

# בית המדרש אהבת ישראל דחסידי ויז'ניץ

בנשיאות כ"ק אדמו"ר שליט"א  
יאקאב יאקאבסטר, 33-35 אנטווערפען



Rabbi David M. Lieberman  
Rabbi of the non Orthodox Community of Shomrei Hadass  
Belgilei 194

## 2018 Antwerp

New York July 1 2010 Tammuz 19 5770  
Parshat Pinches

Dear Rabbi,

I hope this letter finds you in good health.

First I want you to know that everything I do is with the FULL Halachic and moral support of our dear Wiznitzer Ruv shlita and with the approval of his esteemed father, The Grand Rebbe Shlita, may he have a full and speedy recovery.

“The enemy of my enemy is my friend “ according to the recent letter that you released together with your oldest opponent the community of Machsike Hadass this quote is now the best way to describe your approach in making false accusations and attacks on my dear father.

To straighten things out I would like to remind you that the majority of your community is formed by non observant Jews and therefore your accusations on my father in which you blame him for writing and promoting against religious organizations and institutions which are not affiliated with your community at all, are none of your business. My father has also never attacked any religious organizations he was just criticizing them which would be common in a normal and healthy Jewish society. Since you never criticize your own community members for not being observant why do you make it your business to protect those religious organizations and institutions?

Of course I already know the answer to this and also to the REAL reason you would – for the very first time in history- release a letter with your opponent community. The reason for this is my grandfathers, may he have a full and speedy recovery, together with the support of my whole family, initiative to rescue our synagogue that was stolen from us.

I believe that your stimulation for this despicable letter originates from my grandfathers and my own recent court order to count OUR Sifrei Thora in *our* Shul. As a matter of fact we have no choice in handling this any other way since we are dealing with criminals

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who already stole *our* Shul and intended to steal *our* Sifrei Thora. My father is not the lawyer, nor the prosecutor in this very court case. Please stop blaming my father for everything that happens in this case. All the actions that partake in this trial are initiated by my grandfather, the honorary president of Wiznitz, and myself - the current president of the Wiznitz Synagogue in Antwerp.

About a year ago you called my entire family for a rabbinical trial. It was not up to you to call us for such a trial, on the contrary you should have refused this trial since the majority of the people who accused us (the Steinmetz brothers) are also the only or at least the biggest “sponsors” of your community, which indirectly pays your salary. Halachically you had absolutely no right to call us to a rabbinical court and even more so when we already got a Psak Din by the Ruv of Wiznitz Shlita.

You and your opponent know very well that my grandfather, Mr. Itsu Kasziner built, furnished and financially supported in full in the most gracious way this very synagogue we are talking about for over 3 decades.

Being the great philanthropist that he is, he also donated to many other Jewish institutions including the Chassidic Shul of Chabad Lubavitch that you are part of. He helped so many people in our city and around the world, including Rabbis of which I am sure you are aware of as well. Instead of having “hakarat hatov” like you should have as a good Jew, you are all “kafue Tova”.

As a Lubavitcher Chassid you should understand our situation with our Sifrei Thora and Library inventory as the The Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson of righteous memory, had a similar court case with his nephew about the Friedeker Rebbe’s (Rebbe Rayatz) library. Being a follower of the Lubavitcher philosophy of equality and tolerance in Judaism, I would expect more understanding and support for our case from you. The last thing the Rebbe (who I greatly admire and view as the greatest leader in our generation) would approve of, is the release of such a disgraceful letter when all the Rebbe has emphasized was about loving and caring for each other.

Until now you and all the Rabbis in our city, including your opponent, kept silent and did not comment openly on our ongoing trial to rescue our Shul even though the facts were clear to you. You knew and saw in front of your eyes how these people stole our money and our Shul and you didn’t find it important enough to protest. Your missing action, which you owed to my grandfather as a minimum of human decency, makes you a partner in this crime. As a Rabbi the minimum you were supposed to do is to condemn the actions of these thieves. Not only have you been watching from the side and kept quiet, but now you also publicly attack us and our actions. Unfortunately my grandfather is fully aware of your misbehavior and it hurts him deeply.

When those very same thieves and their leader “Rabbi” Markus Grunnfeld left my dear grandfather a 90 year old Jew and holocaust survivor, who did so much “chesed” in our community and around the world, alone in the middle of davening in the main synagogue and openly said to him that they will kick him and his family out of his own Shul, you and all the other Rabbis of the city did not raise your voices. Where was your sense for righteousness then? Where was your unity with your opponent? Where was a letter

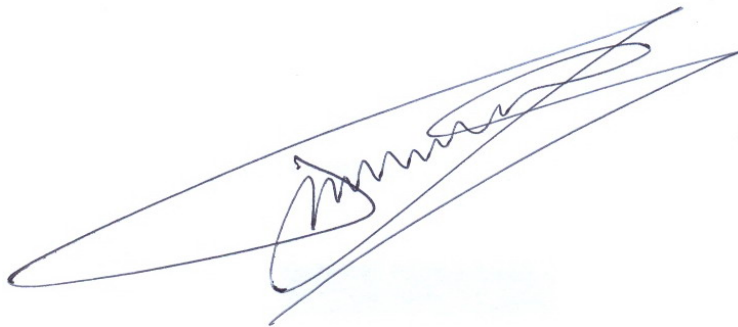
condemning such actions and threatening this people? Where were you when you heard that we and my grandfather got kicked out of our own Shul with no other place to go to daven to? Where were your sharp words? Your accusations? Your quick judgments?

I can assure you that my entire family including myself will hold you liable for your crime in this world and in the world to come. I will not ever forgive you, and all the others like you, for the pain and suffering you are causing us and our dear grandfather that we love and appreciate so much.

May the Almighty help us and give us strength and health to continue our battle for justice and returning our synagogue and make sure that it will stay in honor of my beloved grandparents and Wiznitz for eternity, as it is and was always The Rebbe's and my grandfathers wish.

We should merit the real redemption with the coming of the Mashiach speedily in our days.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'David Rosenberg', enclosed within a large, loopy, oval-shaped flourish.

Heartbroken with hope for the redemption

Rabbi David Rosenberg  
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