



לעילוי נשמת
 הרה"ת ר' יעקב בן הרב שמואל
 יוסף ע"ה גרינבוים
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 שיחיו



Based on Talks With the Rebbe

In honor of the yom hahilula of the Alter Rebbe on Chof-Daled Teves, we present a copy of this fascinating booklet about the Alter Rebbe, printed by Kehos in 5708.



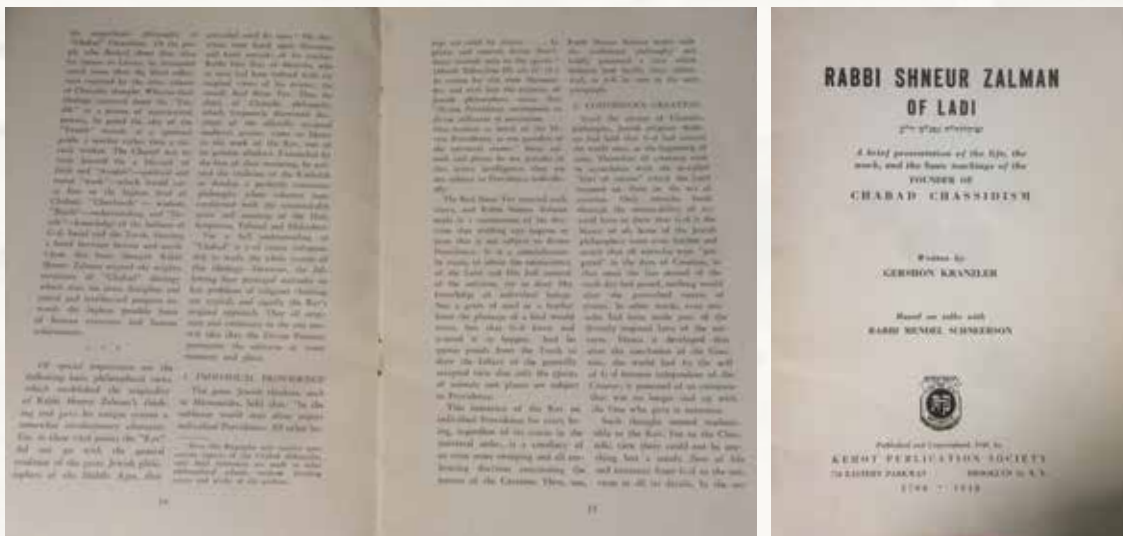
What makes this 24-page booklet so unique is that the author, Dr. Gershon Kranzler, attests on the title page that he culled his information "Based on talks with Rabbi Mendel Schneerson."

This was of course before the Rebbe's *nesius*. It seems that Dr. Kranzler had a longstanding relationship with the Rebbe in those years, and he would meet with the Rebbe on various occasions for conversation.

In his interview¹ with the Rebbe published in *Orthodox Jewish Life* in 5711*, Dr. Kranzler notes:

"I had the privilege of knowing Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson before he assumed his new office and I had come to appreciate the young scholar with the serious face and unassuming, almost shy manners. He then directed the educational aspects of the Merkos L'Inyonei Chinuch. But now everything was different. This was no longer the 'RaMaSh,' the son-in-law of the Rebbe, respected as a scholar, a friendly advisor, and interpreter of the thoughts of Chabad Chassidism..."

It's clear that the Rebbe had spent much



THE ORIGINAL BOOKLET, AS PUBLISHED IN 5708.

time with him, explaining concepts and history of Chassidus. He continues:

“The familiar pale face, with its deeply searching eyes and frame of black beard, seemed to have taken on added seriousness. The sense of warm understanding and deep responsibility for every word spoken which had always characterized Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson was now still more marked.”

It should be noted that in an obituary published in *The Baltimore Sun* after Dr. Kranzler’s passing in 2000, it states that, “Throughout his life he studied the Talmud and was close to many of the Torah scholars of the 20th century. He studied with Rabbi Menachem Schneerson, the Lubavitcher Rebbe...”

The contents of the book include:

- Rabbi Shneur Zalman—Photograph.
- Genealogy [The Alter Rebbe’s ancestry traced back to the Maharal].
- Biography of Rabbi Shneur Zalman
- Facsimile of a letter in Rabbi Shneur Zalman’s handwriting [the same letter given out as a *teshurah* at the Rebbe and Rebbetzin’s wedding—written by the Alter Rebbe to his Chossid, Reb Moshe Meisels].
- Important dates in the life of the Rav.
- Published works of the Rav.

- Bibliography [a list of sources where much of the information had been previously published, including *Hatomim*, *Likkutei Dibburim*, etc].

TANYA NOW IN PRESS

It’s interesting to note that when describing the Alter Rebbe’s view on *tzimtzum* and how he opposes the opinion of *tzimtzum kiphshuto*,² the author adds with an asterisk:

“As to those who followed this doctrine, see editor’s note on *Shaar Hayichud Vehoemunah*, Ch. 7. (*Tanya* edited by Rabbi Mendel Schneerson, now in press).”

The author is referring to “*HaTanya Hashleima*” that the Rebbe was preparing for print, including the original text of the *Tanya*, surrounded by sources, references, and brief commentary. The Rebbe’s notes from the draft of this sefer were eventually published, and there is indeed a lengthy comment on this section about *tzimtzum*.³



In 5719* the booklet was reprinted, and this time the title page stated, “Based on talks with the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, א”שליט” ①

1. Part of this interview was published in Derher, Teves 5782.
2. See “Reality—Charting the great debate over the extent and impact of *tzimtzum*,” Derher, Av 5780.
3. See *Mareh Mekomos, Hagahos, V’Haoros Ketzeros L’Sefer Shel Beinonim* (Kehos 2014), p. 379.