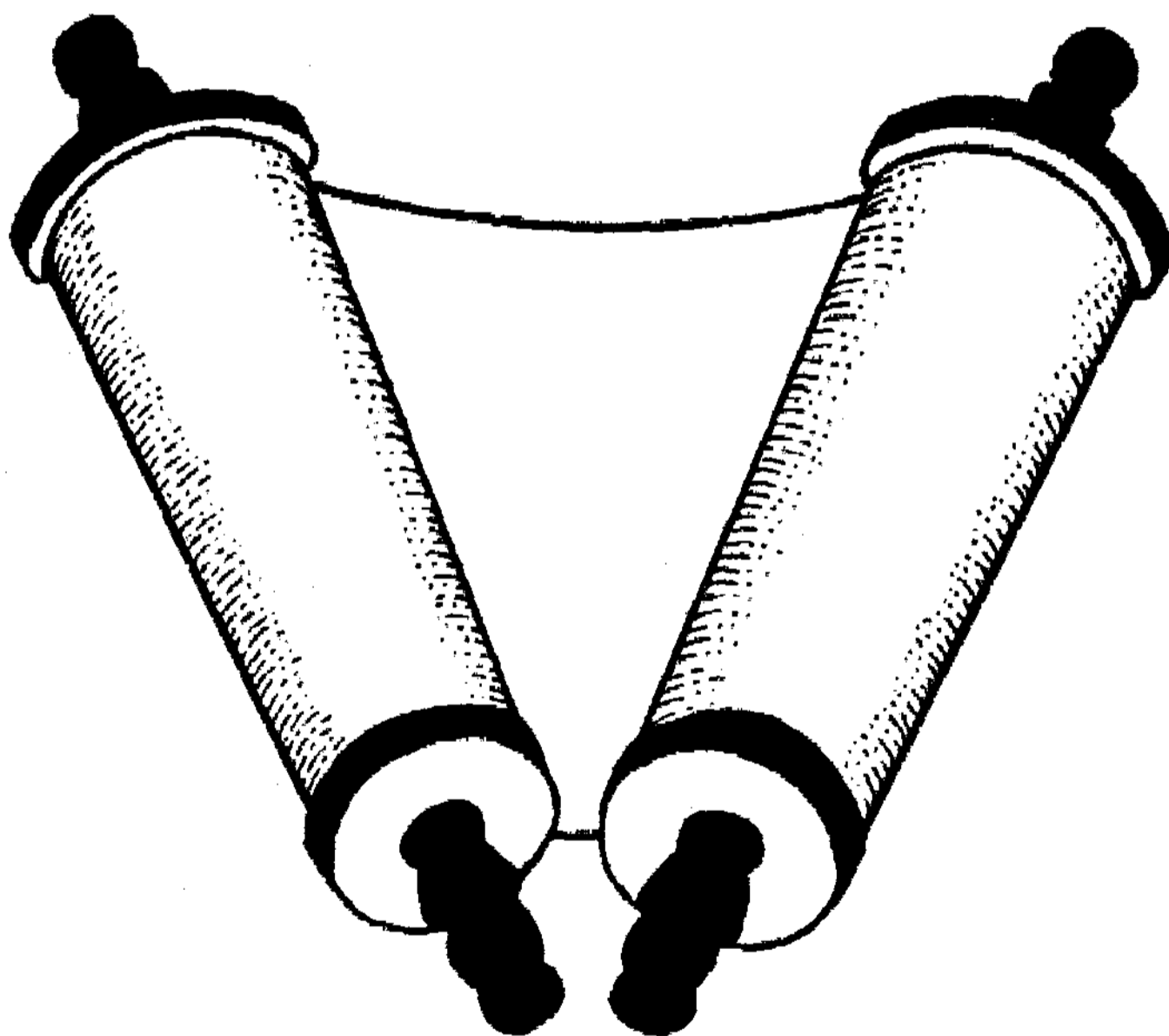


TORAH CONCEPTS

Book VI



Rabbi Joseph R. Radinsky

Torah Concepts:
the source of Jewish values

Book VI

by Rabbi Joseph R. Radinsky

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April 1996

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Printed in the United States of America

S&B Printers /Houston, Texas



Rabbi Joseph Ruben Radinsky was born in Seattle, Washington. He is married to Juliette nee Mizrahi, and they have three children and ten grandchildren. He received his education at Yeshiva University, the University of Washington, from which he received a B.A. degree in English; Harvard University, from which he received an M.A. degree in Comparative Literature; and Hebrew Theological

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Rabbi Radinsky is the Rabbinic Chairman of the Houston Kashruth Association and Rabbinic Chairman of the Houston Chevra Kadisha. He is a member of the Executive Board of the UJA Rabbinic Cabinet and is, also, a member of the Rabbinic Cabinet of Israel Bonds and the JNF Rabbinic Cabinet. He is or has been a member of the Executive Board of the Rabbinical Council of America, President of the Kallah of Texas Rabbis, President of the Houston Rabbinic Association, member of the board of the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston and of the Community Relations Council, and a member of the Executive Committee of the Houston Holocaust Museum.

Rabbi Radinsky taught at the Seattle Hebrew School. For thirteen years he was rabbi at the Congregation Sons of Abraham in Lafayette, Indiana. Since 1976 Rabbi Radinsky has been the rabbi of the United Orthodox Synagogues of Houston, Texas.

Dedication

In memory of my father-in-law, Eli Mizrahi, whose love of life, love of people, and love of his family was an example to us all. He always had a smile. He knew how to get along with everyone. He believed we could all enjoy life fully if we only practiced moderation in all things. He always had a positive attitude. No matter what problems life threw at him, he was always able with good humor to make the best of every situation and to adapt successfully to new conditions. He loved to dance at *simchas*. He took his responsibilities as a Jew seriously and did many *mitzvahs* quietly. He touched the lives of so many people. He will always live in the hearts and minds of all those who knew him.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank all those who made this book possible, especially my secretary, Pam Thomas, without whose help all my books would not have been possible. She is totally dedicated and goes way beyond the call of duty in performing all the necessary tasks in a synagogue office. I am especially indebted to Anne Badeaux who chaired the committee for securing all the sponsors for this book. I would also like to thank all the members of her committee: Anna Gomez, Freda Wadler, Connie Guest, Mindeleah Pollak, Arlene Stock, Lisa Yoram, Wanda Tierman, Colleen Arch, Judyth Eisen, Madeline Brown, and Carol Silverman.

I would also like to thank all the officers and members of United Orthodox Synagogues, especially Ralph Grenville, the president, for all their encouragement and help in producing the book. I am also very much indebted to Max and Marillyn Goldfield for printing all my books. They have been a tremendous help.

I also want to thank my wife, Juliette, and our children, Devora and Rabbi Mark Urkowitz, Dena and Yaacov Lipsky, and Rabbi Elie and Naomi Radinsky for all their inspiration. I hope that my grandchildren, Tzvi, Ariel, Aviva, Penina, Eitan, Gila, Atara, Rona, Chava, Joshua, and Zev, will find this book helpful when they grow up.

I am also indebted to the many people who shared their very personal experiences of the Holocaust with me, as well as to Yaffa Eliach whose book, *Hassidic Tales of the Holocaust*, inspired some of my *yizkor* sermons. I am also indebted to Rabbi Hanoach Teller, whose wonderful stories inspired some of my holiday sermons.

Thanks, also, to Robert Davis and Rabbi Benzion Turin for proofreading the final draft of this book.

I would like, also, to thank all those whose contributions made this book possible. Listed below are their names:

Myrna Aber	Nettie and Leonard Barris
Debbie and Chaim Abramowitz	Frances Batagower and Children
Susan and Michael Abramowitz	Margaret and Louis Berman
Bayla and Marvin Abrams	Pam and Brian Bloch
Jane and Raymond Alexander	Linda and Nelson Block
Eva and Vojtech Ackerman	Joy and Joe Blog
Carol and Joel Altman	Beverly and Harry Bloom
Anonymous	Stella and Gerald Blumenthal
Colleen and Boaz Arch	Dr. Edith F. Bondi
Carole and Wesley Ashendorf	Debbie and Sheldon Bootin
Anne Badeaux	Roselyn and Jules Borger
Golda and Gilbert Baker	Frida and Wolf Brauner
Beverly and David Barg	Maureen and Solomon Brickman

Philip Brochstein	Dennis Halpin
Dena and Baruch Brody	Morris Halpin
Helen and Pincus Brounes	Julia Ann and Joseph Heffler
Hal and Sylvia Burman	Robin Hilsenrath
Rita and Leon Brown	Judy and Alan Hoffman
Mollie Cacir	Celia and Fred Holste
Alice and Rabbi Moshe Cahana	Laura and Mark Huvad
Gary Cevin	Louise and Norman Jaffe
Moshe Chernomordik	Nancy Beren and Larry Jefferson
Elliott Cin	Doreen and Basil Joffe
Ruth and Michel Cohen	Sheryl and Dov Kadmon
Janine and Steve Conaway	Joy and Joe Kaplan
Hava and Eric Copans	Julius Karp
Bonny and David Cotlar	Linda and Ira Kasper
Chagit and Alan Croock	Frieda and Walter Katz
Renee and Benje Danziger	Annette and Ian Kavin
Avril and Julius Danziger	Carol and Brian Kirshon
Romana and David Davies	Gail and Milton Klein
Rachel and Bob Davis	Miriam and Allan Kogan
Carolyn and Scott Davis	Amelia and Joe Kornfeld
Yvonne and Ernest de Leef	Dodie and Sidney Krakower
Cantor Irving Dean	Shirley and Myron Kurtzman
Anna and Fred Dorin	Sanford Lack
Vardi and Derek Dror	Henia and Richard Leibman
David Dyche	Marilyn and Basil Leiman
Lea and Thomas Eichel	Joy and Stuart Lenett
Judy and Ab Eisen	Leona and Brian Lessem
Shelley and Sherman Elias	Jill and Nat Levy
Eleanor and Gerald Epstein	Daniel Liebenthal
David Fallas	Edith and Kurt Liebenthal
Fay Friedman	Sharon and Bill Lipsky
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Carole and Albert Goldreich	Sherry Zwiebel and Denes Marton
Kay and Aaron Goldstein and Leah	Freda and Joe Mendelovitz
Rachel and Jay Goldstein	Sharon and Max Mintz
Rosa and Antonio Gomez	Mindy and Ira Mitzner
Anna and Jose Gomez	Minette and Alex Moore
Elayne and Sloan Gordon	Betty and Jo Jo Moore
Olga and Terry Gordon	Cindy and Ronnie Moore
Norma and Ralph Grenville	Denise and Steve Moore

Ruth and Henri Morris
Moiria and Michael Morris
Rebecca Morris
Shirley and Leon Mucasey
Leah and Stewart Mueller
Ellen and Albert Najer
Margie Burman Nelson
Linda and Athol Ofsowitz
Tinker and Russell Paley
Nurit and Yehuda Patt
Esther and Harry Pepper
Hetty and Avrohm Perl
Carolyn and Richard Plessner
Mindeleah and Sam Pollak
Elka and David Poor
Glenda and David Regenbaum
Susan and Max Reichenthal
Evelyn and Sidney Reichenthal
Sara and Manny Reichstein
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Geraldine and Bernard Woolf
Otis Worsham
Esther and Skip Yarus
Lisa and Shahar Yoram
Shira and Daniel Yoshor
Aileen and Jerald Zarin
Edith and Robert Zinn
Charles Ziontz
Rebeca and Robert Zurawin

I would also like to thank all those who contributed anonymously Finally, I thank the Holy One, Blessed be He, Who has given me the strength, insight, good friends, and understanding to be able to publish this book. *Tam V'nishlam Sevach L-eil Boreih Olam.*

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Introduction

As in my previous five volumes, I have again endeavored to present the underlying values of Judaism and to explain how they relate to the world. I have tried to make explicit that which is implicit and to reveal Judaism's basic values by putting them in the modern idiom. I have used as source material the traditional Biblical commentators, the Midrashic and Talmudic literature, and the insights of such modern scholars as Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik and Rabbi B. S. Jacobson, Rabbi Menachem Sachs, Rabbi Aron Greenberg, Rabbi N. Miller, Nechama Leibowitz, Rabbi Avi Dov Kanotopsky, Rabbi Saul Weiss, Rabbi A. Besdin, Rabbi Pinchas Peli, Rabbi Menachem Schneerson, and Rabbi Abraham Twerski.

In this volume I have stressed how Judaism adds spirituality to our lives and allows us to be more than we could be otherwise. I have also tried to demonstrate how Judaism gives us the strength to overcome our many problems. It is my hope that those who read this book will see how Judaism will, if implemented in our daily lives, allow us all to live fuller and better lives.

May this book bring us all closer to our Jewish roots, and may it help us become better human beings and better Jews.