

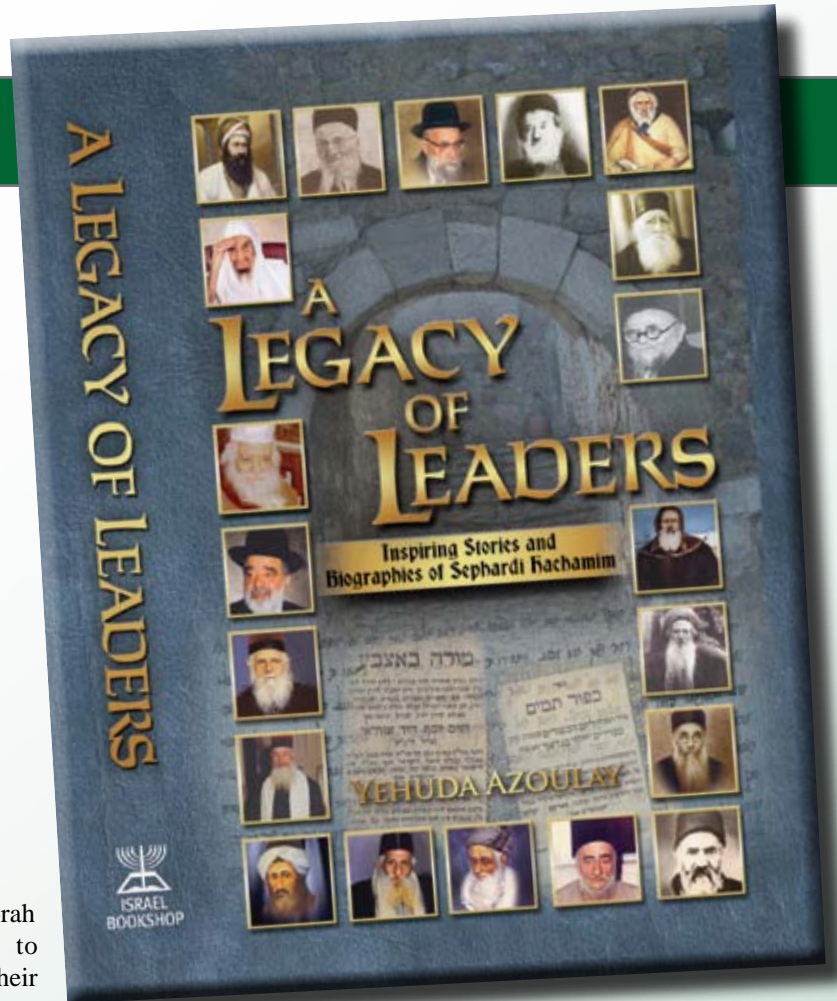
A Legacy of Leaders

Inspiring Stories & Biographies of Sephardic Hachamim

Author: Yehuda Azoulay

Hardcover, 384 pages

Israel Book Shop Publications



The names are familiar to many of us, but their legacy of greatness has struggled to find its way across generational lines. *A Legacy of Leaders* helps bring our glorious spiritual heritage onto the bookshelves – and into the hearts – of Sephardic households throughout the English-speaking world.

Anyone with exposure to the rich tradition of Sephardic Torah scholarship has undoubtedly come across household names such as the Ohr Ha'haim, Hacham Haim Palagi, the Kaf Ha'haim and the Ben Ish Hai. Most of us are probably also at least somewhat familiar with the more recent pillars of Sephardic *halachah*, such as Hacham Ben-Sion Abba Shaul, Hacham Ovadiah Hedaya and Hacham Shalom Messas, and the legendary kabbalistic masters such as the Baba Sali and Hacham Yizhak Kaduri. Each of these great Sephardic luminaries has left an everlasting impact upon *halacha*, *kabbalah* and Jewish tradition.

But how much do we really know about these *hachamim*, about the qualities and virtues that made them into such inspiring leaders and towering scholars? How do we ensure that their piety, devotion and diligence continue to guide and inspire future generations of Jews?

Yehuda Azoulay, a direct descendant of R' Haim Yosef David Azoulay (the *Hid"ra*, 1724-1806), embarked on a mission to research the lives and personalities of

Sephardic Torah luminaries, to look beyond their scholarly output and learn about these sages' qualities and lifestyles. His passion for the subject and countless hours of research and writing have yielded a groundbreaking volume that brings to life the great figures of Sephardic tradition.

A Legacy of Leaders is a collection of comprehensive, biographical profiles arranged chronologically, from R' Haim Ben Atar through R' Ben-Sion Abba Shaul. Each entry begins with an overview of the sage's life and achievements, and then presents a series of remarkable anecdotes that offer a glimpse into his piety and the respect he received from the Jews – and, in many instances, even the gentiles – he encountered.

The book is written in a lucid, straightforward style that makes it readily accessible even to children, yet its inspirational content will pique the interest of even the most sophisticated adults.

Rabbis' biographies are often filled mainly with stories of *moftim* (wonders) attributed to the *hacham* being portrayed. While *A Legacy of Leaders* indeed includes a number of such accounts, the thrust of the material relates to the *hacham's* piety, kindness and sensitivity. The intent is

not merely to evoke awe, but primarily to inspire the reader to look to the *hachamim* as living examples to follow.

As Rabbi Yizhak Yosef described in his letter of approbation for the work, "This book will encourage the youth to strive for greatness, for we have patriarchs and elders from whom to learn."

The book is adorned with dozens of beautiful photographs of the rabbis profiled, as well as of many of their colleagues and disciples.

A Legacy of Leaders is a book that will appeal to the entire spectrum of Jewish readers – Sephardim and Ashkenazim, young and old, educators and students, parents and children. It is the only book of its kind to delve so deeply into the lives of revered Hachamim from throughout the greater Sephardic world and is destined to become a classic – both in the classroom and at home.

A follow up work, *A Legacy of Leaders* Volume II is planned for publication this fall.

For more information, visit the book's website at www.sephardiclegacy.com or call Israel Book Shop Publications at 1-888-536-7427.