



# ***THE SHABBOS OF REBBE NACHMAN OF BRESLOV***

## *The Pox*

After Shabbat, Parshat Va'Yechee, the Rebbe said, "During the Third Meal, I became aware of a remedy for pox. Take some chalk and three times the amount of soap, and make a bath out of them to bathe the baby. This must be done as soon as the baby develops fever from this illness. If the heavenly decree is amenable, it will help, but if not, it will not help."

He also said, "Pox is caused by the sin of the Golden Calf. The question is, aren't non-Jews also stricken with this illness? However, the Midrash (Genesis Rabbah 88) states that the non-Jews should actually not be stricken by any illnesses at all (since their portion is in this world). The only reason why they are afflicted with all the illnesses that afflict the Jews is so that they do not torment the Jewish people on this account.

"We find this in Rashi's comment on the verse, 'Do not make me the lowly one's object of derision.' (Psalms 39:9) 'Bring illness and affliction upon him as well so that he will not be able to say that I am stricken while he is not.' This prayer is what brought the affliction of illness upon the nations.

"But there is another question: this illness certainly existed before the sin of the Calf. However, beforehand, the illness was not severe, and the pox was only a result of baby's nursing, as doctors know, but it was not a dangerous illness as it is today. This is on account of the sin.

"The remedy is alluded to in Jeremiah, where everything is mentioned in one verse: 'Even if you wash yourself with nether (chalk) and use a lot of borith (soap), the stain of your sin is still before Me.'" (Jeremiah 2:22) Rashi

says that this refers to the sin of the calf. (Thus, the remedy for this illness caused by the sin of the calf is alluded to here: washing with chalk and using a lot of soap.)

**Understand** this amazing allusion.

## *Sarah Esther*

**People** once came to the Rebbe in his younger days to make a redemption for a girl called, “Sarah Esther daughter of Yehudith.” He replied that she would die, and this is indeed what happened.

**He** said that he knew this from the holy Torah itself. He had just seen a verse, “The fish in the Nile died and stank.” (Exodus 7:21) The last two Hebrew words in the verse are MayTaH Va’YiVASH, the acronym of which reads Sarah Aesther Vath Yehudith Vye Meytah [Woe! Sarah Esther daughter of Yehudith has died]. May God protect us.

## *A Letter from the King*

**On** Shabbat Chanukah, the Rebbe told a story, but it was [mostly] forgotten. It was about a prince who was distanced from his father and yearned for him very much. He received a letter from his father, and this gave him very great comfort. But still he yearned greatly. He yearned that his father would at least stretch out his hand so that he could hug it and kiss it. Then he thought to himself that this letter is the king’s very own handwriting, so it is an expression of the king’s hand. (This is not written well since it was not written at the time and was subsequently forgotten.)

**Finished** and completed. Praise to God, the Creator.

**Blessed** is He Who strengthens the weary and increases the might of the weak.

**SHABBOS SHALOM**