12.

Pinchas

Surfing Life's Waves

Lessons from the Moon Prayer



Dedicated in loving memory of Dr. Gary Toback אפרים גרשום בן ישראל ע"ה, marking his yahrtzeit on 14 Tammuz.

May the merit of the Torah study accompany his soul in the world of everlasting life and be a source of blessings to his family with much health, happiness, nachat, and success.

PARSHA OVERVIEW

Pinchas

Aaron's grandson Pinchas is rewarded for his act of zealotry in killing the Simeonite prince Zimri and the Midianite princess who was his paramour: G-d grants him a covenant of peace and the priesthood.

A census of the people counts 601,730 men between the ages of twenty and sixty. Moses is instructed on how the Land is to be divided by lottery among the tribes and families of Israel. The five daughters of Zelophehad petition Moses that they be granted the portion of the Land

belonging to their father, who died without sons; G-d accepts their claim and incorporates it into the Torah's laws of inheritance.

Moses empowers Joshua to succeed him and lead the people into the Land of Israel.

The *parsha* concludes with a detailed list of the daily offerings and the additional offerings brought on Shabbat; Rosh Chodesh (the first day of the month); and the festivals of Passover, Shavuot, and Sukkot.

I. PRAYING FOR THE MOON?

Rosh Chodesh

TEXT ${f 1}$

BAMIDBAR (NUMBERS) 28:11-15

וּבְרָאשֵׁי חָדְשֵׁיכֶם תַּקְרִיבוּ עֹלֶה לַה', פָּרִים בְּנֵי בָקָר שְׁנַיִם וְאַיִל אָחָה, כָּבַשִּׁים בִּנִי שַׁנַה שִׁבָעַה תִּמִימִם:

וּשְׁלשָׁה עֶשְׂרֹנִים סֹלֶת מִנְחָה בְּלוּלָה בַשֶּׁמֶן לַפֶּר הָאֶחָד, וּשְׁנֵי עַשִּׂרֹנִים סֹלֵת מִנְחָה בִּלּוּלָה בַשֵּמֵן לַאַיִל הַאֵחָד:

וְעשָׂרוֹן עִשָּׂרוֹן סֹלֶת מִנְחָה בְּלוּלָה בַשֶּׁמֶן לַכֶּבֶשׁ הָאֶחָד, עֹלָה רֵיחַ נִיחֹחַ אֲשָׁה לַה׳:

וְנִסְכֵּיהֶם, חֲצִי הַהִּין יִהְיֶה לַפָּר, וּשְׁלִישִׁת הַהִּין לָאַיִל, וּרְבִיעִת הַהִּין לַכֶּבֶשׁ יָיַן, זֹאת עֹלַת חֹדֵשׁ בִּחָדִשׁוֹ לְחָדִשֵׁי הַשָּׁנָה:

וּשִּׁעִיר עָזִים אֶחָד לְחַטָאת לַה', עַל עֹלַת הַתְּמִיד יֵעָשֶׂה וְנִסְכּוֹ:

And on the beginning of your months, you shall offer up a burnt offering to G-d: two young bulls, one ram, and seven lambs in the first year, [all] unblemished.

Three tenths of an *ephah* of fine flour as a meal offering, mixed with oil for each bull, and two tenths of an *ephah* of fine flour as a meal offering, mixed with oil for each ram.

And one tenth of an *ephah* of fine flour mixed with oil as a meal offering for each lamb. A burnt offering with a spirit of satisfaction, a fire offering to the L-rd.

And their libations: a half of a *hin* for each bull, a third of a *hin* for each ram, and a quarter of a *hin* for each lamb wine; this is the burnt offering of each new month in its month, throughout the months of the year.

And one young male goat for a sin offering to G-d; it shall be offered up in addition to the continual burnt offering and its libation.

TEXT 2

MAIMONIDES, MISHNEH TORAH, LAWS OF SANCTIFYING THE MONTH 1:1

חדשי השנה הם חדשי הלבנה, שנאמר "עולת חודש בחודשו", ונאמר "החודש הזה לכם ראש חדשים". כך אמרו חכמים, הראה לו הקדוש ברוך הוא למשה במראה הנבואה דמות לבנה, ואמר לו "כזה ראה וקדש".

The months of the year are lunar months, as stated, "The burnt offering of the month when it is renewed," and, "This month shall be for you the first of months." [Concerning this verse,] our sages commented, "The Holy One, blessed be He, showed Moses in the vision of prophecy an image of the moon and told him, 'When you see the moon like this, sanctify it."

Rabbi Moshe ben Maimon (Maimonides, Rambam) 1135–1204

Halachist, philosopher, author, and physician. Maimonides was born in Córdoba, Spain. After the conquest of Córdoba by the Almohads, he fled Spain and eventually settled in Cairo, Egypt. There, he became the leader of the Jewish community and served as court physician to the vizier of Egypt. He is most noted for authoring the Mishneh Torah, an encyclopedic arrangement of Jewish law; and for his philosophical work, Guide for the Perplexed. His rulings on Jewish law are integral to the formation of halachic consensus.

Kiddush Levanah

TEXT 3

RABBI SHLOMO GANZFRIED, KITZUR SHULCHAN ARUCH 97:7-9

חייבין לקדש את הלבנה בכל חודש. ואין מקדשין אותה אלא כשהוא ודאי לילה, שנראית זריחתה על גבי הקרקע וראוי ליהנות מאורה. אם נתכסתה בעב, אין מקדשין אותה, אלא אם כן הוא דק וקלוש. ואם התחיל לברך ואחר כך נתכסתה בעב, גומר את הברכה. אבל אם הוא משער שלא יוכל לגמור את הברכה קודם שתתכסה. אסור לו להתחיל.

אין לקדשה, רק תחת השמים ולא תחת גג. אבל אם אין לו מקום נקי, או מחמת אונס אחר, יכול לקדשה גם בתוך הבית בעד החלון. מצווה מן המובחר לקדשה במוצאי שבת כשהוא מבושם ומלובש בבגדים נאים. אך אם מוצאי שבת יהיה לאחר עשרה ימים מן המולד, או שיש איזה חשש שמא לא יוכל לקדשה, אין ממתינין למוצאי שבת.

מצווה לקדשה באסיפת עם, משום ד"ברוב עם הדרת מלך".

We are obligated to sanctify the moon each month. This is only done when it is certainly night, when the moon shines in the sky and one can actually benefit from its glow. If it is covered by clouds, the blessing is not recited, unless the cloud is very thin and sparse. If one started reciting the blessing and the moon was then covered by clouds, the blessing is concluded. If one estimates that they will not be able to conclude the blessing before the moon will be covered, they should not start.

The blessing is recited only outside, specifically not under a roof. If there is no clean place or any other extenuating circumstance, the blessing can be recited indoors by the window.

Rabbi Shlomo Ganzfried 1804–1886

Rabbi and halachic authority. Rabbi Ganzfried was born in Uzhhorod (today part of Ukraine), and after being orphaned at a very young age he was adopted by Uzhhorod's chief rabbi, Rabbi Tzvi Hirsh Heller. Rabbi Ganzfried is best known for his Kitzur Shulchan Aruch, a user-friendly summary of the Shulchan Aruch and the observations of subsequent halachic commentators. This highly acclaimed work quickly became a classic, a mainstay in every Jewish home.

The optimal time to recite the blessing is on Saturday night after Shabbat while dressed in Shabbat finery. However, if Saturday night will fall out to be ten days after the beginning of the month, or there is any other concern that the blessing will not be able to be recited then, we do not wait.

It is best to recite the blessing with a crowd of people, as "Great crowds bring glory to the King."

SIDDUR TEHILAT HASHEM, KIDDUSH LEVANAH PRAYER

ויהי רצון מלפניך ה' אלקי ואלקי אבותי, למלאות פגימת הלבנה ולא יהיה בה שום מיעוט, ויהיה אור הלבנה כאור החמה כאור שבעת ימי בראשית; כמו שהיתה קודם מיעוטה.

May it be Your will, L-rd, my G-d and G-d of my fathers, to fill the defect of the moon so that there be no diminution in it, and may the light of the moon be as the light of the sun, as the light of the seven days of Creation, as it was before it was diminished.

Siddur Tehilat Hashem

One of the prayer books that follow the tradition of the Arizal, as established by Rabbi Shneur Zalman of Liadi. It was first published in New York in 1945.

The Jews as Lunatics (Literally)

TEXT 5

IBID.

דָוִד מֶלֶך יִשְׂרָאֵל חַי וְקַיָם.

David, king of Israel, is living and enduring.

MIDRASH, SHEMOT RABAH 15:26

הלבנה בראשון של ניסן מתחלת להאיר, וכל שהיא הולכת מאירה עד ט"ו ימים ודסקוס שלה מתמלא, ומט"ו עד שלשים אור שלה חסה בל' אינה נראית.

כך ישראל ט"ו דור מן אברהם ועד שלמה, אברהם התחיל להאיר ... בא יצחק אף הוא האיר ... בא יעקב והוסיף אור ... ואחר כך יהודה, פרץ, חצרון, רם, עמינדב, נחשון, שלמון, בועז, עובד, ישי, דוד. כיון שבא שלמה נתמלא דיסקוס של לבנה ... ומשם התחילו המלכים פוחתין והולכין ... ובן שלמה רחבעם, ובן רחבעם אביה, ובנו אסא, יהושפט, יהורם, אחזיהו, יואש, אמציהו, עזיה, יותם, אחז, חזקיה, מנשה, אמון, יאשיהו, יהויקים. כיון שבא צדקיהו דכתיב "ואת עיני צדקיהו עיור", חסר אורה של לבנה.

The moon starts to wax at the beginning of the month and continues to grow stronger until the fifteenth day of the month. From then on until the thirtieth it wanes, and on the thirtieth day it is no longer visible.

The Jews too waxed for fifteen generations—from Zelophehad until Solomon. Abraham started to shine; Isaac continued to shine; Jacob increased that light; and after him Judah, Perez, Hezron, Ram, Amminadab, Nahshon, Salmon, Boaz, Obed, Jesse, and David. With the rise of Solomon, the [Jewish] moon reached its zenith. From there on, the kings started waning . . . the son of Solomon was Rehoboam; his son was Abijah; his son was Asa; and thereafter Asa, Jehoshaphat, Jehoram, Ahaziah, Jehoash, Amaziah, Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh, Amon, Josiah,

Shemot Rabah

An early rabbinic commentary on the Book of Exodus. "Midrash" is the designation of a particular genre of rabbinic literature usually forming a running commentary on specific books of the Bible. Shemot Rabah, written mostly in Hebrew, provides textual exegeses, expounds upon the biblical narrative, and develops and illustrates moral principles. It was first printed in Constantinople in 1512 together with 4 other Midrashic works on the other 4 books of the Pentateuch.

Jehoikaim. With the arrival of Zedekiah, about whom it is stated, "And they gouged out the eyes of Zedekiah," the light of the moon was completely diminished.

TEXT 7

SIDDUR TEHILAT HASHEM, KIDDUSH LEVANAH PRAYER

ברוך אתה ה' ... אשר במאמרו ברא שחקים וברוח פיו כל צבאם ... וללבנה אמר שתתחדש עטרת תפארת לעמוסי בטן, שהם עתידים להתחדש כמותה.

Blessed are You, G-d... who by His word has created the heavens, and by the breath of His mouth, all their hosts... and to the moon He said, "Renew!"—a crown of glory to [the Jewish people] who are destined to be renewed as she is.

RABBI MOSHE ISSERLIS, SHULCHAN ARUCH, ORACH CHAYIM, NOTES OF THE RAMA 426:2

ונוהגין לומר: דוד מלך ישראל חי וקיים, שמלכותו נמשל ללבנה ועתיד להתחדש כמותה, וכנסת ישראל תחזור להתדבק בבעלה שהוא הקדוש ברוך הוא, דוגמת הלבנה המתחדשת עם החמה, שנאמר "שמש ומגן ה"". ולכך עושין שמחות ורקודין בקידוש החודש, דוגמת שמחת נישואין.

We recite, "David, King of Israel, is living and enduring," for his dynasty is compared to the moon, and it is destined to be renewed like the moon. Israel will be reunited with her "husband," G-d, as the moon is renewed with the sun. It is for this reason that we rejoice and dance during the sanctification of the moon, much like the joy of a wedding.

Rabbi Moshe Isserlis (Rama), 1525-1572

Halachist. Rama served as rabbi in Krakow, Poland, and is considered the definitive authority on Jewish law among Ashkenazic Jewry. Rama authored glosses (known as the *Mapah*) on the Shulchan Aruch, and *Darchei Moshe*, a commentary on the halachic compendium *Arbaah Turim*.

II. LEARNING TO DANCE FROM THE MOON

The Building Blocks of the World



TALMUD TRACTATE SHABBAT, 31A

מעשה בנכרי אחד שבא לפני שמאי. אמר ליה "גיירני על מנת שתלמדני כל התורה כולה כשאני עומד על רגל אחת".

דחפו באמת הבניין שבידו.

It happened that a certain heathen came before Shamai and said to him, "Convert me, on condition that you teach me the whole Torah while I stand on one foot."

Thereupon, Shamai chased him away with the builder's measuring tool that was in his hand.

Babylonian Talmud

A literary work of monumental proportions that draws upon the legal, spiritual, intellectual, ethical, and historical traditions of Judaism. The 37 tractates of the Babylonian Talmud contain the teachings of the Jewish sages from the period after the destruction of the 2nd Temple through the 5th century CE. It has served as the primary vehicle for the transmission of the Oral Law and the education of Jews over the centuries; it is the entry point for all subsequent legal, ethical, and theological Jewish scholarship.

The Moon Dance of Life

TEXT f 10

SIDDUR TEHILAT HASHEM, KIDDUSH LEVANAH PRAYER

ששים ושמחים לעשות רצון קונם.

They are happy and joyful to carry out the will of their Creator.

RABBI MENACHEM MENDEL OF LUBAVITCH, OR HATORAH, VAYIKRA 2, P. 580

מה שייך ריקוד לקידוש לבנה?

והענין, כי הנה ריקוד הוא כך, שמתחלה הוא אחור באחור ואחר כך מתקרב וחוזר ומתרחק. וכמו אור הלבנה, שבתחלה בעת מולד הלבנה היא מקבלת מהשמש והולך ואור עד חצי החודש, ואחר כך נעשה חושך, ועד ראש חודש נעשה בתכלית הקטנות, ואחר כך בראש חודש נעשה מולד הלבנה כידוע.

וכמו כן על דרך זה ביחוד דנשמות ישראל ואלקות, שהן גם כן בחינת שמש ולבנה. כי הקדוש ברוך הוא נקרא שמש... וישראל הוא בחינת לבנה, כי ישראל מונין ללבנה, יש בזה גם כן בחינת ריקוד שהוא בחינת ריחוק וקירוב וריחוק.

What does dancing have to do with *kiddush levanah*?

The answer is that there is a type of dancing where one person is far from the other and they come closer and further, back and forth. This is like the light of the moon, which progressively gets brighter until the fifteenth of the month, and then gradually gets dimmer to the point that it is completely dark. Then on Rosh Chodesh, it reappears.

In the analogy of G-d and the Jewish people, G-d is likened to the sun and His people to the moon. Like the moon, the Jewish people experience this dance; being distant and coming close; closer and further, back and forth.

Rabbi Menachem Mendel of Lubavitch (*Tzemach Tzedek*) 1789–1866

Chasidic rebbe and noted author. The Tzemach Tzedek was the third leader of the Chabad Chasidic movement and a noted authority on Jewish law. His numerous works include halachic responsa, Chasidic discourses, and kabbalistic writings. Active in the communal affairs of Russian Jewry, he worked to alleviate the plight of the cantonists, Jewish children kidnapped to serve in the Czar's army. He passed away in Lubavitch, leaving 7 sons and 2 daughters.

TEXT 12a

DEVARIM (DEUTERONOMY) 31:2

וַיֹאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם, בֶּן מֵאָה וְעֶשְׂרִים שָׁנָה אָנֹכִי הַיוֹם, לֹא אוּכַל עוֹד לָצֵאת וָלָבוֹא, וַה' אַמַר אֵלַי לֹא תַעֲבֹר אֵת הַיַרַדֵן הַזָה:

He said to them, "Today I am one hundred and twenty years old. I can no longer go or come, and G-d said to me, 'You shall not cross this Jordan."

TEXT 12b

RABBI TZADOK HAKOHEN RABINOWITZ OF LUBLIN, PRI TZADIK, PARSHAT VAYELECH 1

האדם צריך להיות הולך במעלה תמיד ממדרגה למדרגה, עד שמשלים עצמו ומגיע אל בית עולמו.

וזה שאומר "וילך משה", דמשה רבינו ע"ה היה הולך תמיד במעלה ממדרגה למדרגה. וההליכה האחרונה שנאמר בפרשה זו היה עד שבא אל מדרגה זו שאמר "לא אוכל עוד לצאת ולבוא", היינו דכל שלא יוכל עוד לצאת לנפול ממדרגתו, על ידי זה לא יוכל לבוא עוד למדרגה למעלה הימנו גם כן. וכמו שנאמר "כי שבע יפול צדיק וקם", היינו על דרך שאומר בירידה שהוא צורך עליה, והיינו שעל ידי הירידה ח"ו על ידי זה מתגבר עוד בחילא יתיר. וזהו "כי שבע יפול צדיק", על ידי זה "וקם", ואף אז הוא גם כן נקרא הולך, כיון שהוא צורך עליה. אבל כל שלא יוכל לצאת עוד לא יוכל לבוא גם כן, וזה מדרגה האחרונה.

A person must always journey from one level to the next until he reaches his final plateau.

Rabbi Tzadok Hakohen Rabinowitz of Lublin 1823–1900

Chasidic master and thinker. Rabbi Tzadok was born into a Lithuanian rabbinic family and later joined the Chasidic movement. He was a follower of the Chasidic leaders Rabbi Mordechai Yosef Leiner of Izbica and Rabbi Leibel Eiger. He succeeded Rabbi Eiger after his passing and became a rebbe in Lublin, Poland. He authored many works on Jewish law, Chasidism, kabbalah, and ethics, as well as scholarly essays on astronomy, geometry, and algebra.

This is the meaning of what is stated, "And Moses went," namely, Moses was constantly climbing from level to level until the final journey enumerated in our Torah portion, of which he states, "I can no longer go or come." With these words, Moses expressed that he was no longer able to "go," namely to fall from his perch, and thus, he was no longer able to "come," namely to use that as a springboard to climb ever higher.

This idea is expressed in the verse, "A righteous person falls and arises seven times"; in the spirit of what our sages teach in the Talmud that these falls are for the purpose of climbing ever higher, when the righteous person falls, he summons up strength that propels him even higher than where he previously was... He is thus considered to be on a "journey," inasmuch as the fall is only for the purpose of climbing higher.

However, when the righteous person is no longer able to fall, he can no longer climb higher either, and that is indeed his plateau.

In Physical Matters, Too

TEXT 13

KOHELET (ECCLESIASTES) 3:1-8

לַכּל זְמֶן וְעֵת לְכָל חֵפֶץ תַּחַת הַשְּׁמִים: עת לָלֶדֶת וְעֵת לָמוּת, עֵת לָטַעַת וְעֵת לַעֲקוֹר נָטוּעַ: עת לַהֲרוֹג וְעֵת לִרְפּוֹא, עֵת לִפְרוֹץ וְעֵת לִבְנוֹת: עת לִבְכּוֹת וְעֵת לִשְׂחוֹק, עֵת סְפוֹד וְעֵת רְקוֹד: עת לְהַשְּׁלִיךְ אֲבָנִים וְעֵת כְּנוֹס אֲבָנִים, עֵת לַחֲבוֹק וְעֵת לְרחֹק מֵחַבֵּק: עת לְבַקשׁ וְעֵת לְאַבֵּד, עֵת לִשְׁמוֹר וְעֵת לְהַשְׁלִיךְ: עת לָקְרוֹעַ וְעֵת לִתְפּוֹר, עֵת לִחֲשׁוֹת וְעֵת לְדַבֵּר: עת לֶאֶהֹב וְעֵת לִשְׁנֹא, עֵת מִלְחָמָה וְעֵת שָׁלוֹם:

Everything has an appointed season, and there is a time for every matter under heaven.

A time to give birth and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to uproot that which is planted.

A time to kill and a time to heal; a time to break and a time to build.

A time to weep and a time to laugh; a time of wailing and a time of dancing.

A time to cast stones and a time to gather stones; a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing.

A time to seek and a time to lose; a time to keep and a time to cast away.

A time to rend and a time to sew; a time to be silent and a time to speak.

A time to love and a time to hate; a time for war and a time for peace.

TEXT 14a

RABBI YOSEF YITZCHAK SCHNEERSOHN, SEFER HAMAAMARIM 5704, P. 225

וכמו שאנו רואים שאין האדם עומד במעמד ומצב אחד תמיד, כי אם מתחלף מזמן לזמן. וכמו בגשמיות שהוא בעליות וירידות בכל ימי חייו, שלפעמים הוא בעושר וכבוד ומצליח בכל עניניו, ולפעמים להיפך ח"ו, או שבדבר א' הוא מצליח, ובדבר א' אינו מצליח.

וכן הוא ברוחניות שאינו שווה בכל הזמנים . . . ויש חילופים ושינוים בעבודה, דלפעמים הוא בקטנות המוחין והמדות ולפעמים בגדלות, וכמו שאנו רואים גם בכל יום, שלפעמים יקום בשמחה ובטוב לבב בגדלות המוחין, ודעתו זכה ומיושבת עליו להשכיל בטוב בהשכלה אלקית, ויהיה אופן עבודתו בתפלה גם כן בשמחה ובטוב לבב בהתפעלות ההתלהבות . . . ולפעמים יקום בבוקר בלב נשבר ושפלות ועוצב והכנעה, בלי שום טעם כלל.

A person does not stay consistently in one place; rather, their situation changes from time to time. This applies in a physical regard: At times one is wealthy and at times poor; at times successful and at times not. Sometimes a person excels in one area but not another.

Rabbi Yosef Yitzchak Schneersohn (Rayatz, Frierdiker Rebbe, Previous Rebbe) 1880–1950

Chasidic rebbe, prolific writer, and Jewish activist. Rabbi Yosef Yitzchak, the sixth leader of the Chabad movement, actively promoted Jewish religious practice in Soviet Russia and was arrested for these activities. After his release from prison and exile, he settled in Warsaw, Poland, from where he fled Nazi occupation and arrived in New York in 1940. Settling in Brooklyn, Rabbi Schneersohn worked to revitalize American Jewish life. His son-in-law, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, succeeded him as the leader of the Chabad movement.

It applies also in a spiritual regard; not all times are equal. At times, one's mind and heart are more open and capable; at [other] times, they are less so. We see this in a daily sense as well. One day a person awakens happy, in good spirits, with a clear and calm mind, able to grasp well what he studies and able to pray with passion and fervor. Another day he awakens downtrodden and disheartened for no apparent reason, unable to focus in study and prayer.

TEXT 14b

RABBI YOSEF YITZCHAK SCHNEERSOHN, IBID.

ועל כן לא יפול לב האדם בעצמו . . . דכך היא המדה בעבודה על ידי קטנות זו הרי הוא בא לגדלות עליונה יותר.

Yet one is not to be discouraged by this . . . rather carry on with divine service, and eventually the low will bring a greater high than before.

III. THE END OF THE RIDE

G-d's "Regret"

TEXT 15a

BAMIDBAR (NUMBERS) 28:15

וּשְּׁעִיר עִזִים אֶחֶד לְחַטָאת לַה':

And one young male goat for a sin offering to G-d.

TEXT 15b

TALMUD TRACTATE SHAVUOT, 9A

מה נשתנה שעיר של ראש חודש שנאמר בו "לה""? אמר הקדוש ברוך הוא "שעיר זה יהא כפרה על שמיעטתי את הירח".

For what reason does the offering on the first day of the month differ insofar as Scripture says, "to G-d"?

The Holy One, blessed is He, said, "Bring atonement for Me because I diminished the moon."

The Mashiach Dance

TEXT 16

RABBI SHMUEL SCHNEERSOHN, LIKUTEI TORAH: TORAT SHMUEL 5639:2, P. 621

והנה לעתיד לבוא כתיב "אז תשמח בתולה במחול". והענין, כי מחול הוא ריקוד (שקורין טאנץ) אכן הוא בקירוב (הנק' קאראהאד), משא"כ ריקוד שהוא בריחוק מקום, שהאחד רוקד כנגד חבירו כו'.

Regarding the era of Mashiach, it is stated, "The maiden will rejoice with dance." The reference is to a certain type of dance (which is in a circle), called a *karahad*. This dance does not have any steps of distance [which represents the future time when there will no longer be any distance from G-d].

Rabbi Shmuel Schneersohn (Rebbe Maharash) 1834–1882

Known by the acronym "Maharash"; fourth Chabad rebbe and leader of Russian Jewry. Born in Lubavitch, Russia, he was the youngest son of Rabbi Menachem Mendel of Lubavitch (the *Tzemach Tzedek*). Much of his leadership was devoted to combating anti-Jewish policies. His discourses have been collected and published as *Likutei Torah: Torat Shmuel*.