

FINAL EXAMINATION

I. Answer all questions in your exam booklet (Minkin) 15 points.

1. Which city became the symbol of the Hasidic movement during the life of the Besht?
 - a) Brody
 - b) Shnipishok
 - c) Lizhensk
 - d) Mezeritch
 - e) Mezhibozh
2. The highest form of Kavvanah is:
 - a) complete abandonment of self
 - b) knowing the meaning of the words
 - c) love of God
3. R. Dov Baer is also known as:
 - a) Rabbi of Lemberg
 - b) "Preacher of Mezeritch"
 - c) the Kohen of Polonnoye
4. A contributing factor to the success of R. Dov Baer was that:
 - a) Kahal was dissolved at that time
 - b) the Gaon had died
 - c) R. Gershon of Kutov went to Palestine
5. Give the name of a volume of utterances of R. Dov Baer collected by R. Solomon of Lutzk:
 - a) Likkutei Amarim
 - b) Ketonet Passim
 - c) Noam Elimelekh.
6. Who was considered Hasidism's literary master?
 - a) R. Dov Baer
 - b) R. Jacob Joseph
 - c) R. Gershon of Kutov
 - d) R. Nachman of Kossow
7. R. Jacob Joseph was a:
 - a) philosopher and theologian
 - b) innovator and teacher
 - c) polemicist and Talmudist
8. R. Gershon of Kutov was:
 - a) the son of R. Adam Baal Shem
 - b) one of the Sages of the Kloyz of Brody
 - c) a student of the author of Shaagat Aryeh
9. R. Shneur Zalman was the author of:
 - a) Shulhan Arukh
 - b) Arukh Hashulhan
 - c) neither of the above

10. Residents of Vilna were shocked when the Gaon died because:
 - a) R. Shneur Zalman died the day after
 - b) R. Hayyim of Volozhin refused to succeed him
 - c) Zealous Hasidim celebrated his death
11. Rabbi Avigdor of Pinsk was:
 - a) the first Sephardi follower of Hasidim
 - b) a saintly recluse
 - c) an informer
12. Who was in charge of the distribution of charity funds to Palestine?
 - a) Abraham of Kalisk
 - b) Besht
 - c) Avigdor
13. The fact that more has been written about R. Nahman of Brazlav than about all other Hasidic leaders proves:
 - a) that he impressed himself upon the modern mind as the most original
 - b) his eminence as a theologian
 - c) that he restated the Besht's principles in philosophical idiom.
14. What inconsistency was found in R. Nahman's character?
 - a) he was indifferent, while teaching enthusiasm
 - b) he was ignorant, while practicing learning
 - c) he was boastful, while emphasizing modesty
15. R. Nahman's literary secretary was:
 - a) Nahum of Gamzu
 - b) R. Nathan of Niemorov
 - c) R. Nathaniel of Lipstadt

II. Answer A or B - not both (Wiesel). 10 points.

A. What was the relation of R. Elimelekh of Lizensk to R. Zusia? What was their relationship to the Maggid? What was R. Elimelekh mostly noted for? Compare the personalities of Elimelekh and Zusia.

B. "What the Rebbe of Pshiskhe did to the Seer, the Seer had done to his Master, Elimelekh of Lizensk" (Wiesel, 213). To what is the author referring? Explain.

III. Answer all questions(The Letter of the Besht). 10 points

1. The Besht, in an ascent of the soul, returned (from the upper worlds) to:
 - a) Hell
 - b) Lower Paradise
 - c) Nahar Hidekel
 - d) Zaslów
 - e) Okup
2. He first thought that the reason for joy in heaven was:
 - a) that they recited the "ketoret" with kavvanah
 - b) that he had died
 - c) that the Mitnaggedim conceded to the Besht

3. According to Prof. Dinur, the main message of Hasidism is:
 - a) individual salvation
 - b) the teachings of Messianic redemption
 - c) Hitlahavut in prayer
4. According to Dubnow, Hasidism stresses:
 - a) individual salvation
 - b) the teachings of Messianic redemption
 - c) hitlahavut in prayer
 - d) uprising against the Kahal
5. "Teacher and Master" of the Besht is:
 - a) Elijah the Prophet
 - b) Ahijah of Shilo
 - c) R. Yehudah the Hassid

IV. Answer all questions (Mitnaggedism). 25 points.

1. The first ban against the Hasidim was issued in: (date) - (2)
2. The Zaddik who twice was imprisoned in St. Petersburg as a result of informing was: - (2)
3. The two most prolific Mitnagged pamphleteers were: - (2)
4. The most moderate and thoughtful of the Mitnaggedim was: - (2)
5. Define briefly: "transference of thoughts to the Rebbe." (3)
6. Define briefly: "elevation of strange thoughts" (4)
7. Define briefly: "bizarre practices" (give three examples) (6)
8. What did the soul tell the Besht, in the famous statement attributed to him and which so aroused the ire of the Mitnaggedim? (4)

V. Answer either A or B, not both. 40 points.

A. Discuss the concept of Torah Lishmah. What are the categories of definition of this concept? What are the categories of the opposite concept? What is the difference between the Hasidim and Mitnaggedim in how they evaluated Torah Lishmah? How do these contending formulations fit into the larger framework of their ideologies?

B. How does the Besht, as he is quoted by R. Moshe Hayyim Ephraim, find a hint of the concept of immanentism in the Hebrew word for sin? Why is R. Moshe Hayyim Ephraim so apprehensive about quoting the Besht on this? What two Biblical terms correspond roughly to the concept of immanence and transcendence?