

THE REBBE, MY SPIRITUAL GUIDE

KNESSET MEMBER AND MINISTER OF TOURISM, RECHAVAM (ZE'EV) ZE'EV (MAY HIS BLOOD BE AVENGED), A MAN OF COURAGE AND CONVICTIONS, WAS ASSASSINATED BY TERRORISTS IN THE HYATT HOTEL IN YERUSHALAYIM. * HIS DEATH ROCKED THE ENTIRE COUNTRY. * ZE'EV FOUGHT FOR ERETZ YISROEL IN HIS YOUTH AND ENDED HIS LIFE AS A FIGHTER WHO PROUDLY LEFT THE GOVERNMENT BECAUSE OF ITS FAILURE TO ENSURE THE SECURITY OF ITS CITIZENS AND ITS CAPITULATION TO TERRORISTS. * A PORTRAIT OF THE MAN AND HIS CLOSE TIES TO THE REBBE MH" M AND CHABAD.

Rechavam Ze'evi (known as Gandhi) was born in Yerushalayim in 5686 (1926). He dedicated most of his 75 years to the security of the Jewish people in Eretz Yisroel.

Ze'evi had a long military and political career. He was drafted into the Palmach in 1944, serving in the army for thirty years, until 1974. After the Yom Kippur War, he was released; by then he had attained the rank of general. A graduate of the Command Institute of the American Army, over the years he served in a number of command positions. He was an intelligence officer of Chativat Yiftach during the War of Independence, Chief Commander of Central Command, head of the intelligence branch, and adjutant to the head of the Chiefs of Staff during the Yom Kippur War. Between 1974 and 1977, Ze'evi served as advisor to Prime Minister Rabin for intelligence and the war on terrorism.

In 1988 Ze'evi decided to continue his battle for the sake of Eretz Yisroel, this time in the political arena. He established the Moledet party and was then elected as director of the party, which was founded on the idea of transfer

(offering financial incentives to Arabs to leave). In the 12th Knesset he was appointed a minister without a portfolio in Shamir's government.

In the 13th Knesset he was a member of the Knesset Committee and the Committee for Government Oversight.

He told a chassid who came to his office, "I don't hang up any pictures of people in my office except for the Rebbe, my spiritual guide."

Before the elections for the 15th Knesset, Moledet joined with the Cherut and Tekuma parties, thus forming a unified right wing block – HaIchud HaLeumi. Less than a year ago, his party joined forces with Yisroel Beiteinu.

When the unity government was

formed, led by Ariel Sharon, Ze'evi was appointed Minister of Tourism, which was his last political position.

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Rechavam Ze'evi loved Chabad. He regularly attended various Chabad events, including the large *farbrengens* in Kfar Chabad on Yud-Alef Nissan and Yud-Tes Kislev, where he generally said some warm words. Just a few weeks ago he joined the *Hakafos Shniyos* in Kfar Chabad, and he was planning to be at the *yahrtzeit* gathering in memory of Rabbi Dov Ber Wolf, a'h, the day of the assassination.

Ze'evi was an ardent writer. Aside from the articles he published in various magazines, he was editor of Moledet's official paper. He regularly quoted portions of the Rebbe's *sichos* regarding *shleimus* and *k'dushas Eretz Yisroel*, and published these along with the Rebbe's picture. When he was asked about this on more than one occasion, he made it clear that the Rebbe was his spiritual guide. In Ze'evi's office hung only scenic pictures of Eretz Yisroel and his picture with the Rebbe. He told a *chassid* who came to his office, "I don't hang up any pictures of people

in my office except for the Rebbe, my spiritual guide."

Ze'evi gave several interviews to *Beis Moshiach* in which he discussed the situation in Eretz Yisroel. From some of the memorable quotes he presented, one can see how much he admired the Rebbe:

"Now too, we see ourselves as guardians of the walls of Eretz Yisroel. We are the only ones who are loyal to the Rebbe's political teachings and we are not ashamed of this. Every month we quote the Rebbe on Eretz Yisroel, things that no one else in the world can write more clearly, succinctly, or decisively than the way the Rebbe said them. You have to remember that the Rebbe said this a long time

ago, and it's as though the Rebbe said them this morning."

Will you quote the Rebbe in government sessions?

"What's the question? In the Knesset I've often mentioned with great pride the Rebbe's position regarding the political and security situation, and I'll do the same in parliamentary sessions. The Rebbe is my guide."

"If we collect ourselves and believe in what we do, we will overcome everything. *Emuna* is the condition for everything. Take what the Lubavitcher Rebbe said – he spoke about all the things you're mentioning to me. The amazing thing is he said these things 23 years



ago, and it seems as though he said them this morning in connection with what was written this morning in the paper. He saw things clearly and reacted to them. Just read what the Rebbe said and you'll have all the answers."

"I go with the truth of the time, the truth of the Rebbe, which is the truth that remains most relevant at this time. I had the privilege of hearing the Rebbe say very powerful things about Eretz Yisroel, and in these matters I go all the way. There are no compromises in these things."

Today we see that everything the Rebbe said about Eretz Yisroel – I imagine in other areas, too – was not said by anybody as clearly as he. Whatever the Rebbe said about the territories of Eretz Yisroel is coming true before our very eyes. He spoke very clearly about our right to Eretz Yisroel and the Arabs' intentions. He also spoke clearly about how it's forbidden for us to be frightened by pressure from the U.S. and the influence of the gentiles. Nobody else spoke as clearly as this. The Rebbe said they would yet demand Lud and Ramle. The Rebbe also provided a solution – that immediately after the Six-Day War, they should give them some pennies and get them out of Eretz Yisroel."

Ze'evi's *bittul* to the Rebbe is evident in his visit to the Rebbe for "dollars," which took place exactly twelve years ago, on Sunday, the 14th of Cheshvan 5750. As a loyal soldier, Ze'evi asked for direction and advice without expressing his own opinion.

Rechavam Ze'evi: I was here a number of times. Would his honor consent to guide me in what to do to



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guard Eretz Yisroel that we haven't done yet?

The Rebbe MH" M: Disseminate Judaism. What they haven't done yet, despite the wonder of it, is

making the *toshavei* (residents of Eretz Yisroel into *benei Eretz Yisroel*. Not just a physical settling there, but also a spiritual settling, to the point that everybody who sees them will recognize that they are born and raised in a land which is called "Eretz Yisroel" – because it is the *nachalas olam l'am olam* (the eternal portion for the eternal nation). This means that this must be apparent every single day. It's not that hard, because there is no need to create something new, but to reveal what is already there within every Jewish man and woman, even children. In fact, in children this is to be found in an even purer way, without politics and other things mixing in.

Rechavam Ze'evi: What should I do in the Knesset that I haven't done yet?

The Rebbe: To announce at every opportunity that Eretz Yisroel means not just a piece of land that is called Eretz Yisroel, but that everything found in this area must be

permeated with Yisroel [i.e., *Yiddishkeit*]. This means [as alluded to in the verse] "and Torah he placed in Yisroel" – that it is apparent [in each individual] that he lives in a city or a land where Judaism is a natural thing, like the air there.

Rechavam Ze'evi: Many thanks.

Ze'evi's ties to the Rebbe began dozens of years ago when Ze'evi served as Chief of Central Command. In the *Igros Kodesh* (Vol. 26), we find two letters to him from 5730. In the longer letter, the Rebbe urges him to facilitate *Mivtza T'fillin* among the soldiers.

Ze'evi was the only Knesset member who signed the declaration that the Rebbe is Melech

HaMoshiach. Rabbi Yitzchok Lifsch of Tzfas relates:

"When I arrived at his office for his signature, the only question he had was: "Did the Rebbe say he was

Moshiach?" I said yes, and showed him the *sicha* of Shabbos Parshas Shoftim 5751.

"Ze'evi told his secretary to hold off all telephone calls and not to let anybody in, and we sat down together and learned the *sicha*. When we finished, he took a pen and without saying another word, he signed his name."

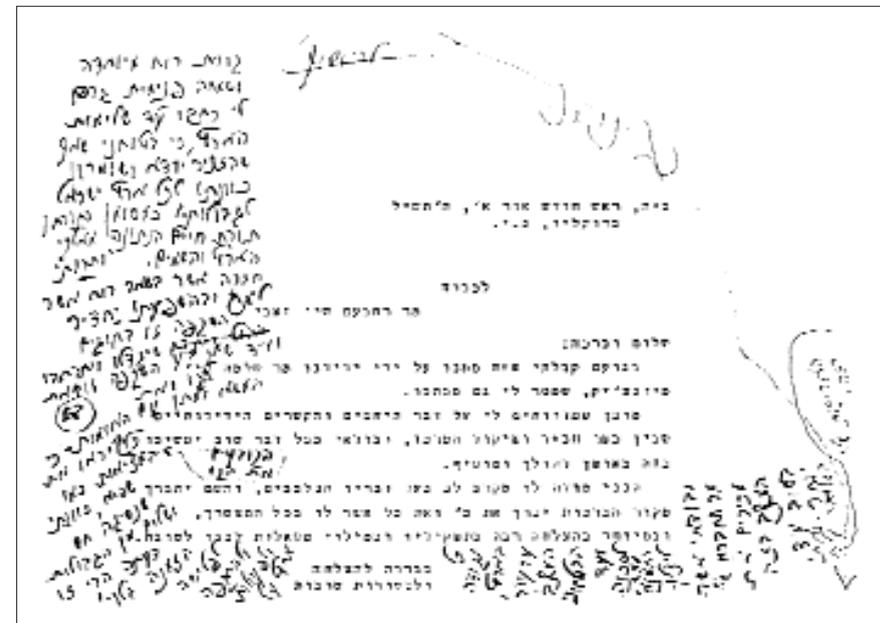
As we said, Ze'evi merited to quote the Rebbe in his party's paper and on various occasions, as he declared a number of times, and he even quoted the Rebbe at government meetings and at cabinet security sessions.

Mr. Rechavam Ze'evi concluded his role proudly, resigning from the faltering government he had joined so as not to be part of the great *chilul Hashem* the government is causing. Now he can appear before Hashem and say: "I left the world sanctifying Your name."



(Right:) The cover of a Tanya which was printed in accordance with the Rebbe's directive in the Israel Museum in 5750

(Left:) A letter from Rechavam Ze'evi, museum director, which was printed in the special edition



A copy of a letter the Rebbe sent to Ze'evi