Dear Friends,

As the Jewish year comes to a close and I reflect on the past twelve months, I am grateful to Hashem for granting all of us another year of remarkable accomplishments.

With each passing year, our mission to spread Torah throughout the world only grows stronger. I am always gratified to hear from people that they are able to increase their level of Torah learning, thanks to the work of the Mesorah Heritage Foundation.

I recently received an email from Rabbi Aryeh Feigenbaum of Dallas, TX. As a key community *rav*, Rabbi Feigenbaum has been very instrumental in building Dallas into the Torah community that it is today. He wrote to thank us for all our publications, but he was especially grateful for the new *Tosafos* project. He wrote:

"In October we started a chaburah for retirees, most of whom are baalei teshuvah for many years. We decided to learn berachos with Tosafos. These are men who have been learning for years. They had never moved passed the regular Schottenstein Gemara. After learning from the ArtScroll Tosafos, they feel like new worlds have been opened for them. Today we finished the last tosafos in the first perek and I wanted to share the simchah with you!"

This is just a sample of the tens of thousands of people we are inspiring through our works and the many people I am privileged to hear from throughout the year.

We were blessed this past year to celebrate the completion of many monumental projects. Our team of *Talmidei Chachamim* also produced many volumes in these ongoing series: The *Schottenstein Edition Ein Yaakov*, the *Esformes Edition Tosafos Seder Moed*, the *Edmond J. Safra French Edition of the Talmud*, and the *Ryzman Edition Hebrew Midrash Rabbah*.

With the unprecedented growth in Torah study and increasing thirst for ways to expand our knowledge and understanding, we are grateful to have had the merit to begin many new projects this past year. In the coming pages, you'll read about these significant works, gaining a glimpse into why, as we bid farewell to 5783 and welcome a new year, we at the Mesorah Heritage Foundation are boundlessly thankful to all of you, our dear supporters and benefactors, who, with the help of Hashem, make these projects possible. We simply could not do any of it without you and your assistance. At the same time, we are excited by the opportunities that lie ahead to continually uplift, inspire, and educate more Jews across the world, wherever they may live, revealing the never-ending beauty and wisdom of our timeless heritage.

With best wishes for a K'sivah V'Chasimah Tovah, Rabbi Gedaliah Zlotowitz President, Mesorah Heritage Foundation

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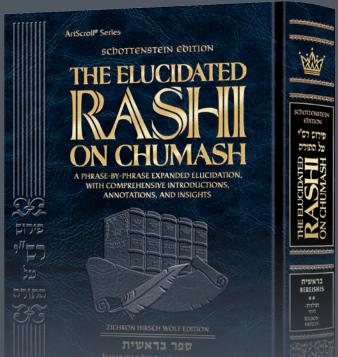


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Recently Completed and Ongoing Projects



BREAKING NEW GROUND: The Elucidated Rashi on Chumash

"It's Unlike Any Work on Rashi Ever Produced." First there was the Schottenstein Edition Talmud.

Then there was the Schottenstein Edition Mishnah Elucidated.

Today, we present the Schottenstein Edition Elucidated Rashi on Chumash.

For centuries, the brilliant light of Rashi — Rav Shlomo ben Yitzchak of medieval France — has illuminated the world of Torah. earning him the esteemed title of "The Father of Commentators."

With unrivaled clarity and grace, Rashi's commentary on the Torah has become an integral — and truly indispensable — part of Chumash study. So brilliant are his commentaries that over three hundred works have been dedicated to dissecting his wisdom.

Behind the seemingly simple words lies a treasure trove of knowledge and profound thought. Rashi's meticulous selection of citations from the vast literature of Chazal reveals the depths of

his scholarship. Every word he chose carries a world of meaning and significance, leaving a trail of insights for those who seek to comprehend his methodology.

For decades, English speakers have relied on the Mesorah Heritage Foundation's Sapirstein Edition Rashi to gain clarity and understanding of the Torah's foremost commentary. It

has been the most popular choice for teachers and students, who benefit from its translation of Rashi.

As we know, thanks to Hashem's kindness, the world of Torah has grown. There are more people studying Torah today than ever before, and their level of knowledge and sophistication is higher than ever. They want more. They wish to dig deeper, understanding not just what Rashi says, but the underlying concepts, along with deeper looks into Rashi's thought process and those places where the commentators approached the matter differently than Rashi. What motivated Rashi with his specific remarks? What counterargument does the Ramban put forth? How does the wording in the Torah indicate Rashi's intended in-

terpretation? To which passage in the Targum does Rashi allude?

Those who delve into the teachings of Rashi inevitably encounter inquiries of this nature. Beneath the deceptively straightforward exterior of Rashi's commentary lies a depth that has captivated the intellects of esteemed talmidei chachamim for more than eight centuries.

Enter the Schottenstein Edition Elucidated Rashi on Chumash.

There are more people studying Torah today than ever before, and their level of knowledge and sophistication is higher than ever.

> This groundbreaking new series presents Rashi's wisdom with unparalleled depth and clarity. Skillfullyadded explanatory words ensure the seamless flow of Rashi's commentary, clarifying his points and connecting them with the text of the Chumash. Comprehensive notes offer additional insights into Rashi's ideas and provide questions and clarifications from other renowned commentators.

> "The Elucidated Rashi on Chumash is unlike anything published before in any language, Hebrew, English, or otherwise," says Rabbi Gedaliah Zlotowitz, president of the Mesorah Heritage Foundation. "Calling it 'revolutionary' is not an overstatement. No work on Rashi has ever been produced on this level."

As mentioned, there are hundreds

of commentaries on Rashi. "The Elucidated Rashi culls from them all," says Rabbi Eliezer Herzka, General Editor of the project, "distilling them into a clear, comprehensive approach to Rashi. The work is designed to give a broad and in-depth presentation of Rashi, clear enough for even the young student to understand, yet thorough enough for even the talmid chacham to appreciate."

All seekers of deeper Torah understanding will undoubtedly embrace the Elucidated Rashi on Chumash, a reservoir of scholarly achievement.

> The Elucidated Rashi on the Chumash, to be completed in 10 volumes — two on each book of the Torah — is set to illuminate minds far and wide, bestowing incomparable insight into Rashi's teachings on the Chumash in what is being hailed as

the most impressive contemporary treatment of Rashi's commentary on Chumash. Released thus far, as of this writing, is the first volume, on Parashiyos Bereishis through Toldos.

"I am grateful to my dear friends, Jay and Jeanie Schottenstein and to their children, Joey and Lindsay, Jonathan and Nicole, and Jeffrey and Ariella for once again embracing a project that will elevate Torah learning," says Rabbi Zlotowitz. "They are visionaries who have opened up Torah learning to Jews throughout the world. Am Yisrael is forever indebted to them. I am also grateful to the Wolf, Dessler, and Ginzberg families for generously naming the sefarim in memory of Mr. Hirsch Wolf z"l, an original board member of the Mesorah Heritage Foundation and a close friend of my father zt"l."

RASHI Rebbi of Klal Yisrael

Chazal tell us, "When a [deceased] Torah scholar's words are repeated in this world, his lips move in the grave [as if he were still alivel (Yevamos 97a)."

Using this standard as the criterion for "aliveness," Rashi is possibly the most "alive" Torah scholar today. Virtually every student of Torah, from the child in elementary school to the greatest Torah sage, no matter what

area of Torah he studies. refers to Rashi. It is for good reason that Rashi in Hebrew, רש"י, is seen as an acronym of "Rabban Shel Yisrael, Rabbi of Israel."

Born in 4800 (1040 C.E.) in Troyes, France, Rashi hailed from a lineage of esteemed Torah scholars.

His mother was the sister of Ray Shimon HaZaken ("the elder"), a disciple Rabbeinu Gershom, as attested to by Rashi in his comments to Shabbos 85b. His father, Rav

Yitzchak, was also a Torah scholar. Rashi quotes him in his comments to Avodah Zarah 75a. Rav Yitzchak was descended from the Tanna Ray Yochanan HaSandlar, who was himself a descendant of King David.

Rashi left Troyes to study in the yeshivos of the students of Rabbeinu Gershom. He first went to Mainz, where he studied under his principal teacher, Ray Yaakov ben Ray Yakar, of whom Rashi writes, "My heart, my logic, my understanding, came from him." Ray Yaakov was noted for his humility, a trait emulated by his foremost disciple.

After Rav Yaakov's death in 1064, Rashi moved on to the yeshivah of Rav Yitzchak ben Elazar HaLevi in Worms. He studied there amidst poverty even after his marriage.

Despite his greatness, Rashi never sought to hold rabbinic positions. Some stories suggest that he earned a livelihood as a wine merchant, yet his influence and standing in the To-

The Rashi Shul in Worms

rah world were unparalleled. After his return to Troves, he founded a yeshivah that attracted students from near and far, including France and Germany. His daughter, Yocheved, married Rav Meir ben Shmuel. They were the parents of the best-known of Rashi's grandsons, Rav Shmuel ben Rav Meir (Rashbam), Rav Yaakov (Rabbeinu Tam), and Rav Yitzchak ben R' Meir (Rivam).

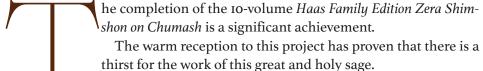
Rashi's commentaries have become an integral part of Jewish education. From early childhood, Jewish children learn to appreciate Scripture through the lens of the Oral Tradition. As they grow older, they come to cherish the depth and precision of Rashi's words, discovering new layers of meaning. For students of Talmud, Rashi's commentary is an indispensable tool, without which the Talmud would be an enigmatic puzzle. Using identical language, both Rav Yitzchak bar Sheshes (Rivash) and Rav Betzalel Ashkenazi (author of Shitah Me-

> kubetzes) said that without Rashi, the Talmud would be "like a sealed book."

> On 29 Tammuz 4865 (1105 C.E.), Rashi's physical presence left this world, but his impact continues to reverberate throughout the ages. awe-inspiring works will forever ensure that his legacy lives on, shaping the minds and hearts of Torah learners for generations to come. MHF

His aweinspiring works will forever ensure that his legacy lives on, shaping the minds and hearts of Torah learners for generations to come.

MONUMENTAL MILESTONE: 10-Volume Haas Family Edition Zera Shimshon Now Complete



In recent years, the *Zera Shimshon*'s teachings were rediscovered, and many have experienced the blessings the author promised to those who study his works (see sidebar on page 7). It has been a unique privilege, therefore, for the Mesorah Heritage Foundation to present his magnificent discourses on Chumash in English for the first time.

The Author of Zera Shimshon

Rav Shimshon Chaim Nachmani was one of the great rabbis in Italy at a time when the country was still a major center of Torah life. A native of Modena, he served as the rabbi of Modena, Pisa, Siena, and Reggio, where he died in 1779. Rav Chaim Yosef David Azulai, the *Chida*, lauded his "holiness, wisdom, and knowledge of *Kabbalah*."

Rav Shimshon Chaim's grandfather was Rav Yehudah Matzliach, one of the most esteemed Italian rabbis of his era. He was a student of Rav David Finzi, the father-in-law of Rav Moshe Chaim Luzzatto, the *Ramchal*. He was also a contemporary and friend of Rav Chaim *ibn* Attar, the *Or HaChaim HaKadosh*. His teacher of *Kabbalah* was Rav Binyamin HaKohen, and although *Zera Shimshon* is not a Kabbalistic work, the author's greatness in this area is evident in many parts of the *sefer*.

Rav Shimshon Chaim suffered a personal loss that affected him greatly and

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His personal tragedy was the impetus for the profound creativity that is still enriching the Jewish world.

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO ALL THE DEDICATORS OF THE SERIES AND THE SEFARIM:

SERIES DEDICATED BY Yitzchok Menachem and Gitty Haas

Seidenfeld Family Edition of Sefer Bereishis Dedicated by DR. ALLAN AND SUSIE SEIDENFELD

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BARUCH AND SARAH MUEHLGAY ELISHEVA (BELLA)

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in honor of our parents and grandparents YAAKOV AND ILANA MELOHN

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Bamidbar **GUTMAN FAMILY** Nasso THE BERGER FAMILY | AVI NEWMAN

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Balak EZRA AND AMY KLEIN

SHMUELI AND LEA SHERMAN

Pinchas YITZHAK AND PAULA NAGAR | BENNY AND RIKKI PERL

| YITZY AND BATYA BERGER | JACK AND GINA ABOUTBOUL | ELLY AND SURI HERSKOWITZ

ASSAF AND JACLYN SARIG משה פייש בן שמואל נטע הלוי

הערשקאוויטש Mattos MOTTY AND HADASA MENDELSOHN

Masei MENACHEM AND BINAH BRAUNSTEIN

Devarim MRS. CHAVA ARANOFF

Va'eschanan- Vezos HaBerachah JUDITH LOWINGER, LEVI AND NECHAMA LOWINGER

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influenced him to write his classic Zera Shimshon. He had only one son, who died at a young age. The titles of his works — Zera Shimshon and Toldos Shimshon — reflect his desire to leave a legacy of writing and teaching in place of his lost son. Thus, his personal tragedy was the impetus for the profound creativity that is still enriching the Jewish world. In a real sense, his sefarim are his children, and they have remained alive through the centuries.

In an unusual request, Rav Shimshon Chaim asked that people study his sefarim, promising that those who do so will enjoy great and abundant blessings. Indeed, Zera Shimshon has experienced a resurgence in popularity in recent years. The brilliance of his writings is awe-inspiring, and countless people report that they have enjoyed unexpected — indeed, miraculous — blessings as a result of studying this work.

The Haas Family Edition of Zera Shimshon has introduced many people to this great commentator and his unique manner of Scriptural analysis and interpretation. The author possessed an extraordinary mastery of Talmudic, Midrashic, and Kabbalistic sources, and also a vast knowledge of the commentaries that preceded him.

Zera Shimshon typically begins his derushim by posing a series of fundamental questions concerning a pasuk. Frequently, these questions will leave the reader wondering why he hadn't considered them before. Then, as he explains the text, the Zera Shimshon leads us through a tapestry of diverse sources and ideas, skillfully blending the approaches of pshat, derush, remez, and sod.

The result offers the readers profound insights into the plain and hidden meaning of the Torah's words. Although the derushim of the Zera Shimshon are often complex, thanks to this elucidation the reader will emerge from their study with a gratifying reward — a newfound dimension in their understanding of Chumash.

The Haas Family Edition: An Evolving Partnership

Approximately twelve years ago, Yitzchok Haas approached Rabbi Meir Zlotowitz zt"l, wishing to become involved in the work of the Mesorah Heritage Foundation.

"I was learning and benefitting from the sefarim and books published by the Foundation and wanted to give back," says Yitzchok.

Yitzchok and his wife, Gitty, began by becoming associate benefactors of Sefer HaChinuch/Book of Mitzvos and Talmud Yerushalmi. They started "small," expanding their involvement as time passed until they ultimately undertook the sponsorship of the Zera Shimshon project.

Their dedication of Zera Shimshon was spurred by the enthusiasm Yitzchok witnessed among people studying this classic Torah commentary.

"I saw the excitement and the anticipation in every shul I visited," says Yitzchok, a resident of Brooklyn, NY.

Yitzchok observed the popularity of Nachman Seltzer's books on the Zera Shimshon, combining select pieces from the sefer with stories, and he felt that a full elucidated treatment of the Sefer Zera Shimshon was the natural next step.

"Obviously, the Mesorah Heritage Foundation's work is unparalleled," says Yitzchok. "I knew that the only ones who could cover the sefer in depth would be the scholars of the Foundation, and the completion of this set demonstrates that this is indeed the case."

"I am indebted to the Mesorah Heritage Foundation for enhancing the quality of my limud haTorah immensely," says Yitzchok. "I see among my children how their limud haTorah is enabled by the continued on page 8

FROM THE ZERA SHIMSHON'S INTRODUCTION

מְחַלֶּה פְּנֵיהֶם בְּעֶשֶׂר לְשוֹנוֹת שֶׁל תִּפִּלָּה, לִבְרוֹר 🕽 הַמַּנָה הַיַּפָה אֱשֵׁר יִיטַב בְּעֵינֵיהֶם בְּחִידּוּשִׁים הַלָּלוּ, וּבַפָּרֵט אַחֵרֵי מוֹתִי כִּי לִימוּדַם יָהַיָה לִי לְהַשִּׁיב נָפַשׁ וּלְעִידוּן רוּחַ וְלִזְכוּת נִשְׁמַתִי, וּצְדַקָה תַהְיֵה לַהֵם וְצְדַקְתַם תַּעֵמוֹד לַעַד, לֵאֵכוֹל בָּעוֹלָם הַזֶּה וְלִשְׂבּוֹעַ בָּעוֹלָם הַבָּא, וּבַעַל הַגִּמוּל יִשַּׁלֶם בִּזְכוּת זָה שַּׁכַר טוֹב לְגוֹמְלֵי חֱסֶד שֵׁל אַמֶת, בְּמוֹתֵב תַּלָתַא בַּנֵי חַיֵּי וּמְזוֹנֵי טַבֵי, דְבִזְכוּתַא תַּלוּ... בַּמְטוּתַא בַּעִינַא מִינַיִיכוּ, זָרָעוּ לַכֶם לִצְדַקָה וְקַצְרוּ לְפִי חֶסֶד שֵׁל אֱמֶת, וְכִי מִרָבָּה מְדַּת תַּשְׁלוּמֵי חֶן וַחֱסֶד וּשְׁלַמָא רַבָּא מַן שַמַיַּא, וְעֵינֵיכֶם תַּרְאֵינַה בַּנִים בַּנֵי בַּנִים כְּשָׁתַלֵי זַיתִים סַבִּיב לְשַלְחַנָכֶם חַכַמִים וּנָבנִים, וּבַתִּים מַלֵאִים כַּל טוב, גַם עוֹשֵר גַם כַּבוֹד לֹא יַסוֹפוֹ מְזַרְעֵכֶם, עַד יִתְקַיֵּים בָּכֶם הֵמָּה יִרְאוּ כָבוֹד ה' הַדַר אֱלֹהֵינוּ, וְנַשַּׂא נֵס לַגּוֹיִם, וָאַסַף נִדְחֵי זָרַע יִשְּׂרָאֵל, בִּמְהֵרָה בִיַמֵינוּ אַמֵן.

implore [my friends] with ten expressions of supplication to choose [to study] those portions of these novel concepts [in Zera Shimshon] that find favor in their eyes. Even more so, [learn them] after my death, since their study will serve to restore my essence and soothe my spirit, and will be meritorious for my soul. [This study] will be an act of righteousness for them, and that righteousness shall remain with them forever; a benefit in this world and full satisfaction in the World to Come. The One Who Rewards shall pay good reward to those who do the ultimate kindness [of studying this work], in all three realms: children, life, and abundant sustenance, which are dependent upon [a person's] merits...

Please, I beg you, plant this...and reap [reward] in accordance with the ultimate kindness. The measure of reward is plentiful, and so too is peace from Heaven, for those who do kindness graciously. Your eyes shall see wise and intelligent children and grandchildren like olive shoots around your table. Your homes will be full of all the good. Neither wealth nor honor will cease from your descendants, until it will come to the fulfillment of, "They will see the glory of Hashem, the majesty of our God" (Yeshayah 35:2) and "He will raise a banner for the nations and assemble all the castaway children of Israel" (ibid. 11:12), speedily in our days, Amen.

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volumes of the Foundation, and this is just a microcosm of what is going on globally and how the Foundation is impacting Jews across the world."

"Since the release of the Foundation's Zera Shimshon, I have discovered a proliferation of *shiurim* on this very *sefer*, a testament to the impact that this edition is having," says Yitzchok. "There's no greater nachas ruach (spiritual satisfaction) than seeing how many people have an opportunity to connect to the beautiful Torah of the Zera Shimshon.

And," he adds, "there's no doubt that as these people experience an uplift on a ruchniqus level, there's a compounding effect, and they yearn for more and more learning and growth in general. There's nothing more satisfying."

"I am particularly grateful to the visionary sponsors who dedicated sefarim and volumes," says Yitzchok, "There are many opportunities, at varying levels, to get involved in the work of the Foundation, and I encourage others to do so." MHF

Gala Siyum Marks Completion of Haas Family Edition Zera Shimshon

On Wednesday, August 23, a siyum celebration was held at ArtScroll/Mesorah's headquarters in Rahway, NJ, to mark the completion of the monumental 10-volume Haas Family Edition Sefer Zera Shimshon on Chumash.

The event was especially meaningful, as it was held on 6 Elul, the yahrzeit of the author of Zera Shimshon, Rav Shimshon Chaim Nachmani zt"l.

Elegantly catered by Michael Schick, the siyum was attended by many of the dedicators of the Zera Shimshon volumes and the scholars who painstakingly devoted themselves for years to this enormous undertaking.



Rabbi Gedaliah Zlotowitz with Yitzchok Haas



Rabbi Sheah Brander, Rabbi Nosson Scherman, Dr. Allan Seidenfeld, Rabbi Ari Seidenfeld, Chanoch Weisz



Yitzy Berger, Moshe Haas, Zevi Kohn, Yitzchok Haas, Rabbi Yitzchok Hisiger







Rabbi Shmuel Kirzner, General Editor of th Sefer Zera Shimshon project



Yitzchok Haas addressina the aatherina







Julian's Journey with Mishnah Yomi

Imagine growing up in a city that has no yeshivah, and no opportunities for learning Torah.

Envision being raised in a spiritual desert, wanting to study our precious heritage, but having no prospects locally to do so.

No, this is not some fable from centuries ago, but a real story from today about an extraordinary youngster in a quiet corner of the United Kingdom who hasn't allowed these impediments to prevent his growth in Torah and Judaism.

Julian is a young boy who has embarked on a

journey that is changing his life. At just eleven years old, Julian stumbled upon the world of Mishnah Yomi, igniting a passion for learning that would weave its way into the fabric of his very being.

It all began with a single *masechta*, *Shekalim*, a mesmerizing introduction to the timeless wisdom contained within the pages of the Mishnah.

Mesorah Heritage Foundation's widespread advertising for Mishnah Yomi and the offer of free Mishnayos — distributed thanks to the generous sponsorship of Ki Heim Chayeinu, the Malek family, and the Kohn family — led Julian to discover AllMishnah, the Orthodox Union's fantastic Mishnah app.

Julian chanced upon Rabbi Ezra Sarna's Mishnayos *shiur* on AllMishnah and his curiosity was piqued. He sought answers to questions he had on the Mishnayos he was learning and, seeing Rabbi Sarna's email address posted at the end of each *shiur*, he began reaching out to the *maggid shiur* for clarification. Thus began a relationship

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between the two that flourishes until today.

Julian shares that upon studying Tractate *Sukkah*, he was intrigued. "It forces you to think logically," he told Rabbi Sarna in an interview for AllMishnah. "Would this *sukkah* be considered kosher? [You learn the case of] half of your body in the *sukkah* and half out, and you hear the arguments between Beis Hillel and Beis Shamai — and it's really interesting!"

For Julian, who lives in a town with no Jewish schools, learning *Mishnayos* with the Schottenstein Elucidated Mishnah and AllMishnah became his connection to his heritage. The Schottenstein Elucidated Mishnah has proven to be an indispensable tool on this journey, with its user-friendly layout and insightful notes guiding him through the rich tapestry of Mishnaic knowledge.

"Just learn it. There's no age too young, there's no age too old."

To other kids who might find Mishnah study daunting, Julian serves as a beacon of encouragement. He recalls his initial hesitation, thinking that it would be a formidable challenge spanning over five-and-a-half years, the length of the Mishnah Yomi cycle. However, once he took the leap, he found it to be an enriching and gratifying experience — one that he encourages other youngsters to embrace as well. With each passing day, Julian realized that he was growing and learning, building a connection to his heritage.

"I thought: *This is going to be so hard*, but then I tried, and it's really easy and a really good routine to get into. You always feel like you learned something. Just do it every day..."

The impact of Julian's Mishnah study has extended far beyond the learning itself. It has seeped into his daily life, transforming him as a Jew. Before, Shabbos observance was a struggle, but now, armed with the knowledge and understanding he has gained, he has embraced Shabbos observance fully. Julian also found the courage to begin attending the *shul* at the center of his town, feeling like an integral part of the larger Jewish community.

Looking ahead to completing the entire cycle of Mishnah, Julian's dreams are simple yet profound — to start again. He marvels at how each time one studies a portion of Torah, it is different and unique, unveiling new insights and wisdom that might have escaped one's notice before.

"Because it's always different," he says, "I can go over it a

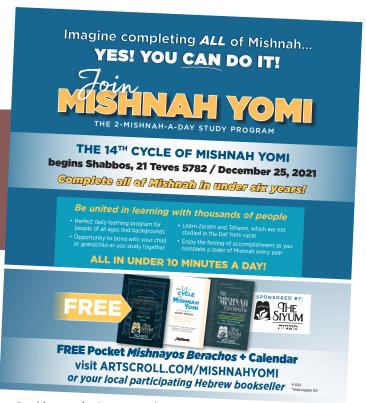
million times and learn something new each time."

When he's a bit older, he'll start learning Gemara, he says, "but I won't give up Mishnah, because it's really connected to every bit of everything Jewish."

Julian sees the Mishnah as the "soul" of Judaism, a sentiment reflected in the fact that the letters of Mishnah (משנה) spell "neshamah (נשמה)."

"The Torah is the heart...and the Mishnah is the soul," he explains. "They are the two parts given at Har Sinai."

His message to all, young and old, is to embrace Mish-



One of the many advertisements promoting the study of Mishnah Yomi

nah study. Though some may wonder about its relevance today, Julian knows that the wisdom found within these texts is timeless and foundational.

With passion and conviction, he shares his belief that Mishnah study is a force propelling him toward a greater understanding of himself, his faith, and his place in the world.

"Just learn it," he says. "There's no age too young, there's no age too old. You think it's going to be a big thing that you're carrying around on your shoulders and hauling around with you. But no, it's hauling *you* around. It builds a routine, it helps you learn so much, and it encourages you to learn more."

In Julian's story we find inspiration and wisdom, a testament to the power of learning and embracing our heritage. Many who hear of Julian's commitment are inspired to embark on their own journey of discovery, guiding them toward greater purpose and connection.



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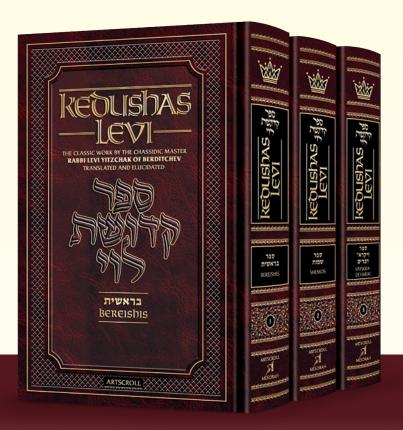
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KEDUSHAS LEVI:

Bringing a Chassidic Classic to the English-Speaking Public

AN INTERVIEW WITH PROJECT EDITOR MOYSHE SILK

oyshe Silk, an American attorney, writer, and former government official, is quite an accomplished individual. Much of the world knows him as Mitchell Silk, a brilliant legal mind, an authority on Chinese law and infrastructure finance, and the only Chassidic Jew ever confirmed by the Senate to one of the highest positions in the U.S. Department of the Treasury, and, for that matter, the U.S. Government.

We are privileged to know him as Reb Moyshe, a talmid chacham of note, a gifted writer, and a talented teacher of Torah.

Despite the many accolades he's received, perhaps Reb Moyshe's most notable accomplishment to date is his translation and elucidation of Kedushas Levi, one of the greatest Chassidic classics on the Torah, written by Rav Levi Yitzchak of Berditchev. Kedushas Levi has been treasured and studied for more than two centuries, and now, Reb Moyshe's magnificent edition, published by the Mesorah Heritage Foundation in three volumes, brings Kedushas Levi to English readers in all its grandeur. We spoke to Reb Moyshe to gain his insight into the effort he invested in producing this work.

This is a monumental achievement. What are your initial thoughts upon finally reaching this milestone?

Hodu laShem ki tov – mir halt shoyn da! (Thank G-d, we're holding here!) But the truth is that I can't believe that we are actually here after over 30 years of work! As I begin to process the reality that we are in print, I cannot find the words to express my honor and thanks for the enormous privilege for us to publish this groundbreaking work, a timeless gem among the cherished Chassidic classics. It is all the more honor that Mesorah, the pre-eminent publisher of Judaica for English speakers in the world, is introducing this work to the market.

Rav Levi Yitzchak of Berditchev was renowned for his unwavering defense of the Jewish people. Indeed, countless tales provide testament to his relentless efforts to reveal the innate goodness within our nation, punctuated by his heartfelt prayers on Klal Yisrael's behalf.

But that was only one aspect of his greatness. Rav Levi Yitzchak was an exceptional Torah scholar, a revered rav of several communities, and one of the most respected leaders in the early years of the Chassidic movement. He was a close disciple of the Maggid of Mezritch, the successor of the Baal Shem Tov, under whose nurturing guidance the seeds of the Chassidic movement sprouted and flourished throughout Eastern Europe.

Give us a flavor of the Kedushas Levi and why it has been so popular for centuries.

The Kedushas Levi is a work that transcends its Chassidic roots. Without question, it is one of the most profound Torah commentaries of our recent history. And its impact and contribution to learning emanate from the sefer's single focus of the individual. Its messages and lessons are hopeful, heartening, and uplifting, and they seek to motivate the reader toward greater and more devoted service of Hashem.

At the same time, studying the Kedushas *Levi* in the original Hebrew requires a healthy degree of Talmudic and Midrashic knowledge, as well as basic Chassidic thought. I expect that many ambitious scholars have worked hard to unlock its mysteries, only to find themselves humbled by the depth of the sefer, knowing full well that they have only scratched at the surface. The humbling truth is that the Kedushas Levi holds treasures, and even secrets, that could easily elude complete comprehension, even for those well-versed in scholarship.



The humbling truth is that the Kedushas Levi holds treasures, and even secrets, that could easily elude complete comprehension

Translating such a classic work would then seem to be quite a daunting task!

Indeed. Translating a work like Kedushas Levi poses many challenges. Rav Levi Yitzchak did not write down his teachings himself. They were transcribed, usually from memory after they were delivered publicly, by different listeners, translating as they wrote from Yiddish to classical Hebrew. Although it is likely that this process was overseen by Rav Levi Yitzchak himself, it does not appear that he devoted careful attention to polishing the transcriptions stylistically, as long as the message was accurate and generally clear.

This being the case, in translating and interpreting the text of the Kedushas Levi, we had to contend with many unpredictable deviations from standard classic Hebrew grammar and

continued on page 14

The result, we hope, will come to be recognized as the definitive treatment of this extraordinary classic.

continued from page 13

syntax, repetitive thoughts, and even inconsistencies in vocabulary. Furthermore, at least some — perhaps the majority — of these teachings were aimed at audiences with a certain degree of familiarity with the

classic sources on which they are based. They are therefore written in a somewhat cryptic style, which required the translation team to do quite a bit of unpacking in order to present an accessible and clear translation for the modern reader.

The final product is visually appealing and reads beautifully. How did you accomplish that despite the various challenges you just shared?

We decided to keep translation of the actual text in bold type and distinguish interpolated commentary and explanatory material in regular type. Rabbi Sheah Brander worked painstakingly to develop the exact fonts that were both distinct and easy on the eye to facilitate easy and smooth reading. He produced quite the aesthetic masterpiece, which only enhances the translation. In addition, we sometimes felt it necessary to interject explanatory material between the lines. These were added as paragraphs inserted

between the paragraphs of the text, in a smaller typeface, rather than as footnotes. The footnotes have been almost exclusively reserved for citing sources and cross-references.

We hope and pray that our hard work will pay off, and that the translation itself, the introductory materials providing a biography of Rav Levi Yitzchak and explaining basic concepts presented in the sefer, along with extensive notes providing sources and elucidating the text, will, G-d willing, open the doors to the riches of the Kedushas Levi.

You mentioned that the sefer is visually appealing. For that, I must express my heartfelt gratitude to the afore-

> mentioned Rabbi Brander, a legend in his field, the master of his craft, and a talmid chacham with a deep-rooted understanding of Chassidic thought. He and his editorial and technical staff members produced a stunning work. The result, we hope, will come to be recognized as the definitive treatment of this extraordinary classic.



The building housing the kever of Rav Levi Yitzchak of Berditchev, as it is seen today.



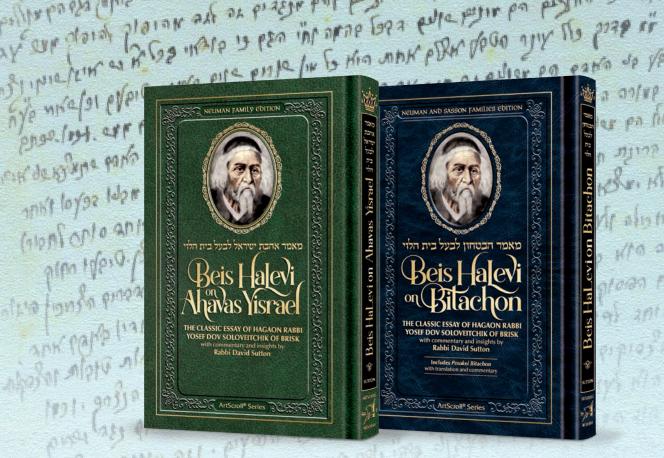
The title page of Kedushas Levi on Sefer Bereishis printed in Lemberg in the 1860s

The final product is an impressive, three-volume set.

We knew that with the required elucidation, this would be a multi-volume work. The material contained in our translation represents approximately two-thirds of the printed editions of the Kedushas Levi on the Chumash. We also included fascinating sections of the Kedushas Levi on the holidays of the year interspersed where the holidays usually occur vis-à-vis the yearly cycle of reading the Torah.

There is still more material from the Kedushas Levi yet to be translated, including Likkutim ["Collected

Teachings"], Pirushei Aggados ["Explanations on Homiletic Passages of the Talmud"], Kedushos Purim ["Essays on the Holiness of Purim"], Kedushos Chanukah ["Essays on the Holiness of Chanukah"], Pirkei Avos ["Teachings on Tractate Avos"], and more. Perhaps we will get to those at some point, but for now, I thank Hashem for the zechus of enabling this new set to reach the public and pray that people will be uplifted and inspired by its timeless messages.



The Beis HaLevi's Classics

The Fascinating Saga of the Beis HaLevi's Essays, Now Being Brought to Light by the Mesorah Heritage Foundation

Mesorah Heritage Foundation's edition of Beis HaLevi on Bitachon has transformed the lives of thousands of people across the globe, finding a home in Jewish communities far and wide.

In a world that often seems tumultuous and uncertain, the timeless wisdom of the Beis HaLevi on Bitachon offers an anchor of faith and trust in the Divine.

The founder of the Brisker dynasty, Rav Yosef Dov Soloveitchik, was the rosh yeshivah of the Yeshivas Volozhin and the author of timeless classics: Shailos Uteshuvos Beis HaLevi and Beis HaLevi Al HaTorah. Also among his works are various essays, including one on the topic of bitachon, re-



The Beis HaLevi and his son, Ray Chaim Soloveitchik

liance on Hashem. This manuscript remained concealed for almost a century, until his great-grandchildren shared it with the world.

Sponsored by Mutchy and Zeesy Neuman and N. Sam and Samantha Sasson, the Mesorah Heritage Foundation's edition of Beis HaLevi on Bitachon features the entire original text alongside an elucidated translation and a comprehensive commentary, authored by Rabbi David Sutton. Throughout the volume, insights infuse bitachon with a contemporary context, while in-depth discussions in the appendix section delve into the fundamental aspects of faith.

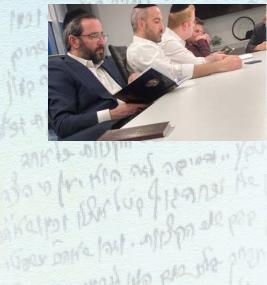
Beis HaLevi on Bitachon proves to be a beacon of clarity, providing profound answers to life's most intricate questions. It guides us to find the delicate balance between hishtadlus, human effort, and bitachon, unwavering trust. It illuminates the path of response amidst the darkest trials and tribulations. It teaches that fear holds no dominion in the life of a Jew and

continued on page 16









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reveals the manifold blessings that embrace those who possess bitachon.

Since its release, this edition of Beis HaLevi on Bitachon has caused a tidal wave of transformation in the Jewish world. It has resonated with all people, transcending age, background, and level of Torah knowledge, touching thousands from all walks of life.

In the hallowed halls of yeshivos, yeshivah bachurim are studying the timeless words of the Beis HaLevi. In bustling offices, employees have embraced the transformative power of the Beis HaLevi's wisdom.

The Toraso B'Umnaso corporate learning initiative has disseminated copies of the volume to over 90 offices, encouraging employees to undertake its daily study. Amidst the hum of keyboards and the flurry of meetings, the profound teachings of the Beis HaLevi echo, infusing workplaces with an atmosphere of spiritual meaning and bitachon.

The TEA (The Emunah Aware-

ness) organization arranged for numerous groups of women to gather regularly to study Beis HaLevi on Bitachon, the teachings of the Beis Ha-Levi becoming a guiding light in their lives, inspiring them to navigate the challenges of the world with renewed strength and faith.

"When our shul undertook a daily mussar shiur in the middle of the workday, we chose Beis HaLevi on Bitachon," says David Stern of Brooklyn. "We found that it is broken down into easily digestible pieces that make it easy to learn, with beautiful stories and insights for each lesson, presented in a way that makes it all relevant to today."

"We learned, most of all, that hishtadlus is not what produces results, but is a requirement to do," says one of the shiur attendees. "We indeed see how hishtadlus comes from one direction and parnassah from another. This sefer helps us internalize these types of concepts."

"Indeed, Beis HaLevi on Bitachon speaks to every neshamah with a timeless message that resonates with authenticity," says the dedicator, Mutchy Neuman. "In a world yearning for genuineness and a connection to the eternal truths of faith, this work emerges as a beacon of light. Its teachings are as relevant today as they were when the Bais Halevi first penned them."

The impact of this volume cannot be overstated. It has touched hearts young and old, from seasoned talmidei chachamim to laymen.

Testimonies abound, with people attesting to the profound transformation they experienced through the study of Beis HaLevi on Bitachon. This sefer provides the chizuk, strength, and inspiration that people need to navigate the challenges of life, a roadmap to finding solace amidst the trials of day-to-day living.

"Learn this sefer and it will change your life," is the sentiment expressed time and time again.

The Hidden Manuscripts

The history behind the Beis HaLevi's essays is nothing short of fascinating.

For unknown reasons, the Beis HaLevi's essay on bitachon was not published during his lifetime. The manuscript accompanied his descendants on a long, winding journey until it was released for publication in 1985, almost 100 years after the passing of its author. That alone is intriguing. But there's more.

The story of this treasured manuscript begins with the Beis HaLevi's youngest son, Rav Simcha, who was born in Warsaw in 5639 (1879); he was just 13 years old when his father passed away. He learned with his father until the Beis HaLevi's passing, and then he learned with his brother, Rav Chaim. Ray Chaim said that by the time Rav Simcha was 20 years old, he was an expert in both Talmud Bavli and Talmud Yerushalmi — and we know how careful Ray Chaim was with his words.

In 5671 (1911), Rav Simcha was appointed rav of the town of Mohilov, a position once held by the Malbim. He set up a yeshivah, and many outstanding illuyim (geniuses) went to learn from him. When the Chofetz Chaim went to solicit Rav Chaim's approbation to his sefer, Rav Chaim first had the Chofetz Chaim discuss halachic matters with Rav Simcha.

Though Rav Simcha had a very soft and humble demeanor, he battled valiantly against any breaches in matters of religion, and intervened with the government when necessary, such as the successful effort to exempt yeshivah students from conscription into the army.

Ultimately, Rav Simcha decided that it was time to leave Russia. The Russians were very antagonistic and made it difficult for Jews to leave, especially with their possessions. After all, they were supposed to be enamored of their beloved Mother Russia.

When Rav Simcha endeavored to leave the country, one of the high-ranking officers overheard the name Soloveitchik and asked if Rav Simcha was related to Rav Chaim Soloveitchik, Rav Simcha answered that, in fact, Rav Chaim was his

But how did this Russian officer know of Rav Chaim?

Rav Chaim, whose home was famously a public thoroughfare where people visited and often stayed for lengthy periods, used to take in homeless children. This officer was one of those children, and he had grown up to become a Communist. Out of respect and gratitude to Rav Chaim for hosting him in his youth, the Russian officer allowed Rav Simcha and his family

Before the Russians would allow anyone

to leave the country, however, they examined Jewish belongings carefully, looking for valuable items hidden in their baggage. The would Russians use spears to stab through a pile of belongings, searching for these "hidden treasures." (The Soloveitchik family still has in their possession a copy of the Sefer Yerei'im with a hole created by one of those spears.)

"I will no leave these Ho PALA shores unless I have my has and father's and and manuscripts Where are they?

As the Russians were "inspecting" their possessions, Rav Simcha told the officials that all they had were books.

"What kind of books?" the Russian officers asked.

Ray Simcha responded that the books "are powerful writings about Orthodox Iewry."

He further explained that if the books were left in Russia, they would create more Orthodox Jews, impacting the people who would read them, so continued on page 18 the Russians would be better off letting the books out of the country.

This argument seemed to resonate with the Russian officers, who agreed, instructing Rav Simcha to take the books out of the country, so as not to let any of these types of writings remaining in Mother Russia.

One of those writings was the manuscript

לים חציא ימרי אחוב בלככב מוכח תוכיח אר אחוב כו ומנחם בגושו בפולו מהדוש . פקובו בא לאונחש להרוא בחוש לאחבו ליו ספושו סבי ברחום בצון בלא ותצוצ חותו. בהו בוופה בחום פי את אפר ואהם וופוח . חרו באוח בפקופתה לבני ללא אומהקת חיבול ולא יציונותה חולה וינונר המנפחה לאם את הפה זכיון שהקיא א הפסלק פי את אפר העהם ולפים שלה שנ של בכל פון אול מספל מוצום אוני כיוון כן מון אונים בוול פלוול מולא ול של הוול בוול וואונים the authority of beauty pil back of is an are dy briller by to are as the lot were gordine take ash solute let is wer to atelow born & oathle was solute because Jun bard from the state of the April mand beard bear was a so gar see of the sold bear bid all to be bear of ार्यहरा दायर हिरार क्रमच व्यवस्त मार दामार रामा कर्डर त्या है विहेद वर्डिव नामा anger segendes are to the step weather by thind second reverse to the segment אונים בל כוא אואוש שם בווא במשוול מצונה לפל שונה נוחל בוונה בוונה בוונה בוונה בלום Card after a fer far in more porty ser is a cliffe way by per ala fr is fa منظ مالمان دور ما المان معمل من من من من المان على المواجعة المن من من المن المنافعة المن المنافعة ال Used the the the bus up Susur tylou for bear to wall track be toge tide the total the אורים לא של ולי או יאו בשומים למשומ שוו הוא ביות הוא ביות ולי ולי או וען היות מושים ביות מושים או מושי INDEDUDATE HUSTALL HE WILL BE STANDED TO STANDED THE THE STANDED THE THE HUSTALL HE STANDED THE THE HUSTALL HE STANDED THE THE STANDED THE

An original manuscript written by the Beis HaLevi.

of Beis HaLevi on Bitachon, and that is how it was spirited out of Russia. The other writings included the Beis HaLevi's essay on ahavas Yisrael, love of one's fellow Jew, and his Maamar HaGaavah V'ha'anavah, an essay on arrogance and humility.

The family was planning to take a ship to America, with a stop in England first. Before they embarked on the last leg of their journey, they realized that they were missing the valise with the Beis HaLevi's manuscripts.

Rav Simcha turned to his fifteen-year-old son, Rav Yosef Dov, and told him, "I will not leave these shores unless I have my father's manuscripts. Where are they?"

They both thought for a few moments and realized that they must have left the valise on the horse and buggy they had taken earlier.

Young Ray Yosef Dov went to the police station to inform the officials of their missing suitcase. The police told him to perhaps check their lost and found, stating that there was nothing else they could do, as over 2,000 horses and buggies drove throughout the city. Rav Yosef Dov asked if the drivers were licensed and whether the police had photos of them. The officers said that yes, they did. Rav Yosef Dov asked if he could look through the files of the licensed drivers to see if perhaps he'd recognize their driver.

Rav Yosef Dov searched through 2,000 licenses and recognized the driver who took them to the dock. He got the driver's home address and went to his house. The man's horse was still warm, as he had just gotten home. They checked the trunk of the buggy and found the missing valise!

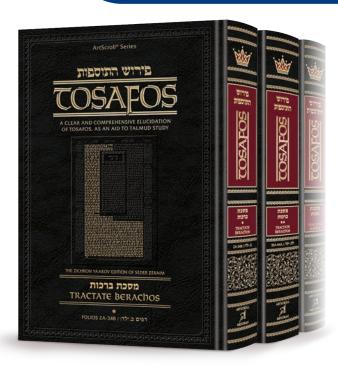
Thanks to this discovery, the Jewish people were blessed with the Beis HaLevi's essays on bitachon, ahavas Yisrael, and anavah.

Hashem showed that sometimes, things can almost be lost forever, but, when He wills it, He watches and guards over whatever He wishes to sustain.

Before Rav Simcha's passing, he entrusted the Beis HaLevi's manuscripts to his only son, Rav Yosef Dov. Rav Yosef Dov was rav of the Sons of Israel shul in Spring Valley and had a tremendous impact on the Spring Valley and Monsey Jewish communities. Rav Yosef Dov did not succeed in publishing the manuscripts and passed them along to his own children, Rav Yitzchak Soloveitchik of Yerushalayim and Rav Simcha Soloveitchik of Monsey. The manuscripts were stored in Monsey until the essay on bitachon was finally published as an appendix to the classic Beis HaLevi Al HaTorah in 1985.

Recently Completed and Ongoing Projects of the Mesorah Heritage Foundation

A number of monumental projects have recently been completed, and other equally impressive undertakings are presently in progress. Here's a look:



Tosafos

Zichron Yaakov Edition of Seder Zeraim Esformes Edition of Seder Moed

Sedarim and individual volumes dedicated by visionary sponsors

The "learning revolution" that began with the Schottenstein Edition Talmud continues with the Mesorah Heritage Foundation's Tosafos project. This extraordinary elucidation offers a path to understanding this vital yet difficult commentary. This phenomenal, groundbreaking work is changing Gemara learning for thousands of people. This wide-ranging project is one of our most monumental undertakings to date.

Now available: Tractates Berachos, Makkos, Succah (complete in 3 volumes), Megillah, Taanis, and Rosh Hashanah Volume 1 Coming soon: Rosh Hashanah Volume 2

Dedication opportunities available.

Schottenstein Edition Ein Yaakov

Dedicated by Jay and Jeanie Schottenstein and Family Sedarim and individual volumes dedicated by visionary sponsors

Aggados, which are the stories, the moral and ethical lessons, and the ideas of our faith and religion, comprise one-fifth of the Talmud. Five centuries ago, these fascinating narratives and teachings were collected in Ein Yaakov.

The Schottenstein Edition of Ein Yaakov is changing the way people study these vital portions of the Talmud, providing depth, richness, and thoroughness. In addition to its elucidation of the text and extensive notes, it includes insights that illuminate points in the text and bring out the many lessons and principles that are

relevant in our daily lives, drawn from a vast literature of various commentaries and Torah works.

Now available: Berachos, Shabbos, Eruvin/Pesachim, Yoma/Succah, Beitzah/Rosh Hashanah/Meqillah, Taanis/Shekalim, Moed Katan/Chaqiqah, Yevamos/Kesubos/Nedarim, Nazir/Sotah, Gittin/Kiddushin, Bava Kamma/Bava Metziah, and Bava Basra. Coming soon: Tractate Sanhedrin Volume 1

Dedication opportunities available.

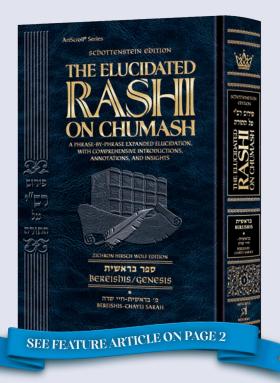
The Schottenstein Edition Elucidated Rashi on Chumash

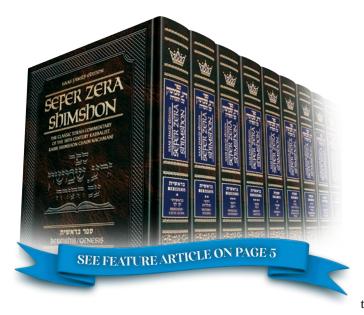
Dedicated by Jay and Jeanie Schottenstein and family Sefarim dedicated by the Wolf, Dessler, and Ginsberg families

The Elucidated Rashi on Chumash will be a ten-volume groundbreaking work containing a comprehensive and thorough presentation of Rashi's commentary on Chumash. The expanded elucidation is written in a contemporary and easy-to-understand style, while the notes focus on explaining "what's bothering Rashi" and how Rashi resolves his questions. A short introduction to each Rashi provides a preview of the topic to be discussed. Copious insights contain an in-depth analysis of Rashi's words, the underlying concepts he discusses, and, where applicable, disagreements between Rashi and other commentators. The newly-released innaugural volume, Bereishis Volume I, has been dedicated by Zevi and Chanie Kohn.

> In preparation: Bereishis Volume 2, dedicated by Ronnie and Dina Wilheim

Dedication opportunities available.





Haas Family Edition Sefer Zera Shimshon

Dedicated by Yitzchok Menachem and Gitty Haas

Sefarim and individual volumes dedicated by visionary sponsors

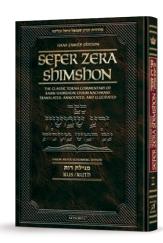
Rav Shimshon Chaim Nachmani, a renowned 18th-century Italian rav and talmid chacham, was the author of the Zera Shimshon commentary. In his famous introduction, he speaks about the loss of his only son, and promises great blessings

to those who will learn his commentary. People all over the globe have attested to the power of the "segulah" of the Zera Shimshon.

In the Haas Family Edition, the full text of this classic Torah commentary is translated, annotated, and elucidated, helping the reader follow the Zera Shimshon's often-complex ideas. Explanatory notes offer additional important background material. The set on *Chumash* is now complete in 10 volumes.

We have embarked on the elucidation of Zera Shimshon on the Five Megillos. Released thus far are the volumes of Megillas Esther, Megillas Rus, and Megillas Eichah.

In preparation: Megillas Koheles and Shir HaShirim



Ryzman Family Edition Hebrew Midrash Rabbah

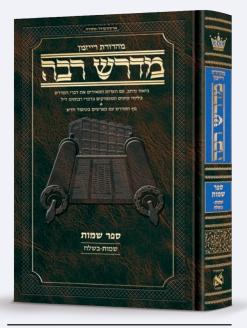
Dedicated by Zvi and Betty Ryzman

The Midrash delves into the words of the revealed Torah. It adds many missing details of the Torah's narrative, and it provides the ethical tradition that was passed down orally from generation to generation.

The Ryzman Edition Hebrew Midrash Rabbah will cover all of Midrash Rabbah, on the entire Chumash and the Five Megillos. It features the Hebrew text, newly typeset, along with a phrase-by-phrase translation and elucidation of the Midrash text, created by a team of Torah scholars for optimum understanding of the Midrash, along with explanatory footnotes to help clarify difficult passages and concepts, and a special insights section that amplifies or complements the elucidated text and notes. The edition is being released in a convenient 7x10" size.

The basis for this work is the English-language Kleinman Edition of the Midrash, highly acknowledged as one of the finest treatments of the Midrash in any language. Now available: Shemos Volumes I and 2 and Devarim complete in one volume

Coming soon: Bereishis Volume 4



Dedication opportunities available.



מהדורת זכרון אשר הרצוג Hebrew Edition of Targum Onkelos

Dedicated by Yaakov and Beatrice Herzog of Toronto

Targum Onkelos — the "translation" of the Chumash into Aramaic by Onkelos — is much more than a translation. In fact, it is so important that the Sages included it in the obligation to read the weekly Chumash portion "shnayim mikra v'echad Tarqum," the Torah text twice and Targum Onkelos once. Following the success of the Zichron Meir English edition, with the new Hebrew Edition of Targum Onkelos, those more comfortable in Hebrew will be able to gain a better understanding of the interpretation of Onkelos and enhance their understanding of Chumash. The definitive Aramaic interpretive translation of the Torah is elucidated and annotated in Hebrew, along with notes that explain and clarify those places where Onkelos appears to add his own phrase or where he deviates from the simple meaning of the verse, as well as footnotes that include background information and insights of other commentators.

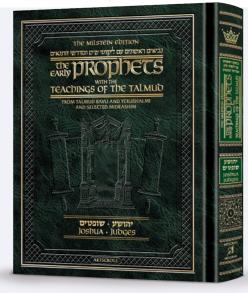
Now available: Sefer Devarim In preparation: Sefer Shemos

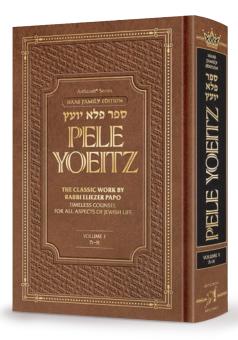
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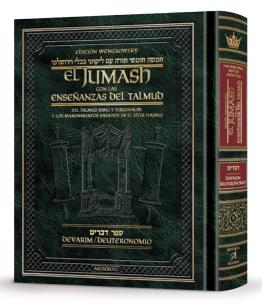
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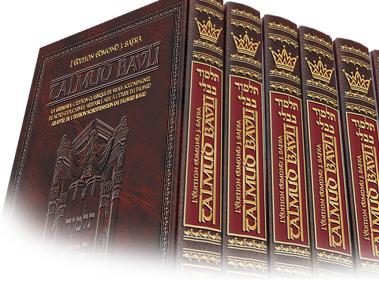
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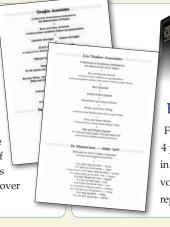
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