

We've Lost Our Kedusha

Am Yisrael, we're a stiff-necked people. A people that with our stubbornness have managed *Be'ezras Hashem* to get through most of our time in our *Golus*, with our stubbornness to keep our faith, our closeness to *Hashem*, our sacred *Torah*. We have fought with determination to keep ourselves holy, at least up to this generation. But since we have entered the last stage before the *Geula*, things have drastically changed. The main thing that we have lost is our *Kedusha*, and with it our true belief and trust in *HaKodosh Boruch Hu, Hashem Yishmor*.

Of course the fact that I've made such a statement will make you cry out against my words and say, "But we have never had so many *yeshivas*. We have never had so many *Frum Yidden* living kosher lives. We have never had so many *Minyanim*, so many thousands of Jewish children with *Payos* and *Tznius* going to Jewish schools, to *Frum* schools, to ultra-orthodox schools. We're in good shape. Why are you saying such terrible things?"

And I will answer "The lie! The lie! We want to believe the lie!"

Truthfully we are only a shadow of what we once were. Our determination shows itself only in business. Our stubbornness is only when were fighting against *Tznius*. We have become an *Am* without a heart. Our heart has become like the *Goyim*; superficial and looking only for the delights of this world. Yes, we dress it up in *Ruchnius*. We dress it up in learning *Torah*. We dress it up in many things, but most of the *Frum Yidden* today are actively worshipping the *Egel HaZahav*, even though they dress it up in *Tzitzis* and a *Yarmulka*. I've said similar things many times, but today things have changed more drastically.

Today a *Yid* was *Niftar*, a *Yid* who was a *Tzaddik*. A *Yid* who fought with his illness of Parkinson's, not willing to take medications so that his memory would not be affected, so that he could continue to learn *Torah* in the highest way. This *Rav*, Nossan Tzvi Finkel was a *Tzaddik*. He was *Niftar* on *Rochel Imeinu's Yahrzeit*. It's not by chance that suddenly he was taken from this world by a massive heart attack. It was not by chance that it was on *Rochel Imeinu's Yahrzeit*. So many *Tzaddikim* have been taken from us in the last months, and certainly in the last years, *Tzaddikim* from every group of *Yidden*: *Sephardim*, *Ashkenazim*, *Litvish*, *Chassidish*, etc. But today was a special day.

Today at the funeral of *Rav Finkel ZT”L*, came the end of the period before the final curtain goes down on the *Golus*. The death of *Rav Finkel* brings us into a new era, to an era of much suffering, great wars and much death. We are a stiff necked people and the characteristic that we have is working now against us. We are working against *Hashem*. We have turned our *Yiddishkeit* to a lie, and we believe, for the most part, our own lies and anyone who’s trying to get back to the truth is criticized and attacked and worse. But my dear *Yidden*, as much as *Hashem* has pounded us with tragedies, still we are stiff-necked and we don’t want to listen.

So many people have died from *Machalas*, from illnesses. So many people died from violent accidents. So many people have died suddenly from unknown causes. So many orphans, *Lo Aleinu* so many widows, *Lo Aleinu*, so many widowers, *Lo Aleinu*. Still we are stiff-necked and we don’t want to listen.

So now we are moving into a new phase. A phase that will destroy two thirds of the world. A phase that will bring tragedy and fear from every direction. Those Jews who stubbornly stick to the *Egel HaZahav*, hold on to its tail very tightly, refusing to let go, will suffer and disappear because they’re not real Jews. They can’t be real Jews. They lost every semblance of a Jewish heart, any semblance of a Jewish *Neshoma*. The real Jews that were at *Har Sinai* yearn to go back to truth, and yearn to be what *Hashem* really wants us to be. Those Jews, *Be’ezras Hashem*, will survive!

But again, my words are similar to the other words that I have spoken already, but I just want you to know that according to the timetable we have now moved into a new situation. *Rav Finkel* gave up a life that would be easier on him with his illness that would be easier for him to suffer through his illness, for the sake of *Torah*. He was *Moser Nefesh* for the sake of *Torah*. He was *Moser Nefesh* to this *Mirrer Yeshiva* that became so famous and so great. I wonder how many of us are being *Moser Nefesh* for our *Yiddishkeit*. Not many, not many at all, But those who are *Moser Nefesh*, who are *Moser Nefesh* for the basic values of *Yiddishkeit*, will reap great rewards.

I only wish that all the *Bochurim* in *Mir* were as big *Tzaddikim*, or at least learned from their *Rosh Yeshiva*. But unfortunately in most of our *yeshivas* today *HaKodosh Boruch Hu* is not invited in, and the *yeshiva Bochurim* are taught to learn but not taught to feel *Hashem*. They speak the right words but don’t always act in the right way because they don’t feel, they don’t feel what it is to be a true *Yid*. They often don’t have the refinement and the modesty and the delicacy of being a true *Yid*. They’re wound up in all kinds of toys, all kinds of telephones, all kinds of *Shtusim* that are forbidden in most *Yeshivas*, but are accepted as normal the minute they walk out of *Yeshiva*.

And of course the streets, the *Frum* streets, are full of restaurants and all kinds of entertainments all kinds of so-called *Frum* entertainments which destroy our Jewish feelings, our Jewish hearts. And so, lately our *Tzaddikim* are suffering massive heart attacks because the Jewish people do not have a Jewish heart in most cases. Where are those Jewish faces? Where are the *Yiddishe Punims*? Almost no child today has a *Yiddishe Punim*. They don't look *Temimusdik*. They look hard. They often have the look of the *Olam Hazeih*. What else can I say? I just will say this closing thought for you who are true *Yidden*. Look at your children. Look at your wives. Look at your husbands. Look at your mothers and your fathers. Look at the pictures of your grandparents, your great grandparents and look what is happening to you. You're losing your *Yiddishkeit*. You're losing your *Yiddishe Punim*. You're losing your *Olam Habah*. If you lose your *Olam Habah*, *chas vesholom*, you've lost life. Do you want to lose your eternity? Are you so stiff-necked that you're willing to lose your eternity for Pizza, for fancy *Bar Mitzvas*, for lack of *Tznius*, for your lust? Do you want to lose eternity for things that disappear in an instant? That's the greatest lie!

Am Yisrael it's your choice. No one can force you. No one could take this stubborn *Am* and force them to do anything. Most of the *Yidden* are going stubbornly against *Yiddishkeit*, they are seemingly going towards *Yiddishkeit*, but it's not real *Yiddishkeit*. They're going towards the lie. They're adopting it in the most terrible way. On the other hand, you have the true *Yidden* who with their stubbornness will save the world, because they're trying to reestablish *Yiddishkeit* the way it should be.

Am Yisrael, this is all I can say. I can only give a little bit of *Chizuk* to those stiff-necked strong Jews who are stubbornly trying to keep their *Yiddishkeit* intact, because the rest of you are only going to snicker at my words.

You say what is the connection between *Rochel Imeinu's Yartzeit* and *Harav Nosson Tzvi Finkel's petira*?

Rochel Imeinu was buried where she is in order to help *Am Yisroel*. Travelers, the *Yidden* that were looking for the truth, for Hashem they could come to her easily and *Daven* she should give them *Chizuk*. The people traveling to *Eretz Yisroel*, leaving *Eretz Yisroel*. But in our day and age, people searching for *HaKodosh Boruch Hu* and searching for help. *Mama Rochel*, we come to her as a mother, and we pour out our hearts and we beg her to go to *HaKodosh Boruch Hu* and save us. Because this is the time when we're going into a different situation, a much more serious situation much closer to the end, it was only fitting that the *Tzaddik* would be taken on her *Yartzeit* which would hopefully make *Am Yisroel* think a little bit, *Daven* a little bit to *Hashem* to save us. Whether they actually went to *Mama*

Rochel and begged her to speak for us, to ask *Hashem* for us, or whether we asked *Hashem* in her *Zechus* to save us, or whether we just lit a *Lecht* and stood by the *Lecht* and asked her to be our representative. Whichever way it goes, its a sign to *Am Yisroel* that its time now to change our ways, to come closer to *Hakodosh Boruch Hu*, and to try to look, act, and *Daven* and learn like true *Yidden*.

Q: Why did you have breathing difficulties last night?

A: Cause I knew what was going to be today, and I was very sad. *Zaidy*, were coming so close to a world war where thousands and thousands will be killed. Millions will be killed. People want to say that that there was a *Hamtakah* of the *Din* because this one was *Niftar* or that one was *Niftar*. It's not true. Only as individual *Yidden* can make the difference, make it easier on us., But if we continue in our direction, and put all the responsibility on the shoulders of the *Tzaddikim* that were taken away from us, that they should, in *Shomayim*, make it easier on us without us changing one iota, then we're fools, and that's not the reason they were taken from us. They were taken from us and there are still more that are going to be taken from us, *Hashem Yishmor*, They were taken from us, *Lo Aleinu* and will be taken from us, *Lo Aleinu*, because we have to feel like orphans. We have to feel and know that there's no *Koach* in the world except for *HaKodosh Boruch Hu*. *Ain Od Milvado!* He's the *Ribbono Shel Olam* and there's no one to depend on, only Him. That's why they're being taken away to make us come closer to *Hashem*. We've strayed in the worst way. The *Yidden*, the *Frum* have strayed in the worst way.

Q: Why Did *Hashem* take the last few *Gedolim* without any illness, without giving *Klal Yisroel* a chance to *Daven* for them?

A: *Klal Yisroel* doesn't *Daven*, generally speaking with all their heart for our *Gedolim*, for our *Tzaddikim*. Unfortunately a *Levaya* like this, even though it brings out thousands and thousands of people, (a hundred thousand according to the newspapers,) still the vast majority aren't crying. Their tears aren't flowing. They go to the *Levaya* for many reasons. These *Gedolim* these *Tzadikim*, were taken because *Am Yisroel* is a stiff-necked people. They've strayed from the flock and there is almost not a flock left. So many have strayed, and they're not willing to go back. And if the *Gedolim* are taken, the *Tzaddikim* are taken, hopefully *Am Yisrael* will realize that with all the *Tzoros* the real responsibility falls only on them to come back to *HaKodosh Boruch Hu* because only He can save us. And that's what *Am Yisrael* has to get to- the realization that only He can save us!

It's not a question that we can ask. Its part of creation. Its part of bringing *Am Yisroel* and the world to perfection. We'll understand at the end. But there's one thing we have to understand now that each individual *Yid* has to decide in his heart and in his actions that he's going to go back to true *Yiddishkeit*, and not continue on the path of this plastic imitation that we've come to revere so much.