



בית המדרש לתורה
HEBREW THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE
 7135 North Carpenter Road
 Skokie, Illinois 60077

כ"ז כסלו, תשע"ז
 December 12, 2017

Rabbi Avraham Friedman
Rosh HaYeshiva

I would like to say a few words about my dear friend Harav Hagaon Rav Yitzchak Aryeh Hirshfeld at this time when he is being honored for his 40 valiant years of harbatzos Torah as the rosh yeshiva of Yeshivas Darkei Noam. Rabbi Hirshfeld is now going to be known as the rosh yeshiva emeritus of this great Makom Torah, a title he so well deserves.

I know Reb Yitzchak Aryeh for more than 50 years, we both attended the Skokie yeshiva high school and Beis Medrash together and later Yeshivas Mir. I had the great Zechus to learn with him many years B'chavrusa and I can honestly say that he was one of the best chavrusos I ever had and he taught me very much. He is not only extremely intelligent, with such a clear understanding of what he is learning but he also is able to explain the material so clearly. He is also so patient and so extremely modest, always willing to hear what the other person has to say. I certainly understand why he has been so successful as a rebbe to literally hundreds of Talmidim. I know that his Talmidim love, adore and respect him for his great knowledge and Middos Tovos. Rebbe Meir says that a name given to someone has a relationship to the nature of the person, in some sefarim it says that the parents are granted Ruach Hakodesh when they give a name. I think that the name Yitzchak is so fitting that just like Yitzchak Avinu was the symbol of Eved Hashem and willing to give up himself totally to Hashem, no questions asked, so too Rav Yitzchak Hirshfeld. Also the name Aryeh, the lion is so fitting to Rav Hirshfeld, though I don't think he is capable of raising his voice, he is Misgaber K'ari in everything he does.

I would be remiss if I wouldn't mention his very, very chosheva rebbetzin, Chava, as Rav Akiva told his Talmidim שלי ושלכם שלה היא. She is so dedicated to her husband and to all his great work that she has a great Chelek in his tremendous career as a Marbitz Torah b'rabbim.

My Tefilla is that Rav Hirshfeld should continue to teach Torah for many more years in good health and may he along with his rebbetzin continue to have Nachas from his Talmidim and all their descendants.

Sincerely,

A Chaver B'lev U'venefesh,
 Avraham Friedman, Skokie