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Reminders for the month of *Elul* - 5786

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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!

Rabbi Levi Yitzchok Garelik
Rabbigarelik@sichos.online

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The month of *Elul* (from *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 *Hashem*. Throughout the year all *Yidden* are occupied with *Torah, Mitzvot* and (developing and expressing) good traits. The month of *Elul* is the month of reckoning, when every *Yid*, each commensurate with his abilities, whether scholar or businessman, must make an accurate accounting in his *Neshomo* of everything that occurred in the course of the year. Each must know the good qualities in his service of *Hashem* 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.

* All the sources are in the Hebrew section of the Reminders.

Throughout the month of *Elul*:

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. **Blowing of the *Shofar*:**
 - A. During the first day of *Rosh Chodesh* (30 *Menachem Av*) 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".
 - B. From the second day of *Rosh Chodesh* (1 *Elul*), 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., they would (also) blow the shofar after *Mincha*. The Rebbe encouraged that when going on *Mivtzoim*, one should see to it that as many people as possible hear *Tkiyas Shofar*, but 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 recite three additional chapters of *Tehillim*: on the first day of *Elul* (second day of *Rosh Chodesh*) we recite chapters 1-3, on the second day, chapters 4-6, etc. If someone missed it, they should recite today's chapters first and then complete what they missed.
4. **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.
5. ***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*.

6. **Tshuva and Cheshbon HaNefesh:** We do *Teshuva* and a *Cheshbon Hanefesh* for the whole year.
7. **Tzedoko:** We add in the giving of *Tzedoko*, especially to give for the needy for *Yom Tov* (Just like *Maos Chitim* for *Pesach*).
8. **Der Oibershter tells the Yiden – I am giving you 29-30 days:** See the famous *Sicha* of the *Rebbe* in *Likutei Sichos*, *Chelek Bais*, page 626, [you can see a shiur/video 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).
9. **Pirkei Avos:** On those *Shabbosim* when two chapters are recited, it is as follows: when chapters 1-2 or 3-4 are recited together, the *Mishnayos* of “*Kol Yisroel...*” and “*Rabbi Chananya*” are recited only once. When chapter 5-6 are recited together, the *Mishnayos* of “*Kol Yisroel...*” and “*Rabbi Chananya*” are recited before and after each *Perek*.
10. **12 Days:** 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* etc.
11. **Shabbos Parshas Nitzovim Vayelech – Shabbos Mevorchim:**
 1. **Tehillim:** We recite 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. **Av Horachamim:** Before *Musaf* we recite *Ov Horachamim*.
 4. **Tzidkoscho:** In *Mincha* we recite “*Tzidkoscho*”.
 5. **Pirkei Avos:** See above #9.
 6. We *Farbreng* as a preparation to *Slichos*.

Motzoei Shabbos

1. In *Maariv* we recite “*Ato Chonantanu*”.
2. This year we recite “*Vihi Noam*” and “*Veato Kodoish*” after the *Shemone Esrei*.
3. **Slichos:** *Motzoei Shabbos* after midnight (in 770 at 1 am) we recite *Slichos* and continue to do so every morning until *Erev Rosh Hashono*.

Chassidishe Dates in Chodesh Elul and specific Minhogim for those dates:

- 11th of Elul:** *Chasuna* of the *Rebbe Rashab*.
- 13th of Elul:** *Chasuna* of the *Friediker Rebbe*.
- 15th of Elul:** Establishment of *Yeshivas Tomchei Tmimim*.
- 18th of Elul – Chai Elul:** 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 *Avoda* of *Ani Ledodi Vedodi Li*.
- 23 of Elul:** *Yahrzeit* of *Reb Meir Shlomo Yanovsky* – *Rebbetzin Chana's* father. The *Rebbe* would say *Kadish* on this day.
- 25th of Elul** (the first day of creation):
1. The *Rebbe* would say *Kadish*.
 2. The *Friediker Rebbe* recounted that on the 25th of *Elul*, the early generation of *Chassidim*, would learn the *Parsha* of *Bereshis* until “*Yom Echad*”. On the 26th of *Elul* they would learn “*Yom Shenii*” etc.
- 29th of Elul:** Birthday of the *Tzemach Tzedek*. In the years 5732-47 the *Rebbe* use to *Farbreng* and say a *Maamor* and *Sichos*.

ראש השנה (and to take care of) in the days before

1. **Machzorim:** For the whole family.
2. A **Shofar:** For use at home, *Chabad House* and *Mivtzoim*.
3. **Listening to blowing of the Shofar:** To arrange where everyone in the family will be hearing *Shofar* the second day of *Rosh Hashana*. (Especially if there is a member of the family who is not well ר"ל or cannot attend *Shul* etc.)

4. **[Baal Tokeia** (most *Shluchim*): This year, as the first day of *Rosh Hashono* occurs on *Shabbos*, there is no need to purchase a new *Beged* (garment) for the *Shehecheyonu* of the second day of *Rosh Hashono's Tekiyos*.]
5. **Wine:** For *Rosh Hashono* and *Sukos* (9 days).
6. **Honey:** Enough for the entire month of *Tishrei*.
7. **Sweet Apples:** For the first night of *Yom Tov*.
8. **Pomegranates – Rimonim:** For the first night of *Yom Tov*.
9. **Head of a Ram, Sheep, or Fish:** For the first night of *Yom Tov*.
10. **Fish and meat.**
11. **Carrots (Mehren):** For the first night of *Yom Tov*.
12. **A New Fruit** - For the second night of *Yom Tov*. [Some women buy a new dress].
13. **Challos:** Many have the custom to have **round Challos** on *Rosh Hashono*.
14. **Long-lasting candles:** Those who do not have a gas flame lit over *Yom Tov* should light a long-lasting candle (like a *yortzeit licht*) to be able to light candles (or the gas range) on the second night of *Yom Tov*. However, those who have household help should light one even if there is a gas flame lit, for sometimes the flame is inadvertently shut off. You need at least 3-5 candles (for the second day of *Rosh Hashono* and the first and last days of *Sukkos*).
15. **Carbon monoxide detector:** Those who have the gas on for a prolonged time during *Yom Tov* should ensure that they have proper ventilation and that they have a proper carbon monoxide alarm system in place. Make sure to test it a couple of days before *Yom Tov*.
16. **3-7 Yortzeit licht:** for those who have the custom light a "*Tshuva Licht*" for *Shabbos Shuva* [*Minhag Chabad* is to light 3 *Tshuva Licht*] and a "*Lebedike licht*" (and a "*Ner Neshama*" for each departed parent) for *Yom Kippur* and for "*Ner Sheshovas*" to be used for *Havdoloh* at the end of *Yom Kippur*.
17. **Candles and Neironim:** If one uses glass holders for the *Shabbos/Yom Tov* candles which must be cleaned between each use, ensure there are enough to use for both days of *Yom Tov* (as there is a question whether you are permitted to remove the metal washer on *Yom Tov*). Perhaps have also some tea lights on hand.
18. **Kittel:** Ensure that one who needs, has a **Kittel** (for *Yom Kippur*). One who got married during the last 12 months, does not wear a **Kittel**.
19. **Daled Minim (Lulav etc.):** Ensure that the father has arranged for the buying of the *Daled Minim*.
20. **Tzedaka:** Give extra **Tzedaka** for those who do not have basic needs for *Yom Tov* (like *Maos Chitim* before *Pesach*).
21. **Keren Hashono:** Sometimes the Rebbe encouraged to give to the "*Keren Hashono*" before *Rosh Hashono*. In the year תשפ"ו there will be a total of 385 days.

Important notice regarding Yom Kippur: Pregnant or nursing women (or someone who is ill ל"נ) who have a hard time fasting should **first consult their doctor** regarding their situations **and only then** consult the *Rav*. This should be taken into account enough time before *Yom Kippur* (at least a week or two) so that it can be properly taken care of. Anyone who is on medication that must be taken every day should do the same. **PLEASE DO NOT WAIT FOR THE LAST MINUTE TO ASK A SHAILA... specially this year that Yom Kippur is on Monday and most doctors are not in their office on Sunday.** On our website we have a document outlining instructions for nursing mothers on *Yom Kippur*.

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