

Rav Yehuda Zev Segal זצ"ל



Rav Yehuda Zev Segal was born on 17 Adar, 5670 (1910), in London, England, and grew up in Manchester, where his father, Rav Moshe Yitzchak, was rosh yeshivah. After learning in his father's yeshivah, he went to the Mir Yeshivah in Europe, where he became close to the *mashgiach* Rav Chatzkel Levenstein and was known for his tremendous *hasmadah*, sometimes learning for 18 hours a day.

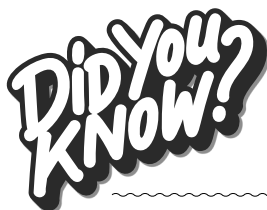
Rav Yehuda Zev returned to England to get married, settling in his wife's hometown of Gateshead. He learned there for

several years before moving his family to Manchester so he could join his father's yeshivah as a *maggid shiur*. A few years after his father passed away, Rav Yehuda Zev became rosh yeshivah. Tragically, his wife was *niftar* young, and he had to be both father and mother to his children. But he was always there for everyone – both his children and his *talmidim*.

Known for his sincere warmth, heartfelt *tefillos* and devotion to *shemiras halashon*, Rav Yehuda Zev worked on himself until speaking *lashon hara* was

as repulsive to him as eating *treif*. He retired in the early 1980s, but that just meant he became more accessible to anyone who wanted his wise counsel and powerful *brachos*. His phone rang incessantly with calls from all over the world. When his family protested that he needed rest, he told them, "Perhaps Hashem has given me long life so I can help others."

Rav Yehuda Zev Segal was *niftar* on 22 Shevat, 5753 (1993).



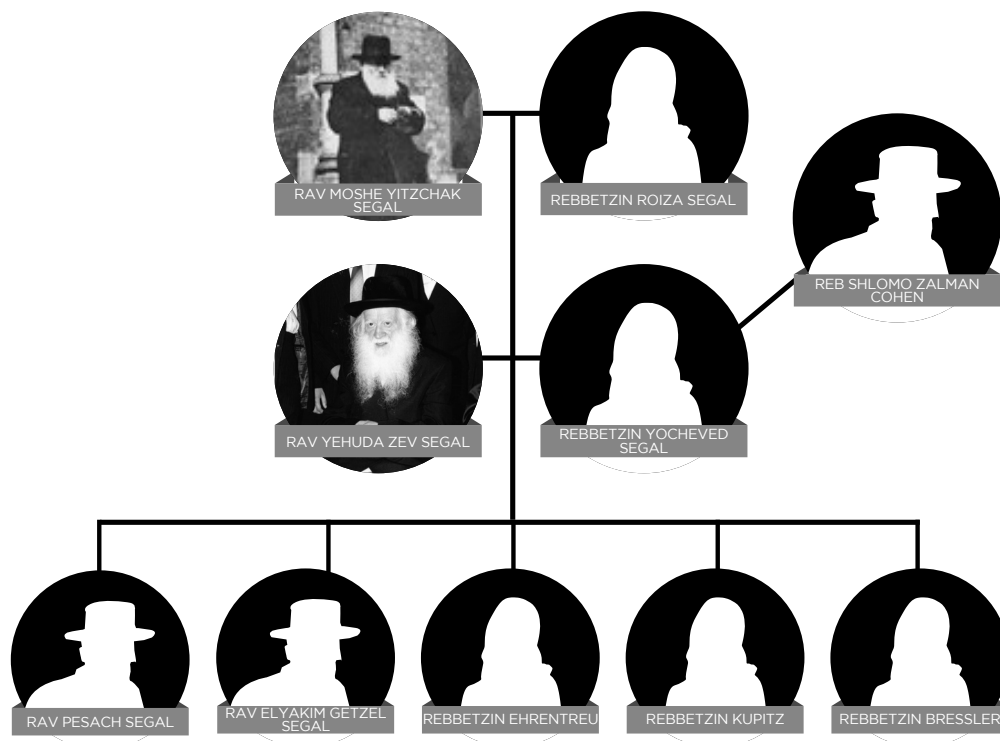
When Rav Yehuda Zev was young, he used to wake up early to go learn in shul. Since the stairs creaked and he didn't want to wake anyone, he would climb out his bedroom window and slide down the drainpipe!

Rav Yehuda Zev was careful to always daven every *tefillah* from a siddur, even *Asher Yatzar*, and he would use one with a translation to improve his *kavanah*. He even kept cards printed with the *brachos* on food in his pocket to read the *brachos* from before eating.

Rav Yehuda Zev hated honor. If he was going to a wedding or another event, he would beg his *talmidim*, "Shmuggel mich arein! Please smuggle me in so people won't stand up for me!"

Once, Rav Yehuda Zev needed to leave just when a group of yeshivah boys who lived a distance away had come to visit. Someone told the boys that the Rosh Yeshivah wasn't available. When Rav Yehuda Zev heard the boys being turned away, he exclaimed, "If a millionaire came in a Rolls Royce to visit, would you turn him away? *These bnei Torah are millionaires!*" He then went to the door and greeted the boys, "Millionaires - come inside!"

Family Tree



Rav Yehuda Zev Segal's father, Rav Moshe Yitzchak Segal, grew up in Russia and was a student of the Alter of Novardok. Rav Moshe Yitzchak fled to England after being drafted into the Russian army and founded Yeshiva Etz Chaim, the first yeshivah in all of England. In 1911, he became rosh yeshivah of the Manchester yeshivah. He married Roiza Brav of London and together they had five children. Rav Yehuda Zev was the second to youngest.

Rav Yehuda Zev married Yocheved, daughter of Reb Shlo-

mo Zalman Cohen of Gateshead, a businessman and *talmid chacham*. Rebbetzin Yocheved Segal was known for her tremendous *chessed*; she acted like a mother to all her husband's *talmidim*.

Their sons were Rav Pesach Segal of Bnei Brak and Rav Elyakim Getzel Segal of Boro Park. Their sons-in-law were Rav Meir Tzvi Ehrentreu and Rav Moshe Kupitz, both of Manchester, and (*l'havdil bein chaim l'chaim*) Rav Shraga Bressler of Monsey.

SOME OF RAV YEHUDA ZEV SEGAL'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS:



As rosh yeshivah of Manchester Yeshivah, Rav Yehuda Zev guided his *talmidim* with love and caring for over 30 years. Whenever he accepted a *talmid*, he would ask for his name and the name of his mother, and every morning he would daven for all his *talmidim* to be *matzliach*. Once, on a bitter cold day, a boy in the yeshivah found out that his coat contained *shatnez*. Rav Yehuda Zev gave the *talmid* his own coat and then walked home without one.

Rav Yehuda Zev inspired many to learn and keep *hilchos shemiras halashon*. He would tell people who were suffering to learn *Sefer Chafetz Chaim* daily, and in that *zechus* they would be granted a *yeshuah*. His efforts to spread awareness of *shemiras halashon* led to him becoming known as "the Chafetz Chaim of his generation." He even asked to be buried with the *shemiras halashon luach* (daily study schedule) that he had published, because "this is my passport to *Olam Haba!*"



Rav Yehuda Zev's *shmuessen* were compiled by his *talmidim* into *Sefer Yirah V'da'as* on Chumash and Yamim Tovim, with an English version titled *Inspiration and Insight*.



RAV YEHUDA ZEV was known for his tremendous *hasmadah* and devotion to learning, yet he cared so much about others that he refused to limit the hours that he was available by phone. He often kept a phone on his *shtender* so that anyone who called could reach him

right away.

He was once away during vacation, and the phone didn't ring all day. "Baruch Hashem!" said one of the *talmidim* who had come along. "The Rosh Yeshivah had a day of *menuchah*!" Rav Yehuda Zev disagreed. "For those who didn't know how to reach me, it was not a day of *menuchah*," he explained.

Once, when he was attending a *sheva brachos*, an older single woman called. Rav Yehuda Zev asked the host if he could take the call in a different room. When asked why, he explained that he didn't want the woman to hear *sheva brachos* singing because that might intensify her pain over being single.

Rav Yehuda Zev never hurried any caller, and often he would be the one to call – to find out how a sick person

was doing, to offer *chizuk* to a mourner, to uplift the heart of an orphan. His tremendous sensitivity and steadfast *bitachon* helped him find the right words to comfort others.

Once he made a special stop in London so he could give *chizuk* to the parents of a baby having major surgery in a hospital there. When he arrived at the hospital, the distraught father wept, "They postponed the surgery to tomorrow at the last minute! After we waited all day!"

"Baruch Hashem," responded Rav Yehuda Zev. "Perhaps the *malach* Rafael was busy today. Tomorrow will be a better day for your son's surgery." The father calmed down. Indeed, the baby had his surgery the next day and recovered.

Another father came to Rav Yehuda Zev for help when his baby was born with serious complications.

Rav Yehuda Zev told him, "Go home and make a *shalom zachar* as you normally would. Everyone will wish you *mazel tov* and give you a *brachah* that your child should be raised *l'Torah, l'chuppah ul'ma'asim tovim*. All these *brachos* will surely help your baby." The father did so, and after a few days, the astounded doctors told him that the baby was completely healthy!

Rav Yehuda Zev disagreed. "For those who didn't know how to reach me, it was not a day of menuchah," he explained.

Try This!

Every morning, the Manchester Rosh Yeshivah would try to do a *chessed* before Shacharis as a *zechus* to make his *tefillos* more effective. For example, he would make a thermos of hot water for his son-in-law so he could have a hot drink or prepare a *negel vasser* cup and basin for the *bachur* who stayed with him.

Try to think of a *chessed* you can do before Shacharis. Maybe you can help a sibling get ready for school. Maybe you can set the breakfast table. Even giving a friend a smile and kind word is a *chessed*!

RAV YEHUDA ZEV SEGAL'S DVAR TORAH

Shemiras Halashon Is Within Reach!

Some people think it's very hard to speak the right way. When something comes to mind, they feel they just have to say it. However, if they would stop and think, they would realize it's not that hard. Don't we hold ourselves back from talking for many hours during *Mussaf* on Rosh Hashanah!? We *can* control our speech! The reason it's difficult for these people is that they don't understand how important it really is. If they would understand and keep it in mind, it would become much easier for them to use their mouths the right way.

Indeed, we all have to try our best to avoid saying anything improper. The most effective way to do this is to learn two halachos from the *sefer Chafetz Chaim* and one page from the *sefer Shemiras Halashon* every day. Although people cannot make a big change right away, the Chafetz Chaim says that if one decides he wants to do this and then does something about it, he can eventually accomplish the goal.

Along with learning the halachos and trying to speak properly, we also have to know the main point of not speaking *lashon hara*, which is that we should not make trouble for others! We don't want anyone to lose money, get injured, or feel uncomfortable. This is the lesson of the *aveirah* of *lashon hara*: We have to be careful with the *kavod* of others. (See Rambam, *Dei'os* 7:5.)

(*Yirah V'da'as*, Parshas Kedoshim 19:16)