



Under the Auspices and Guidance of
Rabbi Yehoshua Gerzi, Rabbi of Beis Midrash, Beis David – Pilzno, Bet Shemesh

Light from The Leshem

Authentic Kabbalah Teachings from the Torah
On Topics Concerning The Divine Workings of Our Reality

Essays from the Writings of the Rav Shlomo Elyashiv,
the Baal HaLeshem, of Blessed Memory

Translations and Elucidation of Selected Chapters from
his Grand Collected Writings, entitled

Leshem Shabo V'Achlama

By

The Rav Shlomo Elyashiv, the Baal HaLeshem,
of Blessed Memory

Translation into English by Zerach Moshe Fedder

The Intention and End-Purpose of Creation

An Introduction

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Lights from the Leshem are a series of translated articles from the writings of the Leshem that have been made available for downloading for you to read and discover deep teachings from the Kabbalah. In the near future, these translations will be published in book form.

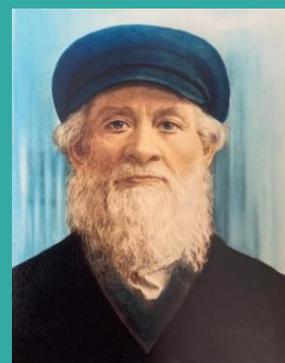
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The Baal HaLeshem, zt"l



Kabbalah | Light from the Leshem

Presenting The Writings of Rav Shlomo Elyashiv in English

In General:

The Purpose for Presenting these Translated Articles from the Writings of the Leshem

Overall, in his extensive writings, the Leshem presents us with the principles and details about how the Creator initiates, develops and maintains all of existence, which is indeed, the subject matter of the teachings of Kabbalah. It may go without saying, that his writings are incredibly comprehensive, extensive and are based upon the writings of earlier Kabbalists as well as supplementing innovative concepts from his own insights and received knowledge.

The articles chosen here for translation for this website have purposely been selected, in order to provide you with access to the many profound and thought provoking insights found in the authentic Kabbalah. The technical details of the design and unfolding of the upper worlds are certainly no less important to comprehend, yet the details of Divine metaphysics is not, by any manner, easy subject matter. Therefore to begin with, we have decided to start with articles that discuss general philosophic and metaphysical concepts that influence the reality of our existence from within the writings of the Leshem. These essays will provide you with many deep ideas and philosophic explanations that have not yet been accessible to the English-speaking world.

The articles that have been chosen for translation have been arranged according to topics. This selection process is based upon the book, *The Gates of the Leshem*¹. The composer of this book, Rav Yehoshua Edelstein, under the guidance of Rav Moshe Shapira and with permission from Rav Yosef Shalom Elyashiv (The grandson of the Leshem), selected various segments from within the writings of the Leshem and arranged them according to topics². Such topics include: The Purpose of Creation, Free will, the Sequestered Light, Lights and Vessels, Lovingkindness and Justice, Miracles, Prophecy and Prophetic visions, etc.

The selection and arrangement of the articles being presented on this website will not be directly corresponding to the contents of the book, *The Gates of the Leshem*. Decisions for the inclusion and arrangement of the essays and topics as well as selecting segments from other places in the writings of the Leshem will be under the auspices and guidance of Rav Yehoshua Gerzi - in consultation with our editing committee and in consultation with known Kabbalists of our generation.

Then too, care has been taken to present as accurate translation as possible without sacrificing readability. Thus we should take note, that when the Leshem wrote these words, his intention was for his words to be understood within the context³ of where they appear within his original writings. Thus, presenting segments removed from context and arranged according to topic, necessitates accepting some overlap and repetition among the articles in order to maintain the accuracy of the translation as much as possible.

¹ ספר שערי לשם שבו ואחלמה, ירושלים, תשנ"ד

² From the introduction to the book, דברים אחדים

³ The context of the article is provided if it is needed for the comprehension of any given topic.

Introduction to Chapter One

Why Did G-d Decide to and then Create All of Existence?

This series of articles concern the topic of why G-d decided to create all of existence. It is safe to say that comprehending the Creator's intended purpose and awaited outcome for desiring, designing and implementing all of existence, not surprisingly, has many multifaceted aspects. Though these translated segments from the Leshem's writings do cover this topic extensively, nevertheless, it would be sensible to declare that these following essays do not and were not intended to comprehensively and exhaustively cover this immense topic.

The following presents the subjects discussed in the translated articles:

In **Article One**⁴, the Leshem⁵ embellishes and expands upon the first reason for the creation of existence which is brought by the Arizal at the beginning of the Etz Chaim⁶. The reason discussed is that G-d desires to enable and bring about the rectification and actualization of His Divine Names.

Article Two⁷ discusses the purpose of creation from the aspect of G-d enabling the potential to become actualized via the establishment of the creation.

Article Three⁸ discusses the purpose of creation from the aspect of G-d having the desire to become manifest and revealed beyond His Eternal Essence.

Article Four⁹ discusses the purpose of creation from the aspect of G-d enabling free choice for humankind to allow for them to participate in the rectification of creation and merit reward for their actions.

Article Five¹⁰ This article discusses the purpose of creation from the aspect of G-d creating all of existence for His own sake and the implication of what this means for humankind.

Article Six¹¹ discusses the purpose of creation from the aspect that G-d's intention for creating all of creation is in order to bestow goodness upon us.

Article Seven¹² discusses the purpose of creation from the aspect of G-d enabling the rectification of His creation via the ascent of physicality through the spiritual actions of humankind.

Article Eight¹³ discusses the purpose of creation from the aspect of G-d creating all of existence to reveal His will.

⁴ The Leshem wrote two introductions to the Book of Clarifications, this article is the translation of his second/final introduction.

⁵ חלק הביאורים – Called Chelek HaBeurim, see the introduction for an overview on the Leshem's writings.

⁶ ביאור לדרוש עיגולים ויושר אשר בעץ חיים להאר"ל, ענף א' אות א'

Clarification on the Essay on *Igulim* and *Yosher* in the Etz Chaim of the Arizal, Branch 1, Letter 1.

⁷ The Leshem wrote two introductions to the Book of Clarifications, this article is the translation of his first/original introduction.

⁸ ספר הדעה ח"ב דרוש ב' ענף ה' אות א'

The Book of HaDeah – Part 2, Essay 2, Anaf 5, Letter 1

⁹ ספר הדעה (דרושי עלום התוהו) ח"ב דרוש ה' ענף ב' סימן ב' פסקה ב'

The Book of HaDeah – Drushei Olam HaTohu – Part 2, Essay 5, Anaf 2, Siman 2, Paragraph 2

¹⁰ ספר הדעה חלק ב' דרוש ה' ענף ב' סימן ד'

The Book of The Knowledge Part 2, Essay 5, Branch 2, Sign 4

¹¹ ספר הדעה חלק ב' דרוש ד' ענף י"א סימן א' פסקה ד'

The Book of HaKodesh Gate 2, Chapter 2

¹² ספר הקוד"ש שער ב' פרק ב'

The Book of HaKodesh Gate 2, Chapter 1

¹³ א' הקדמה – ספר הכללים - The Book of The General Principles - Introduction, Letter 1