



**MEMORY LANE # 62 (EDITED)**  
**1968 PASSOVER MESSAGE FROM RABBI SOLOMON SPIRO**  
**FROM THE BULLETIN OF THE YOUNG ISRAEL OF CHOMEDEY**

Machines and technology have become deities and have challenged not only man, but G-d as well. No sector of society or life, not even religion has escaped the tide of automation. The first intrusion of automation into the Jewish religion was the matzo machine that made and baked matzos mechanically. At the time that it was introduced, several generations ago, there was a great controversy about its acceptability. Today there is generally unqualified approval of the machine matzos, but there are many Jews who still insist on eating handmade matzos for the Seder nights. Perhaps the Jews who opposed the machine matzos never articulated their views in other than halachic terms, in terms of Jewish law, but deep down there must have been the added uneasiness that the machine has assumed too great a portion of awe and respect and is not suited for a mitzvah.

It is noteworthy that most of the items which are holy to us must still be handmade. A Sefer Torah must be written by hand. Tefillin must still be made by hand. The machine can too easily become a god and therefore is kept as far away as possible from religion. There is also a danger in your age to let the machine do our work for us, even in the service of G-d. G-d requires people and machines just will not do. Passover is the festival of freedom.

The Jews were freed from Egyptian bondage. But this festival also marks the fact that the Jew must be able to free himself from other bondages as well, the bondages of machine living, of the treadmill routine of everyday living, of the shackles of nihilism – all those false gods and masters who take such a toll of our existence.

A return to Torah and mitzvas will make us free again. May G-d help that we also free ourselves of the dread of war and bloodshed in the Holy Land and around the world.

**(Yashor Koach to Fred Rudy** for providing us all with these memorable historical moments, which some of us may still remember!)