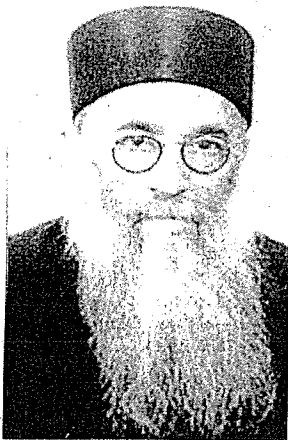


RAV YAAKOV ADES ZT"L

DAYAN AND ROSH YESHIVA OF YESHIVAT PORAT YOSEF

5658/1898 - 5723/1963
On His Yahrzeit, 27 Tammuz



Born in Aleppo, Syria in 5658/1898, Rav Yaakov Ades received his initial education from his father and, in 1910, when he was only twelve years old, his father enrolled him in Yeshivat Ohel Moed in Yerushalayim. Rav Yaakov studied there under the *rosh yeshiva*, Rav Raphael Shlomo Laniado zt"l, and then under Rav Yosef Yedid zt"l. In 1914, however, when World War I

broke out, the *yeshiva* was forced to close because so many of its students had to flee to avoid being drafted into the Turkish army. Some went to Egypt and others went to Bucharia in central Asia.

Despite the difficult conditions of those years, Rav Yaakov managed to stay in Yerushalayim. In 1918, after the war, the *yeshiva* students returned and worked to rebuild the *yeshiva* and resume their studies. In 1919, Rav Yaakov married Haya Esther, the daughter of Rav Ezra Harari-Rafal zt"l, who had come to Eretz Yisrael from Aleppo in 1890 and had founded Yeshivat Ohel Moed in 1907.

Rav Yaakov's greatness was soon recognized. In the year 1920, when he was only twenty-two years old, he was appointed as a *maggid shiur* in Yeshivat Ohel Moed with Rav Raphael Shlomo Laniado zt"l. He held this position until *Iyar* of 1923. When Yeshivat Ohel Moed closed that same year, the *talmidim* and staff went with their *rosh yeshiva* to Yeshivat Porat Yosef. Rav Yaakov was appointed *maggid shiur* in Porat Yosef and later became the *rosh yeshiva*. He remained there for

twenty years, shaping a generation of *talmidei chachomim*.

Rav Yaakov would come home at ten o'clock in the evening, sleep for only a few hours, and then leave at 2 a.m. to teach a class for *baalei batim* until it was time for *Shacharis* in the morning. He was so busy throughout the day that his wife never knew if he was eating enough. (This is the case with many *rabbanim*, and their wives' lot is to constantly worry about them.)

In 1935, Rav Yaakov was one of the senior *maggidei shiur* in Yeshivat Porat Yosef. He was appointed by the *Rishon Leitzion*, Rav Yaakov Meir, to the *Sephardic Beis Din*, and remained in this position until 1943. In 1944, Rav Yaakov was appointed to a seat on the *Sephardic Beis Din* of Tel Aviv. At that time, he also became the *rov* of the Tel Aviv *beis haknesses* of Syrian Jews. He left his home in Yerushalayim at the beginning of each week and only returned shortly before *Shabbos*.

When Rav Yaakov heard about the passing of Rav Ephraim Menashe Hakohen zt"l, *talmid* of the *Ben Ish Chai*, he suffered intense heartache and

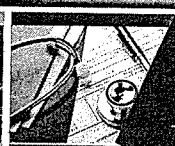
fainted. Rav Yaakov had learned with Rav Ephraim Menashe for numerous years. A doctor was immediately called to revive Rav Yaakov.

In 1945, he was appointed *dayan* in Yerushalayim, and ten years later he was elected to the *Beis Din Hagadol*, first as *dayan* and later as the *av beis din* together with Rav Betzael Zolty, Chief Rabbi of Yerushalayim, and Rav Yosef Shalom Elyashiv. He held this position until he passed away in 1963.

It was Rav Yaakov's practice to declare a *taanis* on himself when he needed to be careful to avoid making errors in judgment. For example, he fasted every time that he needed to arrange a *get*, and he prayed that he would not make a single mistake in his preparations. He wanted to avoid making any errors that would prevent the wife from remarrying.

Rav Yaakov passed away on 27 Tammuz 5723/1963 after four months of painful illness. His legacy continues today in the Yerushalayim *yeshiva* named after him, Yeshivat Kol Yaakov, which was founded by Rav Yehudah Ades, one of his younger sons.

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HIS KINDNESS

One Erev Shabbos, Rav Yaakov came home later than usual, only an hour before Shabbos. That morning, he had seen an old man crying, because he needed a doctor but did not know where to go. Rav Yaakov had spent the day accompanying the old man, whom he did not know, to the doctor, sitting and waiting with him and then bringing him home afterwards.

The old man was a *rov* who had arrived in Yerushalayim to be tested for the position of *dayan*. He visited the house of Rav Yaakov before going to the *beis din* for his interview. Rav Yaakov noticed that the man was poorly dressed, and he was concerned that when the man would arrive to be tested, someone might assume that he was a beggar. Rav Yaakov himself had only one suit, so he switched clothing with the poor old *talmid chochom*, and wore the rags until he returned.

HIS GREAT PROMISE

In the year 1936, after recovering from a heart attack (which he suffered after his firstborn son died), Rav Yaakov traveled to Tel Aviv to convalesce. He was accompanied by another son, Rav Yosef. One day, in the hotel where they were staying, a man named Mr. Damaskai visited them with his three sons. When he saw Rav Yaakov, he said to him, "These are your three children!"

Rav Yosef asked Mr. Damaskai to clarify what he meant by this sudden and puzzling declaration.

The man explained that he had been childless. After ten years of sadness,

he had gone to pour out his heart before Rav Yaakov. When he had told Rav Yaakov that he was about to divorce his wife, Rav Yaakov had implored him to wait another year, as his father had dealt with similar cases and his *tefillos* had borne fruit. Rav Yaakov had promised to go to his father's

nally a third healthy son.

HIS NOTABLE INTELLECT

Rav Yaakov's strict observance of *Shmittah* was unique. When one of his sons accompanied him to the market to buy vegetables during the *Shmittah*



Standing is Rav Ezra Attiah *zt"l*. Rav Ades *zt"l* is seated second to the right.

kever to *daven*, and encouraged Mr. Damaskai with his words of *bitachon*, saying that surely Hashem would listen to his *tefillos*. Mr. Damaskai did as Rav Yaakov advised and just a year later was blessed with his first son, who was followed by a second and fi-

year, he saw that his father was seeking a shop that was under rabbinical approval, and asked him, "Isn't it better to buy from the Arab women who are here (as produce from a non-Jew is not subject to the restrictions of *Shmittah*)?"

Rav Yaakov answered, "Look, I'll show you something." They went to one of the Arab women and asked her, "Where did you buy these vegetables? As I am one of the Jewish sages, you must tell me the truth; it would not be in your best interest to lie to me." She immediately took her vegetables and went with them to a Jewish shop. Pointing to the shop, she said, "He gave me the vegetables to sell for him."

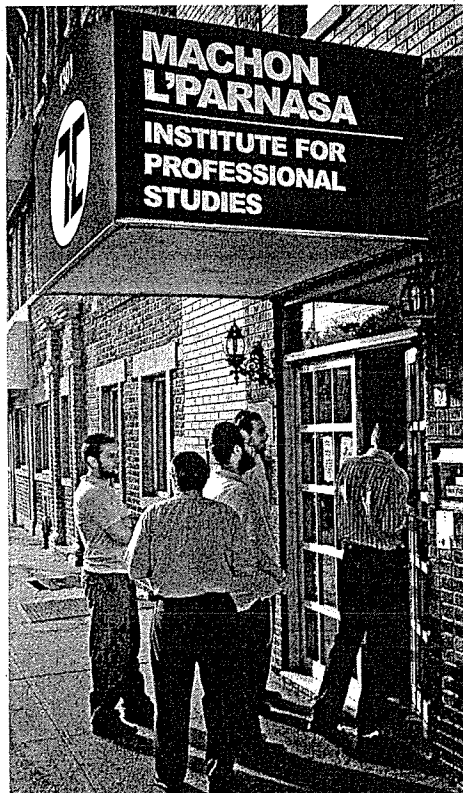
HIS FINAL DAYS

One day, when Rav Yaakov returned home after some time out, he lay down in his bed, obviously full of terrible pain, yet he sang songs with great happiness and a glowing face. He was greatly emotional. When his family asked him for an explanation for his conduct, he told them that he had visited one of the *beis hakevaros* in the *Nachalas Tzion* neighborhood in Yerushalayim. He had gone there to *daven* at the *kever* of Rav Yehudah Adlan Attiah *zt"l*.

Rav Yaakov was so overcome with emotion. He finally said, "I wish to be buried next to this great *tzaddik* one day."

Years later, the *Chevrach Kadisha* buried Rav Yaakov in the same cemetery. It was late at night and very dark when they performed the *kevarah* and they could see almost nothing at all. They simply chose the first empty plot they found. In the morning, they realized that they had buried Rav Yaakov Ades *zt"l* right next to Rav Yehudah Adlan Attiah *zt"l*, in the exact resting place that he had so desired.

Yehi zichro boruch.



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