

SEFER OF SALVATION

Some five years ago, Rabbi Daniel Glatstein was delivering a weekly Chumash *shiur* for the OU's All Parsha platform. The *shiur* was slated to be on Ramban and the Baal HaTurim but he issued a personal request: to share the Torah of the Ben L'Ashri as well.

Who was the Ben L'Ashri?

His name was Rav Yitzchak HaKohein Huberman. He hailed from Sochatchov and was a student of the Shem Mishmuel. Rabbi Glatstein's great-grandfather had been his *chavrusa*. But while Rabbi Glatstein's great-grandfather perished in the war, leaving none of his written works behind him, Rav Yitzchak Huberman did survive and moved to Eretz Yisrael, where he became known as the "Tzaddik of Raanana." The sefer *Ben L'Ashri* is his composition.

Rav Huberman — who had no children of his own — wrote that he will intervene on behalf of anyone who learns his sefer, praying that they see salvation.

Rabbi Glatstein, who saw the sefer as a link to the great-grandfather he never knew, wanted to disseminate its Torah and added it to the syllabus of his weekly *shiur*. He also embarked on an effort to have the sefer reprinted. Since much of the sefer discusses very lofty content, he worked tirelessly to select pieces that were more accessible to be compiled into a single sefer.

One day, Rabbi Glatstein received a call from a woman whose last name was Kushelevsky. She listened to his *shiur* on the *Ben L'Ashri*, she said, and wished to contribute toward the sefer's publication.

After several more calls from this woman, one day Rabbi Glatstein asked, "Are you related to Rav Tzvi Kushelevsky?"

"Yes," she responded, "he is my husband."

Rebbetzin Kushelevsky was so taken by story of the Ben L'Ashri, and believed so strongly in the *segulah*, that she prevailed upon her husband — whose every moment is dedicated to intensive learning — to make time to study his Torah.

At the bris of Eliyahu Kushelevsky, the miracle baby born to Rav Tzvi and his rebbetzin, the Rosh Yeshivah presented pamphlets of his own insights on the commentaries of the



Ben L'Ashri — so deeply did he associate the miracle with the tzaddik's merit.

This past week was the *yahrtzeit* of the Ben L'Ashri and Rabbi Glatstein joined the Kushelevskys in Yerushalayim, where he heard the following miraculous story.

About a year and a half before the miracle took place, Rav Kushelevsky traveled with his gabbaim to the *kever* of the Ben L'Ashri to daven for a child. It was Erev Shabbos afternoon, heavy rain was pouring down, and they simply couldn't find the *kever*. But Rav Kushelevsky refused to give up.

At that very moment, a car stopped nearby. A Yid stepped out and asked, "*Kevod Harav*, what are you looking for?" He then led them straight to the *kever* — and afterward brought them back to the yeshivah in time for Minchah.

Rav Kushelevsky commented that he felt he received this help from Shamayim specifically because he did not despair.

The *yahrtzeit* event was a fusion of Torah, *emunah*, and the power of tzaddikim.

May they be *meilitzei yosher* for all of us.

Continued on pg. 70