

BEHAALOTECHA**REKINDLE THE FLAME**

"In the course of our session that lasted well over four hours I took the liberty of asking the Lubavitcher Rebbe what precisely he sought to accomplish by his astonishing endeavours. And I recall him giving me an encouraging smile and saying: "Let me tell you what I try to do. Imagine." he said, "you are looking at a candle. What you are really seeing is a mere lump of wax with a thread down its middle. So when do the thread and wax become a candle? In other words, when do they fulfil the purpose for which they were created? When you put a flame to the thread, then the wax and the thread become a candle."

Then his voice morphed into the rhythmic chant of the Talmudic scholar as he went on to say, "The wax is the body, and the wick is the soul. Bring the flame of Torah to the soul then the body will then fulfil the purpose for which it was created. And that is what I try to do," said he, "to ignite the soul of every Jew and Jewess with the fire of Torah so that they can fulfil the purpose for which he or she was created."

When I rose to bid him farewell the Rebbe escorted me to the door, and there I asked him, "Has the Rebbe lit my candle?" "No," he said. "I have given you the match. Only you can light your own candle."

I find that metaphor stunning. Assuredly, it encapsulates, much of what the Centre of Jewish Life seeks to do, day by day, through its multiple and imaginative programs – handing out matches to anyone who wishes to ignite one, while providing a socially amiable atmosphere of Jewish good fellowship to all who enter its portals".

By Ambassador Yehuda Avner

Fri 24th May
Behaalotecha

Shabbat Begins: 8:44 pm
Shabbat Ends: 10.01 pm