

Chof Teves

כ' טבת



**TODAY IS
CHOF TEVES,
THE YARTZEIT
OF THE RAMBAM.**

In honor of the Rambam, here we present excerpts of an article from A Chassidisher Derher about the Rebbe's Takana to learn Rambam daily – for men, women, and children – Sefer Hamitzvos, 1 perek, or 3 perakim.

SOLD OUT!

The year is 5744, the place, New York. A sudden wave of sales catches the sform dealers by surprise. All sets of Rambam, big and small, are being snapped up with alacrity, emptying shelves in bookstores and warehouses across Crown Heights, Boro Park, and Flatbush. There is literally not one set of Rambam to be found; all are out of stock. It was right after Pesach 5744 and the Rebbe had just launched a new Takana: Daily Study of the Mishneh Torah by the Rambam. Every Lubavitcher suddenly needed his own personal set of Rambam to be able to learn the shiur each day, thus leading to the shortage of Rambams in the city.

THE REBBE LAUNCHES THE CAMPAIGN

"It's been several years now that I've been waiting for someone to take up the idea of dividing the sefer of Rambam as well," the Rebbe announced at the farbrengen of Acharon Shel Pesach, 5744, "until finally they actually did so in one of the Sefardishe countries. The entire sefer was divided amongst many students, and collectively they completed the entire sefer in close proximity to the Rambam's birthday this year." It was at that historic moment that the Rebbe launched "Mivtza Rambam," a moment that would change our lives as Chassidim forever.

Which Sefardishe country was the Rebbe referring to? And what was done there that prompted the Rebbe to mention their act in his sicha? See A Chassidisher Derher Shevat 5774 for the whole story.

3 PEROKIM/1 PEREK

A few days later on 25 Nissan, the Rebbe held a Yechidus Klolis for the guests that had arrived for Pesach, during which he laid out the details of the new takana: **Being that the entire sefer of Mishneh Torah includes approximately 1,000 perokim, 3 perokim should be studied each day in order to complete the entire sefer by the Rambam's next birthday.** Those who find it difficult to study a full three perokim each day, could follow their own cycle by learning only one perek per day, concluding the entire sefer in three years. Immediately following this sicha, members of Vaad L'Hafotzas Sichos compiled the "Moreh Shiur," [a booklet that has each date and shows which perakim are the shiur of that day] based on specific instructions from the Rebbe.

SEFER HAMITZVOS

The first actual study-cycle was scheduled to begin on Sunday, 27 Nissan. The day before, on Shabbos Parshas Kedoshim, the Rebbe again dedicated a sicha to the new takana. **For those who would find it difficult to study the Mishneh Torah itself (primarily women and children), the Rebbe added another cycle: a daily lesson in Sefer Hamitzvos.**

The participants in this cycle would learn the Mitzvos corresponding to the same Halochos as those learning three perokim, as they appear in the Rambam's Sefer Hamitzvos.

THE STUDY BEGINS

On Sunday it began. Chassidim across the globe took to the Rebbe's new takana excitedly. In Eretz Yisroel, more than a minyan of Anash dressed in Shabbos attire, headed by Rabbi Levi Bistritski of Tzfas, traveled to the Rambam's kever in Teveria to begin this historic first study cycle of Mishneh Torah.

