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אור התורה



Yeshiva Gedola  
Ohr Hatorah

April 3rd, 2006

Rosh Yeshiva  
Rabbi Chayim Nitzlich

To whom it may concern:

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This letter is to confirm that Shlomo Zalman Hersh has been learning in our yeshiva since the beginning of January. During that time period, we have had ample opportunity to closely observe Shlomo Zalman, his parents, and the constant interactions between them. Although we firmly believe that Shlomo Zalman has much potential and will eventually mature into a fine young man, B"Ezras Hashem, there is no denying that he currently has many issues that make him a great challenge for anyone to deal with; these issues include a tremendous resistance to authority, significant learning problems, and - perhaps most problematic - a habit of repeatedly lying about his parents and rebbaim in order to get attention. We are currently dealing with all of these issues and have seen some significant success, B"H. This success is due in no small part to the incredible and devoted cooperation we have constantly experienced from Shlomo Zalman's parents, who have spared no expense or effort to help this troubled child in any way humanly possible. I wish to unequivocally state that despite the difficulties of dealing with Shlomo Zalman and the endless patience required in doing so properly, Shlomo Zalman's parents have both excelled in their constant efforts to shower devotion, love, and boundless patience on him in a manner that few parents could emulate.

I have been particularly impressed during the last few months with the actions taken by Shlomo Zalman's father while his mother has been ill. Despite an overwhelming schedule of caring for his wife while she was ill or hospitalized, as well as caring for the 6 children at home during that time - all of whom required extra attention while they made the difficult transition from living in Eretz Yisroel back to America - Mr. Hersh has somehow always found the time to demonstrate his tremendous love and concern for Shlomo Zalman while providing endless support and encouragement for our own efforts to help him. Whether it meant driving a total of over 3 hours to take Shlomo Zalman (and his entire dorm full of roommates) out to eat at Monsey's finest restaurants, constantly ensuring that he had sufficient spending money, or sending him a special, touching Mishloach Manos on Purim, Shlomo Zalman's father has demonstrated his sincere love and devotion to this child in a way that could well serve as an example of how any father should deal with such a son. Furthermore, we can confirm that Shlomo Zalman himself has stopped fabricating stories about his father and

mother as soon as he understood that it would not garner him any extra attention, and seems to genuinely understand - and willingly admits to others - that his parents are both very special people who sincerely love him and care about his welfare.

In light of Shlomo Zalman's demonstrated habit of fabricating stories, and the clear and unequivocal truth about his parent's devotion which we have witnessed, it was that much more disturbing for me to receive a phone call during the third week in February. In that phone call, a woman introduced herself as Shlomo Zalman's aunt and asked about his welfare and if she could send a package to him at his private dormitory address. Having been informed from many sources as to the perfidy of this relative, I told her that I could not discuss the child with her unless I was told to do so by his parents or one of the Rabbonim involved. She then directly asked me if I had properly investigated Shlomo Zalman's family before admitting him in to my Yeshiva. When I informed her that I had made numerous inquiries about the entire family and had heard only wonderful things about them, she told me that *I had asked the wrong people*. She proceeded to inform me that Shlomo Zalman was getting abused by his parents, as were his siblings, and urged me to call specific people in Eretz Yisroel that "know the truth about the family". I informed her that Rabbonim, professionals, and friends had all confirmed that the parents are wonderful people, and I had no need to contact anyone else. She reiterated that *I had called the wrong people*. She then asked if I knew the real truth about what happened in Eretz Yisroel, and I told her that I knew exactly how she had made up a false story about the parents and caused a great disservice to Shlomo Zalman, who ended up unable to join his parents when leaving for America and had to remain in Eretz Yisroel until it was discovered that she had lied. She responded that I don't know the real story; in fact the Israeli police and the American FBI were all involved, and the parents had to escape justice by running back to the United States. I asked her if the police and FBI were truly involved, then why did they allow the boy to return to his parents? She did not seem to have an answer, but instead began to cry and told me that the boy might commit suicide if I don't allow her to get involved. I patiently explained to her that I have over 17 years of experience in dealing with such children, and there are many Rabbonim and top professionals involved in treating Shlomo Zalman as well, so she can be of greatest assistance to him by staying out of our way and allowing us to help him properly. She then, in tears, challenged me, "So you want him to die?!". I told her that I would feel terrible if anything happened to him, but we are dealing with all of his issues and if she truly cares for this boy, she should best stay out of the picture completely. That ended our conversation.



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I can say with conviction after that conversation that Shlomo Zalman's aunt is clearly mentally unbalanced, and is determined - for reasons that make no sense to a healthy mind - to destroy Shlomo Zalman and his family in any way that she possibly can. Although she is the only aunt that I spoke with, it is my understanding that there is another aunt that is, in fact, working together with this one towards the same goal. Having clearly seen how disturbed this one aunt proved to be, and having been a personal witness to the devotion of the parents, I have no question whatsoever that any other relative involved in such a ludicrous accusation can be no more sane than the one with whom I spoke. I therefore hereby implore anyone who cares for this child or his family to do all within their power to stop this blood libel from continuing, and to help rectify the terrible injustice being perpetrated against them.

Sincerely,



Chayim Mitzlich  
Rosh HaYeshiva  
Yeshiva Gedola Ohr Hatorah  
Spring Valley, New York