



Interviewee

Mr. Berzinas, conductor
of the Riga to Warsaw
train

Time of interview

Monday, Yud Gimmel
Kislev 8 a.m.
(an hour after the train
arrives in Warsaw)

Interview #2

Journey to Warsaw

Interviewer: Mr. Berzinas, we understand that you conducted the train that took the Lubavitcher Rebbe to his daughter's wedding in Warsaw. Thank you for taking time from your busy schedule to tell us what you've experienced.

Conductor: It's my honor to speak with you. I've been conducting trains on the Riga to Warsaw rail line for seventeen years now, and I've never experienced anything quite like this! It was a really incredible trip.

Interviewer: Tell us about it!

Conductor: When we left yesterday afternoon, the train station was packed with thousands of Jews – men, women and children who came out to see their rabbi as he left, and they were all so happy. They were each trying to catch a glimpse of the rabbi and the groom. There were children on their father's shoulders, other people were jumping up, or climbing up on the benches in the station in order to see them. Such excitement!

They were singing and calling out *mazal tov*. Even as we were pulling away, the people continued to chase the train; they were trying to catch one last glimpse of the Rebbe and his group.

Interviewer: Wow, that sounds exciting! Did you get to see what was going on in the train cars where the Rebbe and his *chasidim* were?

י"ד כסלו

”דער טאג וואס
מ'האט פארבודן”



Conductor: Yes, I did. During the trip, the Rebbe and his family were in one car, and the *chasidim* were in another. They were celebrating the whole way -- there was lots of singing, food and drink. I also saw them praying and learning on the way.

You know what was really amazing? At the stations we stopped at on the way -- Dvinsk and Vilna -- the train was greeted with a massive crowd of Jews, just trying to catch a glimpse of the rabbi and the groom, and to wish them congratulations.

Interviewer: What was it like when you finally arrived?

Conductor: When our train arrived in Warsaw's grand station early this morning, the place was packed! There were thousands of people there to welcome their rabbi and the group. I was told that people came from all over the world for this event. It took a little while for them to make their way through the crowd, but the Rebbe, his family and followers finally all got into taxis to go to the hotel to rest up before the festivities of the next few days.

Interviewer: Any final thoughts you want to share?

Conductor: Well, I really got to witness the respect and love the Jews have for their Rebbe and his family. I'm glad that I got them to their destination safely. I'm sure there's going to be quite a celebration tomorrow night!