great Roshei Yeshivos and famous Rabonim said Hespaidim. They testified to the fact that he was the greatest Posek of the generation and a beacon of Torah. They said about him that he was a Torah prince and a Gaon in Halacha, a pillar of Chesed. The Gaon Rav Shach cried and said "Torah, Torah, prepare yourself to mourn your unique son Reb Moshe".

Yehuda Neustadt
Rabbi Bader
Biography
May 19 2021

You did a beautiful
job on your Biography!
It is well-written and
organized!
May Hashem bentch
you to grow &
become like
him!
Mrs. Steinhilber

The Life of Reb Moshe Feinstein

Reb Moshe Feinstein was born on Adar 7 in the small town of Uzda, Belarus. Reb Moshe's father Reb Dovid was a very holy person. He was the Rav of Uzda.

Even as a child Rav Moshe learnt in beis midrash all day uninterrupted. His sister Chana brought him his food. At age nineteen he already completed Shas for the first time. Rav Dovid then sent him to study under Rav Isser Zalman Meltzer in Slusk.

When he was a young rabbi in Russia, he went through many difficulties. He had to change his birth certificate to five years older to avoid serving in the Russian Army during World War I. Shortly after the war, the communists came to power and stopped allowing Rabbis to serve their communities. Rav Moshe was the Rabbi of Luban at the time. When he refused to resign, they took away his shul, his home and everything he owned. He had to move in with the Town's shoemaker. The shoemaker was a very generous man. He lived in a one room with his entire family. When he took Reb Moshe in he had to put a curtain to separate the room.

The situation for the Jews kept getting worse and worse. The government forced kids to go to school on Pesach and made them eat bread. They also banned Seiders. That convinced Rav Moshe to leave Russia. He moved to Moscow to try to obtain a visa. But after they found out that he was giving a Mishnayos Shiur in Shul, the government refused to issue a passport. He was however able to obtain a passport to immigrate to the US with the help of his brother-in-law Rabbi Nechemya Katz Zt"l of Toledo, Ohio. A few years later every single Jew in the Town of Luban was slaughtered during World War II.

Reb Moshe always did Chesed and learnt for hours a day. Anyone who came to him for a question he answered with a smile even kids. He gave them candy. He would also go with his wife for a walk every night and he would buy a soda.

The reason I wrote about Reb Moshe Feinstein was because he was a leader of his generation. He was a Gadol Torah who used every spare minute to learn. He also did a ton of Chesed and gave all his money to Tzedakah. Every single Tzedakah envelope that came in the mail, he returned with a few dollars.

Yitzy Fried
Rabbi Bader

beautiful job!
you are truly
a talented writer!
Mrs. Steinhart

5/13/21
Biography

All about the Rema

Even though the Rema's father was not the greatest Talmud Chacham, he still became the great Gaon we all know him to be. Reb Moshe was a massive Talmud Chachum, and Gadol Hador who gained fame worldwide for establishing the final word of Ashkenazik Minhag writings, mainly

The Rema was born February 22, 1530 in the city of Cracow, Poland. He went to Cheder at a very young age, and soon became a big Talmud Chacham. At the end of the school years, all the Chedarim would gather at the market place to hear Derashas from different Rabbeim. Moshe enjoyed all the Derashas, but there was one that really caught his attention, the Derasha of Reb Shalom Shachna. After hearing Reb Shachna's Derasha he decided, THAT was the yeshiva he wanted to go to. Moshe was tested before he could join the yeshiva, and he did so well, that he even taught Reb Shachna some things. The next day Moshe received a letter stating that he was more than welcome to join the Yeshiva.

The Rema received smicha after just two years of being in Yeshiva and then decided to go forward in life, and to get married. He went to go tell Reb Shachna he was looking for a Shidduch, and what Reb Shachna answered was a complete surprise. Reb Shachna had already found a Shidduch for him, and it was his own daughter. "I already spoke to your father" Reb Shachna said, "he agrees with me, and thinks it's a good idea". The Rema was in shock but did not dare to scream in excitement "Well if the Maggid Shiur and my father think it's a good idea then I to, think it's a good idea." And so, Moshe got engaged and married to the daughter. He gained worldwide attention for his notes about notes on the Shulchan Aruch. He also made the Darkhei Moshe, Ha-Mapah, and Torah Ha-Chatath. The Rema did not take Minhag lightly in fact, he made sure to follow every minhag perfectly, and explain its origin. If the Rema ever found any reason for a minhag that wasn't valid, he would go and find a better reason, even if the people accepted the first reason.

Unlike many Tzaddikim, the Rema was born to a rich family, but that does not mean that he did not have any challenges. Here's an example. One day, Rabbi Moshe Landou, the Rema's partner in Bais Din came rushing in to the Rema. "What's the matter?" asked the Rema. "Your father is ill" said Reb Landou "you have to go see him!" in shock all the Rema can say was "What happened?" "We'll talk on the way." On the way there Reb Landou told the Rema "He had an attack, and fainted on the stairs, he is in bed but he is very weak, he is asking for you." The Rema and Reb Landou ran as fast as they could to get there quickly. When the Rema's father saw his son, his eyes lit up. "Moshe I'm so glad you came. There is something very important we have to talk about. Even though life here for the Jews is great, but that is not the case everywhere. There is trouble for the Jews all across Europe, and because of Martin Luther, things are getting worse for people in Italy as well. Even worse, the Inquisition started to institute a new country across the sea called Peru. Hidden Jews are being burnt for keeping the Torah." "Father don't talk about these stuff, it is making you sick." His father leaned forward. "Moshe, never forget your fellow Jews all over the world, no matter how far away, or different they are from us. We are one people, like one body. When a man's finger hurts, he feels it in his head. Moshe, you are the head of Klal Yisrael. You must feel the pain of every Jew."

One morning R' Isserles said that he was recovered and felt better, but that night he fell asleep never to wake up again. The Rema decided that this was a sign to do better, and as we, all know the Rema made the Ashkenaz Shulchan Aruch. Besides that, he made many more Sepharim, and Paskened many more shilas. He learned as much as he could until May 11 1572, when he died. His Levaya was bigger than any other was, and his spirit lives on with us all.

Moishy Goldberger

R' Bader

6\10/2021

Biography

The Life of Rav Nosson Tzvi Finkel

You did a beautiful
job on your Biography!
I am really impressed!
May I betch you to
follow in the ways of
Rav Nosson Tzvi
and become the
best you can be!
Mrs. Steinhilber

Rav Nosson Tzvi was a tremendous Gadol Ba'Torah. The many challenges he had throughout his life didn't stop him to continue learning and thriving with the Torah. The way he overcame his challenges is what inspired me and why I chose to write about him.

On March 12, 1943, (6 Adar Beis 5703) Nosson was born to his parents R' Eliyahu Meir and Mrs. Sara Finkel in Chicago, Illinois. Nosson Tzvi was named after his great grandfather known as the Alter Slabodka, who had founded the Yeshiva in Europe in the town of Slabodka, Lithuania. When Nosson was six years old his parents enrolled him in Brandeis Hebrew Day school. He stayed there no longer than three years. When he was nine years old his parents switched him to Central Hebrew Day School, since it was closer to his new house. On September 22, 1949 (28 Elul 5709), Nosson's younger brother Gedalya was born. Nosson's father R' Eliyahu owned a successful business, but never did he spoil his two kids. Nosson and his brother Gedalya always played together and loved to make new friends at the park. At the age of 14, his parents took him on a trip to Eretz Yisrael. The flight lasted 30 hours. At around midnight they landed at Lida Airport (which today is known as Ben-Gurion Airport) where they were met by family and friends. The first visit was to his great uncle, R' Eliezer Yehuda Finkel Who was at that time leader of Mir Yeshiva. While in Israel his great uncle asked him if he were interested in staying in Israel and going to Mir Yeshivah with him. Nosson agreed, though R' Eliezer still had to ask

permission from Nosson's parents. Erev Rosh Hashanah R' Eliezer asked Nosson's mother. On the second day of Rosh Hashanah after speaking it over with her husband, she agreed. Thus being little Nosson's ascent for greatness in Torah.

Nosson loved to learn, many nights he would not even come home but he would just stay in Yeshiva to learn. For six years Nosson learned with tremendous Hasmuda till at the age of 20 his great uncle called him over and told him it was time to look for a Shidduch. It was not long before he got engaged to his second cousin, Leah, the daughter of Rab Beinush (the son of the Rosh yeshiva) and Rebbetzin Ester Finkel. Finally, in the summer of 1964, he got married. Being married didn't stop him from learning, and he still spent day and night learning. Nosson had a few kids and he taught them all there is to know about being Erlech and a Yiddish.

In the winter of 1990 the Rosh Yeshiva, Reb Beinush, became sick. A few days before he was nifter he called his family together. He stated that he wanted his oldest son-in-law, Rav Nosson Tzvi, to become the next Rosh yeshiva of the Mir. On February 13, 1990 (18 Shevat 5750) was a sad day for all of Mir as Reb Beinush had passed away. When the word came out that Reb Beinush wanted Rav Nosson Tzvi to become the next Rosh Yeshiva of Mir they were shocked and thought he would not be the right one for the job, but little did they know. Before Rav Nosson Tzvi accepted the responsibility he consulted R' Chaim Kamiel and R' Shach. Never did he do something without consoling someone else. When they instructed him to accept the yoke of being Rosh Yeshiva, he accepted.

Rav Nosson Tzvi had many challenges but as Rosh Yeshiva, he was determined to overcome them. Under Rav Nosson's leadership, the Mir yeshiva became the biggest Yeshiva in the world. One of the ways he

made Mir so big, was that he accepted anybody with open arms. You didn't have to be a Talmid Chuchim nor did you have to be rich, just as long as you wanted to learn you were accepted. Rav Nosson Tzvi didn't treat people like a Rosh Yeshiva would; he treated them as friends. In the Yeshiva, people felt good and happy. Rav Nosson Tzvi learned with every Talmid and made him feel like the greatest thing. While doing all those things he built up Mir to the biggest Yeshiva in the world (He took it from 200 Talmidim and turned it into 7000).

Unlike most people who get Parkinson's at an old age, Rav Nosson got it in his mid-forties. Having Parkinson's is very challenging. It causes you to lose control over your body and it starts to shake. There were medications that he could have taken but didn't because of their side effect. It would cause memory loss and since he did not want to forget even a single word of his Torah learning he decided to rather suffer the sickness in its full strength. Despite the sickness, he led the Yeshiva with all its daunting obligation, and the Yeshiva continued to flourish. Rav Nosson passed away on November 8, 2011 (11 Cheshvan 5772).

Through his pain and challenges, he remained steadfast to his Torah learning, Avodas Hashem, and running the biggest Yeshiva in the world. We should all learn from Rav Nosson how to act and live like a Yid, and despite life's challenges to never give up.