

REB AVRAHAM STERNHARTZ *zt"l*

(1862–1955)

Reb Avraham Sternhartz *zt"l* was a great-grandson of Reb Noson Sternhartz, the leading disciple of Rebbe Nachman of Breslev. Orphaned at an early age, he was raised by his maternal grandfather, Reb Nachman Goldstein, the Tcheriner Rav, one of the outstanding figures in Breslev history. Under the tutelage of his illustrious grandfather and other major disciples of Reb Noson, Reb Avraham was the unique recipient of the entire Breslev oral tradition. A brilliant student with a phenomenal memory from early youth, his expertise in Talmud and *Poskim* (legal codes) earned him the position of Rav of Kremenchug before he reached his twentieth year. At the same time, Reb Avraham's love of Torah was equaled only by his love of the Jewish people – scholars and simple folk alike. Even in his advanced years, he traveled to both religious and secular *kibbutzim* to discuss Breslev Chassidut. For five decades, Reb Avraham led the *Mussaf* prayer service on Rosh HaShanah at the Breslev Synagogue in Uman, Ukraine. He immigrated to Israel in 1936, and in 1940, after travel to Uman became impossible, he established the Breslev Rosh HaShanah gathering in Meron, at the gravesite of the saintly *Tanna*, Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai. It was said of Reb Avraham that he was a “living” *Likutey Moharan*, which he knew by heart. With his whole being he “lived” the teachings of Rebbe Nachman. ■

ROSH HASHANAH 5760/1999

A Project of Nachal Novea Mekor Chochma – Tsfat, Israel