


REB GEDALIAH AHARON
KENIG *zt"l*
 (1921–1980)

Reb Gedaliah Aharon Kenig *zt"l* was the foremost disciple of Reb Avraham Sternhartz. Although he was already proficient in all realms of Torah when he met Reb Avraham, Reb Gedaliah nevertheless devoted himself to his teacher as if he were a rank beginner. It is said that they completed eighteen cycles of learning *Likutey Moharan* together, during which time Reb Avraham imparted the inner wisdom and spirit of the Breslev oral tradition which he uniquely received. Reb Gedaliah stated that Reb Avraham possessed what was given only to “one in a generation.” It was this tradition that Reb Gedaliah received from his mentor. Reb Avraham also passed on his desire to reach out to each and every Jew – a task that Reb Gedaliah selflessly fulfilled. He was famous for his patience and sensitivity towards others, even in the most trying of circumstances. He authored *Chayey Nefesh*, a book on the concept of binding oneself to the Tzaddik, and left numerous other unpublished manuscripts, including commentaries on *Likutey Moharan* and *Tikkuney Zohar*. A trip to the United States in 1979 to publicize Kiryat Breslev in Tsfat, helped open the door to the outside world for those interested in Breslev Chassidut. He was single-minded in his devotion to Rebbe Nachman, who, he would exclaim, “is saving the world!” He saw as his life’s work the establishment of the Breslev community in Tsfat, a mission personally entrusted to him by Reb Avraham. Reb Gedaliah believed that the fulfillment of this mission would be the ultimate vehicle to completely bring Rebbe Nachman’s light down into the world. 

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