

ב"ה

**SOUTH HAMPSTEAD
SYNAGOGUE**

INTRODUCTION TO KABBALAH

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OUTLINE OF COURSE

(21/02) 1 History of the Kabbalistic Tradition:

a) The Bible, Talmud and Zohar

b) From 16th Century Tsfat to the modern period

(7/03) 2 Applying Kabbalah in the life of the Individual (1)
Torah Study and Mitzvot

(14/03) 3 Applying Kabbalah in the life of the Individual (2)
Prayer and Meditation

(21/03) 4 Kabbalah in the Life of a Family:
Shabbat; Marriage

(28/03) 5 Kabbalah: the Global Perspective:
From Creation to Redemption, the Jew and the World

1. HISTORY OF THE KABBALISTIC TRADITION:

- a) The Bible, Talmud and
Zohar
- b) From 16th Century Tsfat to
the modern period

Scripture

Exodus chs.19-20:
the Theophany at Sinai.

Ezekiel ch.1: the Chariot.

MISHNAH

Tractate Hagigah 2:1

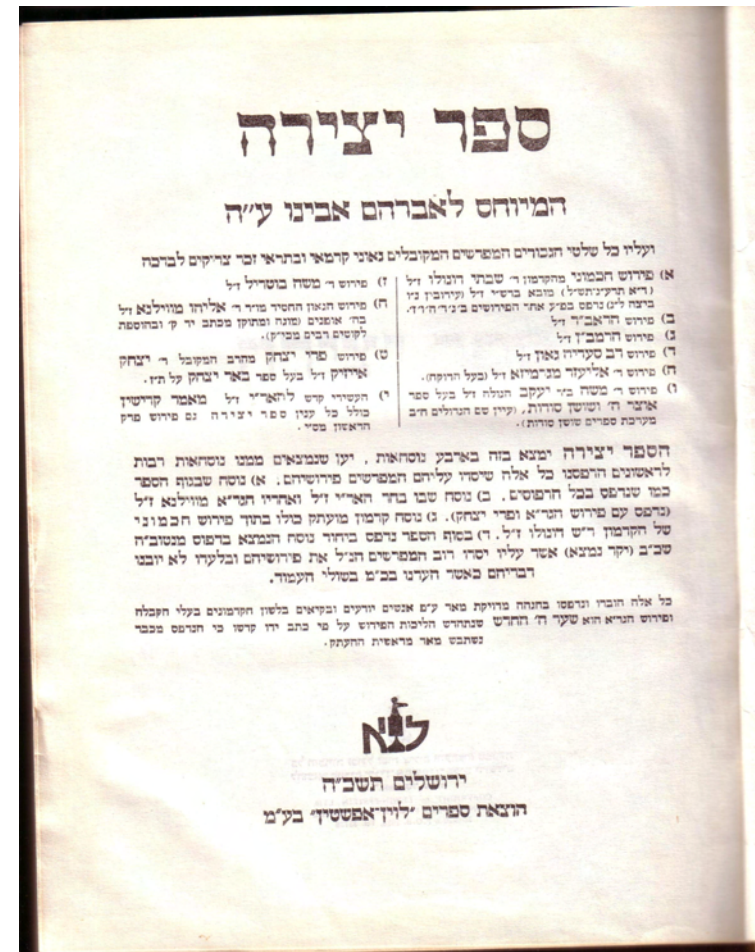
- “One does not teach laws of immorality to three (students), nor the Work of Creation to two, nor the Chariot to one unless he is wise and understands by himself...”

TALMUD

- Talmud (BT Hag. 14b) – the account of the Four who entered ‘Pardes’ (the secrets of the Torah).
- In general, the Aggadic portion of the Talmud: “most secrets of the Torah are hidden in it”

BOOK OF CREATION

“In thirty two wondrous
paths of Wisdom,
G-d, L-rd of Hosts, G-d
of Israel... engraved..
and created His
world..”

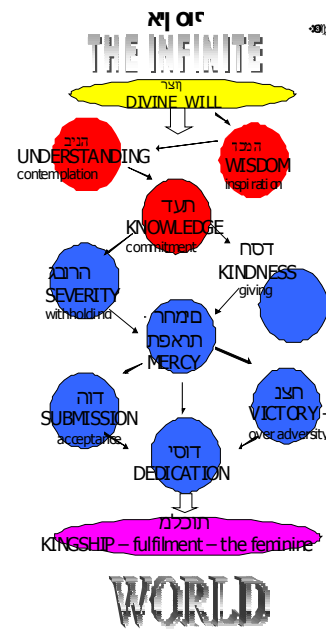


THE ZOHAR

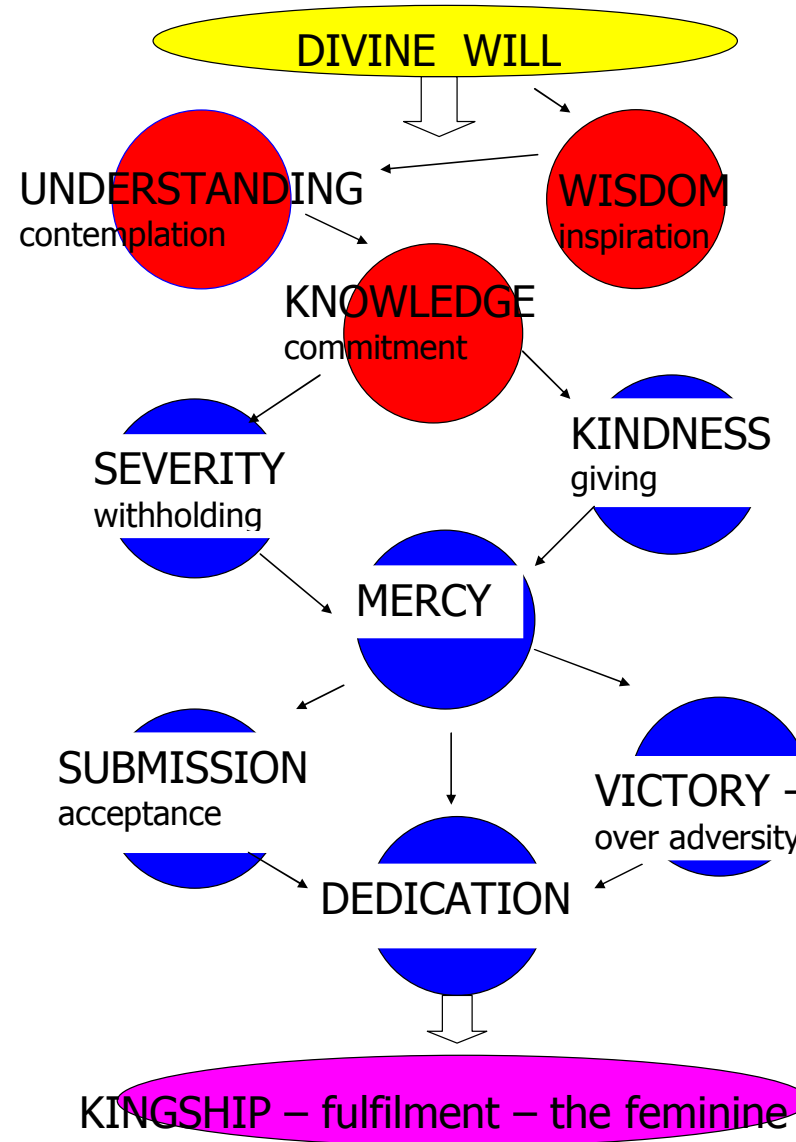


The Sefirot

The Sacred
Sefirot: a
flow of
Divine
Radiance
which can
be seen as
dissolving
the duality
of Being
and non-
Being.



THE INFINITE



MOSES
MAIMONIDES
*Guide for the
Perplexed*
(late 12th cent):
a rational or
mystical work?

THE GUIDE
OF THE
PERPLEXED

Moses Maimonides

*Translated with an Introduction and Notes
by*

SHLOMO PINES

With an Introductory Essay by

LEO STRAUSS

Volume II

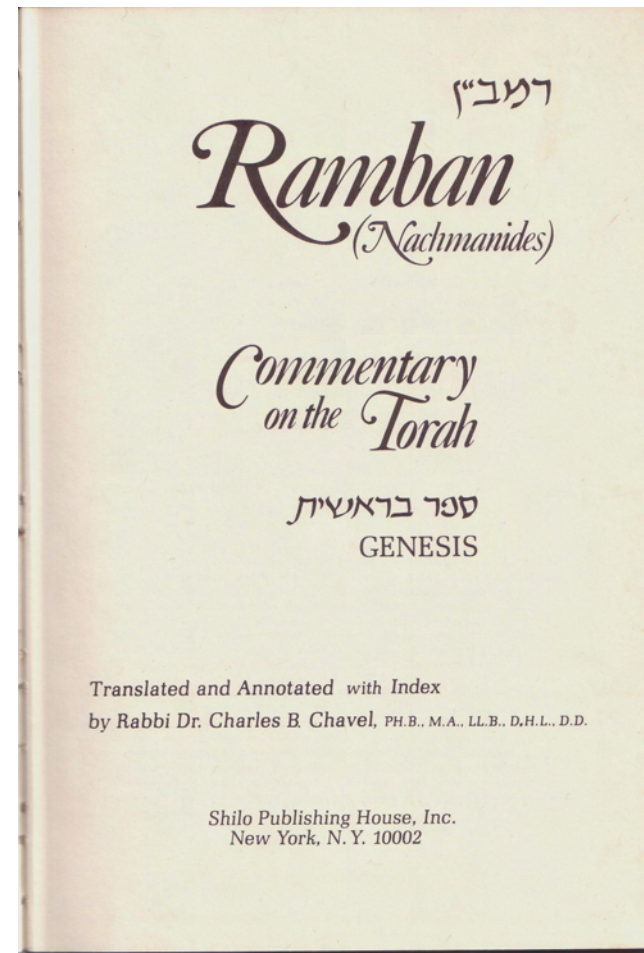


THE
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
PRESS

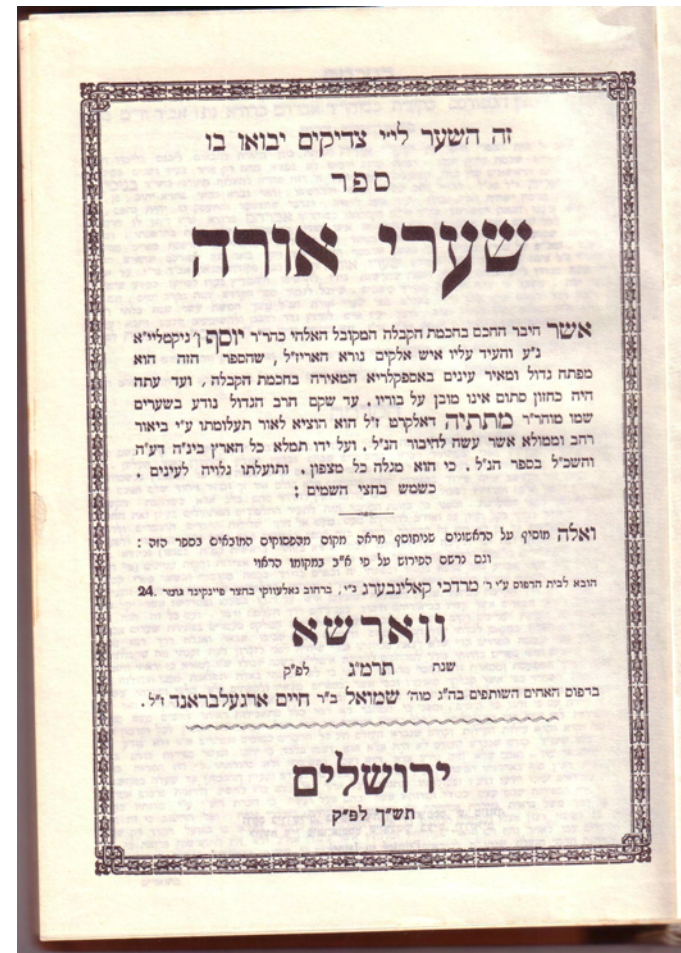
Chicago and London

Moses Nachmanides' (13th cent Barcelona) Commentary on the Torah

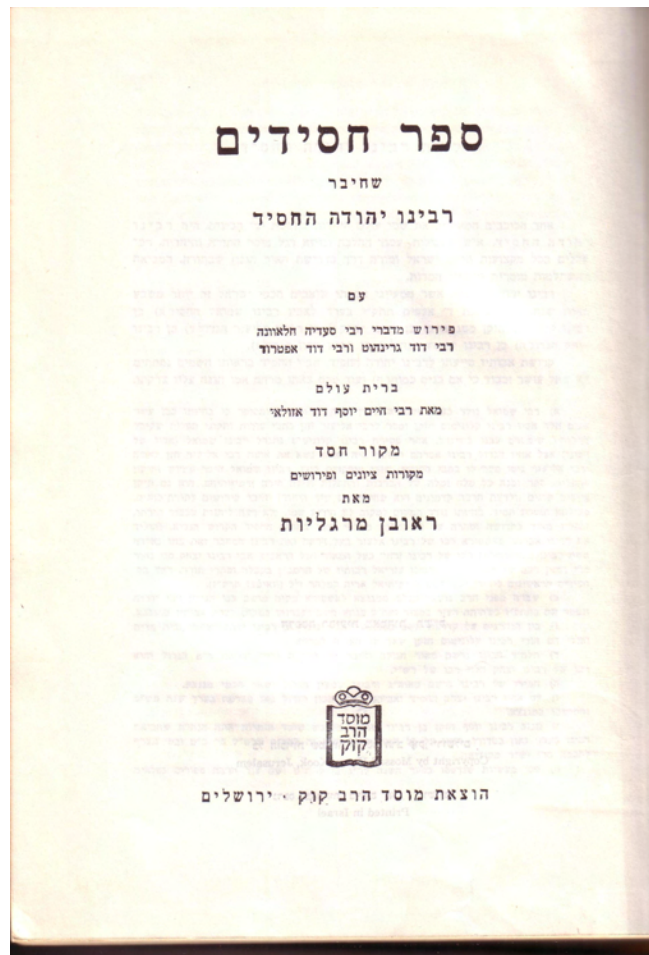
Popularising
kabbalistic
teachings by
including
them in a
popular
commentary
on the Torah



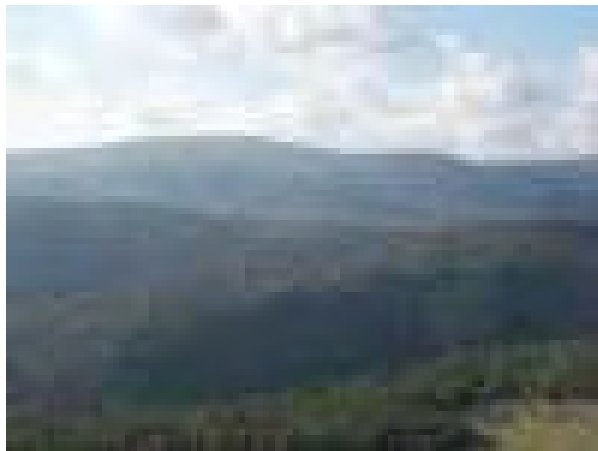
“Gates of
Radiance” –
Sha’arei Orah,
by R. Joseph
ibn Gikatilla
(13th cent.
Castile)



“Book of the
Pious”
Sefer Hasidim
– by Rabbi
Judah Hasid
and mystical
pietists of
medieval
Franco-
Germany



THE TSFAT CENTRE IN THE 16TH CENTURY



R. Moshe Cordovero

“The Pomegranate Garden”, *Pardes Rimonim*

a
comprehensive
anthology of
Kabbalah

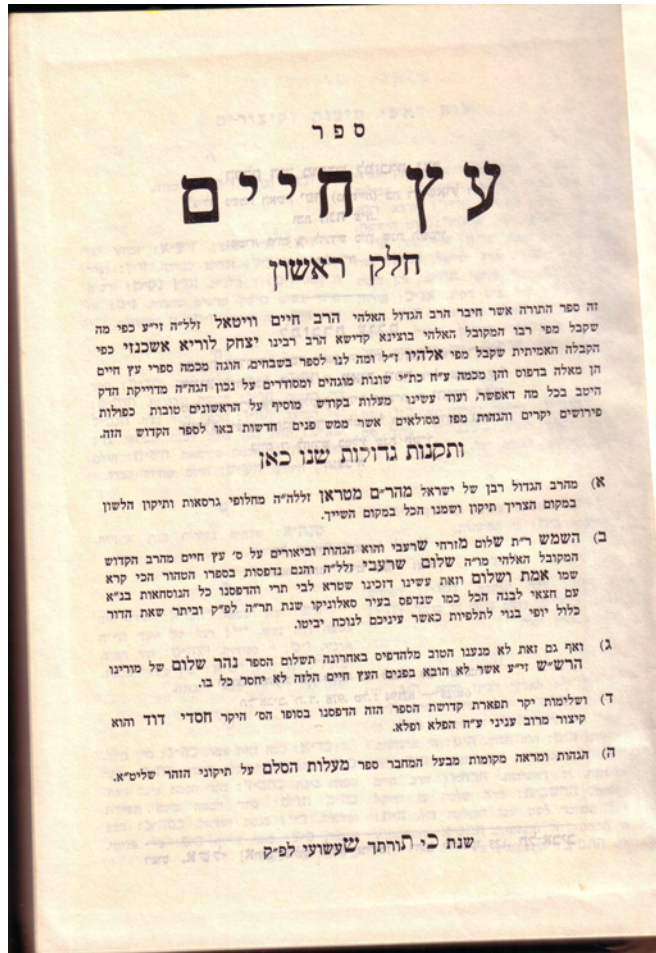


R. Joseph Karo



Maggid Mesharim

- A fascinating
mystical diary
by the author of
the *Code of Law*



R. Isaac Luria (Ari zal) and R. Haim Vital

The “Tree of Life”

Also author(s) of “Eight Gates”

“It is permitted and a duty to reveal this wisdom...”

Rabbi Yitzhak Luria

Popularising the Kabbalah and applying it to daily Jewish Life

- *Reshit Hokhmah* “The Beginning of Wisdom”
– R. Elijah di Vidas
(16th cent).



“The Two Tablets of the Covenant” – R. Isaiah Halevi Horowitz (17 Cent)



The Hasidic Revolution: Communicating the Infinite

R. Israel Baal Shem Tov (d.1760)

- “When will the Messiah come? When your fountains [of spiritual teaching] burst forth to the outside...” (from a letter of the Baal Shem Tov, printed in R. Yakov Yosef’s *Ben Porat Yosef*, 1781)

TESTAMENT OF RABBI ISRAEL BAAL SHEM TOV AND RULES OF UPRIGHT CONDUCT

CONSISTING OF INSTRUCTIONS, RULES OF PROPER CONDUCT,
GREAT AND WONDROUS COUNSELS FOR THE SERVICE OF THE
CREATOR, RELATING TO TORAH, PRAYER AND OTHER TRAITS,
HEARD FROM THE HOLY MOUTH OF THE MAN OF GOD,
THE HOLY LIGHT, OUR MASTER

RABBI ISRAEL BAAL SHEM TOV

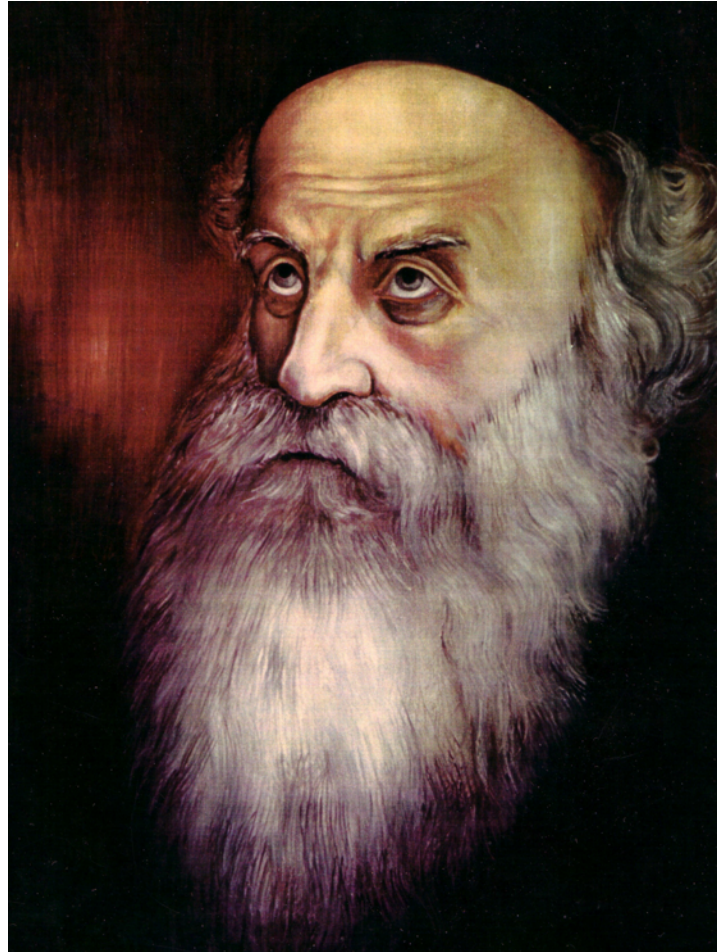
HIS MEMORY IS FOR A BLESSING, FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD TO COME;
AND TO THESE WERE ADDED RULES OF UPRIGHT CONDUCT FROM THE MAN
OF GOD, THE HOLY LIGHT, OUR MASTER

RABBI DOVBER

OF THE COMMUNITY OF MEZHIRECH

[Text of the original title-page, 1792 or 1793]

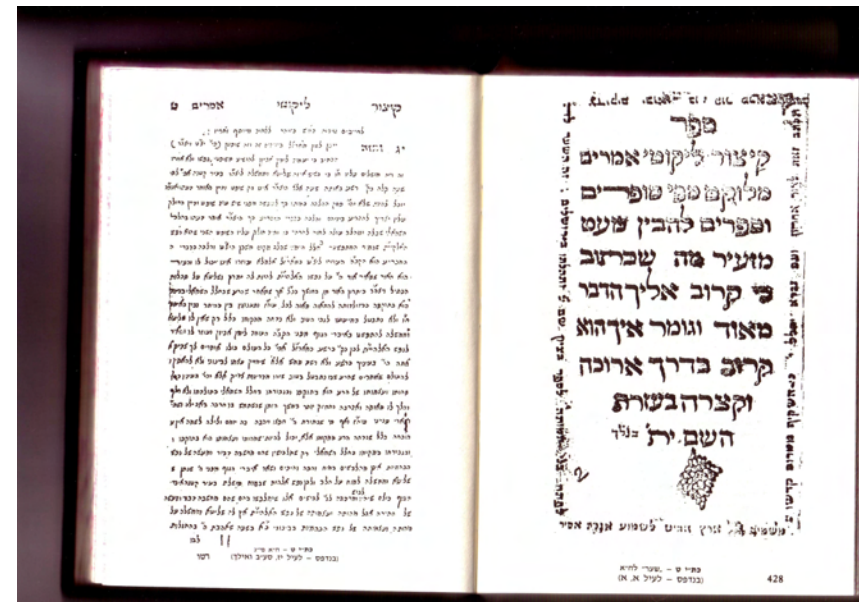
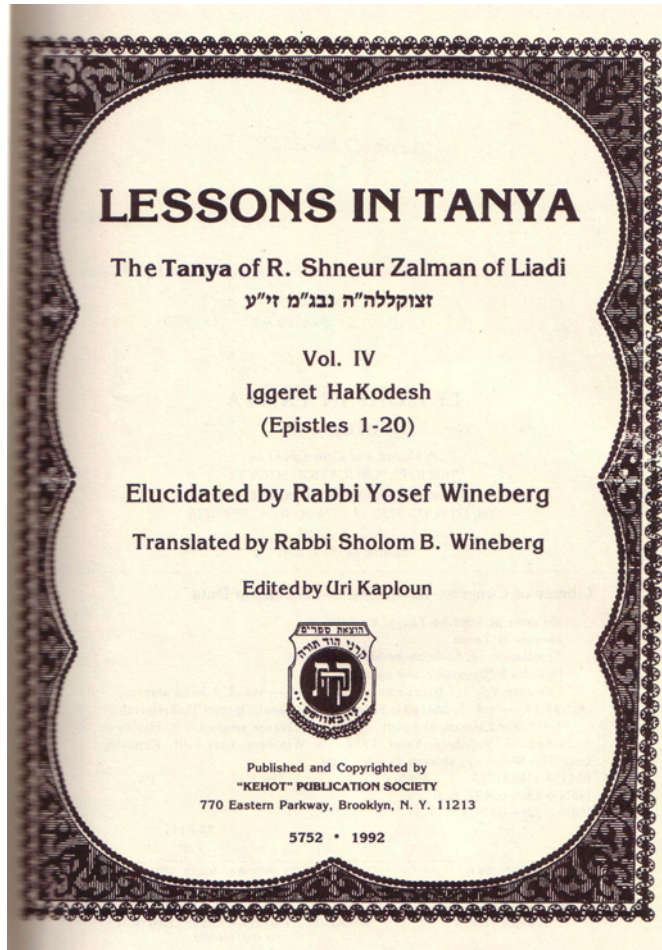
R. Shneur Zalman of Liadi (d.1812)



First Edition
of Rabbi
Shneur
Zalman's
*Code of
Law*
Shklov
1814



TANYA by R. Shneur Zalman



Rabbi Yosef
Yitzhak
Schneersohn
6th Habad
Rebbe
(1880-1950)



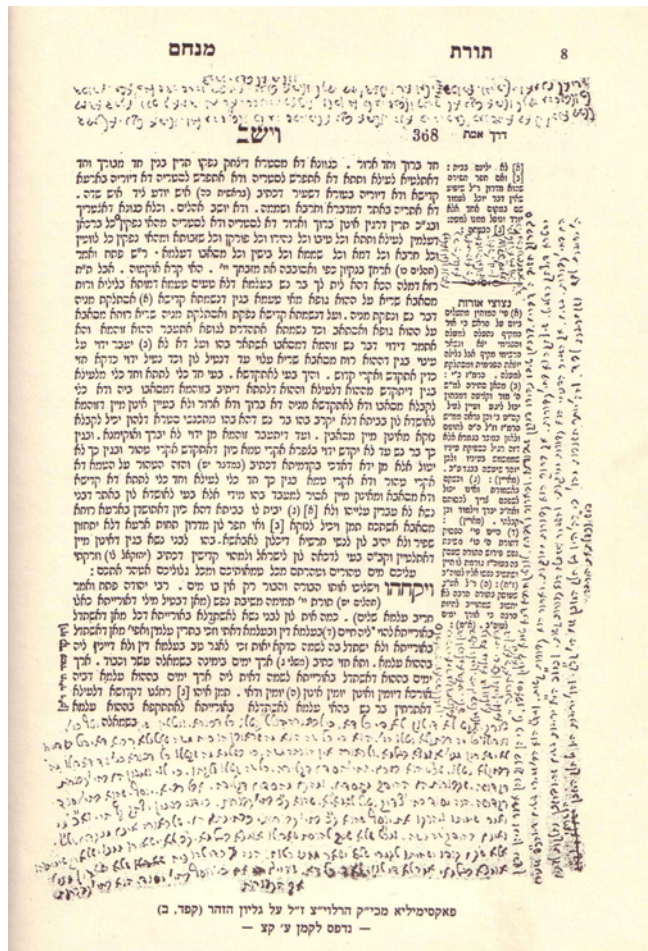
Girls of Ahot HaTemimim, Riga 1940



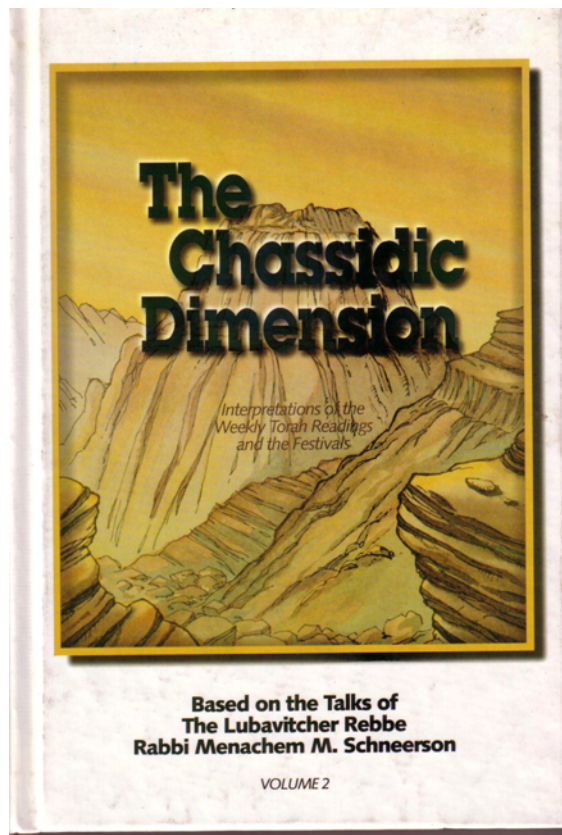
Rabbi Levi Yitzhak and Chana Schneerson



RABBI LEVI YITZHAK'S COMMENTARY ON THE ZOHAR, WRITTEN IN EXILE IN EASTERN USSR, C.1940



Rabbi Menachem Schneerson (d.1994), the Lubavitcher Rebbe, author of many volumes of Kabbalistic- Hasidic Discourses and Teachings



The Lubavitcher Rebbe promoting Spiritual Teachings for Women

