

2nd Place: Naftoli Moskovitz
Yeshiva Meon Hatorah (Monsey, NY)

Moshe

Dear Moshe,

You, Moshe Lonnerstaedter also toiled on a Shvere Tosafos, but you did so, while the dark clouds of galus were pushing their way through the tranquil, blue skies.

You, Moshe Lonnerstaedter also sat by the Shabbos seudah on Friday night, basking in the serene glow of the small flame of the Shabbos candles, but you did so, in the full knowledge that this may very well be the last Shabbos you enjoy together.

You, Moshe Lonnerstaedter also recited the Shema, proclaiming your rock solid faith in the Almighty, and that all He does is good, but you did so, while slowly drifting far away from everything you knew.

You, Moshe Lonner, also put on tefillin every morning, but you did so after learning the fate of your dear parents HY'D.

You, Moshe Lonner, also laughed, and cried, and had your excitements, and disappointments, but you did so after all you went through.

So, as I toil on a shvere Tosafos, and sit by the Shabbos seudah, and recite the Shema, and put on tefillin, and laugh, and cry, and get excited, and disappointed, I am thinking about you.

You, Moshe Lonner, are an inspiration.

Sincerely,
Naftoli