

בס"ד. שלהי מנחם אב ה'תשפ"ב

To the families of Ana"sh 'ש at the community at the EU - Brussels
And virtual community at Sichos.online

Reminders for the Family – *Elul 5782 – Shnas Hashmitah*

Please display on the refrigerator etc. where it can be in clear view.

All the sources are in the Hebrew version of the Reminders.

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Wishing everyone a *Ksivo Vachasimo Toivo, Leshono Toivo Umesuko* - May we merit to hear the "*Shofar Godol*" that will be heard at the arrival of *Moshiach* – this year!

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Some *Halochois* and *Minhogim* for the month of *Elul*:

The Rebbe writes in *Hayom Yom* 27 Menachem Av:

The month of Elul is the month of reckoning. In the material world, if a businessman is to conduct his affairs properly and with great profit, he must periodically take an accounting and correct any deficiencies... Likewise in the spiritual *Avoda* of serving G-d. Throughout the year all Israel are occupied with Torah, Mitzvot and (developing and expressing) good traits. The month of Elul is the month of reckoning, when every Jew, each commensurate with his abilities, whether scholar or businessman, must make an accurate accounting in his soul of everything that occurred in the course of the year. Each must know the good qualities in his service of G-d and strengthen them; he must also be aware of the deficiencies in himself and in his service, and correct these. Through this excellent preparation, one merits a good and sweet year, materially and spiritually.

1. ***Ledovid Hashem Ori***: From the **first** day of *Rosh Chodesh* (30 Menachem Av), we add this chapter of *Tehillim* in *Shacharis* and *Mincha* every day.
2. ***Shofar***:
 - A. During the **first** day of *Rosh Chodesh* we blow the *Shofar* to "**practice**". See a *shiur* on our website <http://theonlinerabbi.com/sichosonline/elul/> based on *Likutei Sichos* Volume 34 that explains the concept of this "practice". Especially for this year that the first day of *Rosh Chodesh* is *Shabbos* so how can you "practice"??
 - B. From the **second** day of *Rosh Chodesh*, we blow *Shofar* every day (besides for *Shabbos* and *Erev Rosh Hashono*) after *Shacharis*. If it was not done after *Shacharis*, it can be done later. When there was a "Rally" etc. in 770 in the presence of the Rebbe, they would (also) blow the shofar after *Mincha*. The Rebbe encouraged that when going on *Mivtzoim* (and in schools etc.), one should see to it that as many people as possible hear *Tkiyas Shofar*. **However**, remind them that this does **not** replace the hearing of the *Shofar* on *Rosh Hashono*!!
3. **Three Chapters of *Tehillim***: The *Baal Shem Tov* instituted that every day of *Elul* we say **three** additional chapters of *Tehillim*: on the first day of *Elul* (second day of *Rosh Chodesh*) we say chapters 1-3, on the second day, chapters 4-6, etc. If someone missed it, they should say today's chapters first and then complete what they missed.

4. **Pirkei Avos:** In the 2-3 *Shabosim* prior to *Rosh Hashono*, when two chapters are learned (after *Mincha*): When learning chapters 1-2 together or 3-4 together, the *Mishna* of *Kol Yisroel* and the *Mishna* of *Rabbi Chananyo ben Akashio* are recited only once, and nothing is recited between the two chapters. We consider them like one long chapter. However, when learning chapters 5-6 together, we consider them like two separate chapters and those *Mishnayos* are said before and after each *Perek*.
5. **Checking Tefillin and Mezuzos:** If they weren't checked within the last 12 months the *Tefillin* and the *Mezuzos* should be checked. This should be publicized wherever possible.
6. **Ksivo Vachasimo Toivo:** We wish everyone (even when finishing a letter or email), men to men, women to women, and children (boys to boys and girls to girls) a *Kesivo V'chasimo Toivo Leshono Toivo Umesuko*.
7. **Tshuva and Cheshbon HaNefesh:** The month of *Elul*, is the opportune time to do *Teshuva* and a *Cheshbon Hanefesh* for the whole year.
8. **Tzedoko:** We add in the giving of *Tzedoko*, especially to give for the needy for *YomTov*, like *Maos Chitim* for *Pesach*.
9. **Der Oibershter tells the Yiden – I am giving you 29-30 days/Melech Basode:** See the famous revolutionary *Sicha* of the *Rebbe* in *Likutei Sichos, Chelek Bais*, page 626, [you can see a shiur/video based on this *Sicha* at: <http://theonlinerabbi.com/sichosonline/mitzvah-believe-moshiach-part-2/>] and the many *Sichos* that discuss the famous *Moshol* (parable) of "**Melech Basode**" (the King in the field).
10. **11th of Elul:** *Chasuna* of the *Rebbe Rashab*.
11. **Erev Shabbos Parshas Ki seitze - 13th of Elul:** *Chasuna* of the *Friediker Rebbe*. [Regarding *Pirkei Avos* this *Shabbos* – see above #4].
12. **15th of Elul:** Establishment of *Yeshivas Tomchei Tmimim*.
13. **18th of Elul – Chai Elul:**
 - a. Birthday of the *Baal Shem Tov* and the *Alter Rebbe*. On this day the *Rabbeim* would say "*Gut Yom Tov*". *Chassidim* have the custom to *Farbreng*, tell stories of *Tzadikim* and undertake *Hachlotois* in strengthening *Ahavas Yisroel* and setting aside time for learning *Nigle* and *Chassidus*. *Chai Elul* gives a *Chayus* in the *Avodah* of *Ani Ledodi Vedodi Li*.
 - b. **12 Days to Rosh Hashono:** Each of the 12 days from *Chai Elul* to *Rosh Hashono* represent one of the previous 12 months. So *Chai Elul* is the day of *Cheshbon Hanefesh* for the previous *Tishrei* and *Erev Rosh Hashono* is for *Chodesh Elul* etc.
14. **Shabbos Parshas Ki Sovo:**
 1. Regarding *Pirkei Avos* – see above #4.
 2. **Slichos:** On *Motzoei Shabbos*, after midnight (in 770 – at 1 am) we go to *Slichos* and continue to do so, every **morning**, before *Shacharis*, until *Erev Rosh Hashono*.
15. **23 Elul:** *Yahrzeit* of *Reb Meir Shlomo Yanovsky* – *Rebbetzin Chana's* father. The *Rebbe* would say *Kadish*.
16. **25th of Elul – The first day of the creation:**
 1. The *Rebbe* would say *Kadish*.
 2. The *Rebbe* related that the *Friediker Rebbe* said that the *Chassidim* of old would learn on 25 *Elul* from *Bereishis* (in *Parshas Bereishis*) until "*Yom Echad*"; on 26 *Elul* "*Yom Shen*" etc.
17. **Shabbos Parsha Nitzovim – Shabbos Mevorchim:**
 1. **Tehillim:** we say the whole *Tehillim* in the morning like every *Shabbos Mevorchim*.
 2. However we do **not** "*bentch*" the month before *Musaf* (see in the *Hayom Yom* the explanation in the name of the *Alter Rebbe*, that this month is *Bentched* by *Hashem* etc.)
 3. **Ov Harachmim:** Before *Musaf* we say *Ov Horachamim*.
 4. **Tzidkoscho:** In *Mincha* we say "*Tzidkoscho*".
 5. **Pirkei Avos:** We say Chapters 5-6. We say the *Mishna* of "*Kol Yisroel*" and "*Rabbi Chananya ben Akashia*" before and after each *Perek*.

Motzoei Shabbos:

* In *Maariv* we say “*Ato Chonantanu*”.

* We do not say “*Vihi Noam*” nor “*Veato Kodoish*”.

18. **29th of Elul:** Birthday of the *Tzemach Tzedek*. In the years 5732-47 the Rebbe use to *Farbreng* the night prior to *Rosh Hashono* and say a *Maamor* and *Sichos* etc.
19. **Pruzbul :** As this past year, 5782, was a year of *Shmittah*, the custom is to (again) say the *Pruzbul* on *Erev Rosh Hashono*. All the details will be explained in the “Reminders” for *Erev Rosh Hashono*.
20. All the details about *Erev Rosh Hashono* will be included in the reminders for *Rosh Hashono*.

Shnas Hakhel (Gathering)

This coming year 5783 is “*Shnas Hakhel*”. During the time of the *Bais Hamikdosh*, in the month of *Tishrei* following the year of *Shmittah*, there was a *Mitzva* that all *Yidden*; men, women and children (even babies) should come to the *Bais Hamikdosh* to hear the king read parts of the *Torah*. Many *Chassidim* would come to the Rebbe for *Tishrei* of *Hakhel* with their families. The Rebbe initiated a campaign called “*Mivtza Hakhel*”, to get all *Yidden* involved in “Gatherings” etc. All the details will be in the *Rosh Hashono* reminders. Be on the lookout for different programs for *Hakhel*, get involved, get others involved, sponsor programs etc.

In these two links there is a wealth of information on “Hakhel”:

1. <https://derher.org/HakhelBooklet>
2. **Chabad.org** and search “*Hakhel*”.

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