

FINAL EXAM - JANUARY 1975

Answer all questions in your exam booklet. Write clearly.

I. Answer all questions, in order. Write each number and, next to it, the letter that indicates the correct answer. (15 points)

1. R. Elijah Gaon was:
  - a) Chief Rabbi of Vilna
  - b) head of the Rabbinical Court (Beth Din) of Vilna
  - c) neither of the above
2. R. Shneur Zalman was the author of:
  - a) Shulhan Arukh
  - b) Arukh Hashulhan
  - c) neither of the above
3. R. Shneur Zalman attempted to reconcile Hasidim and Mitnagdim by:
  - a) apologizing to R. Hayyim of Volozhin
  - b) withdrawing the Tanya from circulation
  - c) meeting with the Gaon
4. The oldest of the disciples of The Great Maggid was:
  - a) R. Abraham of Kalisk
  - b) R. Shneur Zalman of Liadi
  - c) R. Menahem Mendel of Vitebsk
5. The second ban against the Hasidim was occasioned by:
  - a) the rumor that R. Elijah had relented
  - b) the aliyah of Hasidim to Palestine
  - c) neither of the above
6. 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
7. Rabbi Avigdor of Pinsk was:
  - a) the first Sephardi follower of Hasidim
  - b) a saintly recluse
  - c) an informer

8. How did R. Shneur Zalman attempt to placate Hasidism's opponents?
  - a) dedicating his book to the Gaon
  - b) by visiting towns and villages and acquainting himself with people
  - c) rejoining the Kahal
9. Who was in charge of the distribution of charity funds to Palestine?
  - a) Abraham of Kalisk
  - b) Besht
  - c) Avigdor
10. What did some Hasidim charge R. Shneur Zalman with?
  - a) making light of the study of Torah
  - b) founding an intellectual aristocracy
  - c) intolerance towards ~~Mithra~~ <sup>Mithraism</sup>
11. The fact that more has been written about R. Nahman of Braslav 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
12. 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
13. The group of followers of R. Nahman consisted of:
  - a) intelligent and spiritually alert young people
  - b) elderly and infirm
  - c) ignorant peasants
14. R. Nahman's love of nature is reflected in:
  - a) his poetry
  - b) his songs
15. R. Nahman's literary secretary was:
  - a) Nahum of Gamzu
  - b) R. Nathan of Niemorov
  - c) R. Nathaniel of Lipstadt

II. Answer all questions in your exam booklets: (45 points)

1. Hasidism's concept of the Deity may best be termed:  
a) deism      b) pantheism      c) panentheism
2. According to Abarbanel, King Uzziah was guilty of:  
a) insulting the Rabbis  
b) praying late.  
c) denying divine immanence  
d) immorality
3. A "dudelle" is the name of:  
a) a Hasidic Hanukkah toy  
b) a song composed by R. Levi Yitzhak  
c) the small uncle of R. Yaakov Yosef
4. "Those who desire the closeness of God" is a term applied by R. Hayyim of Volozhin to  
a) Hasidim  
b) Mitnagdim  
c) Sabbatians  
d) Frankists
5. The Desht defines "evil" as:  
a) the lowest form of the good  
b) the absence of immanence  
c) immoral or "alien" thoughts
6. R. Shneur Zalman's approach to evil is formulated as:  
a) "turning the Sefirot upside down"  
b) "turning the Four Worlds inside out"  
c) neither of the above
7. The Hasidic definition of Devekut has affinity with that of:  
a) R. Simeon bar Yoha: (and the Zohar)  
b) Nachmanides (Ramban)  
c) neither of the above
8. For the Maggid, "unification" (yihud) during Devekut means:  
a) going from ayin to ani  
b) going from ani to ayin  
c) going from Mitnaged to Hasid
9. "Adiaphora" is:  
a) a state of mind where you are indifferent to the world  
b) great happiness and joy during worship  
c) that which is neither forbidden nor obligatory



10. "Smallness" is related to the concept of:
  - a) "sweetening the judgments"
  - b) "service through corporeality"
  - c) "the roots of the En-Sof"
11. "Descent" is related to the concept of:
  - a) the devekut of the Zaddik
  - b) the criticism of Hasidim
  - c) neither of the above
12. "The Man of Form" is a term applied by R. Yaakov Yosef to:
  - a) Sabbatai Zevi
  - b) The Gaon of Vilna
  - c) The Zaddik
13. "A man is --"
  - a) where his Rebbe is"
  - b) where he studies Torah"
  - c) where his thoughts are"
14. Hasidism may be described as:
  - a) a rationalist movement
  - b) a romantic movement
  - c) a proletarian movement
15. "I have placed the Lord before me at all times" is interpreted by the Desht in such a manner as to yield the theory of:
  - a) holy indifferentism
  - b) wholly differentness
  - c) different holiness

III. Answer two of the following: (40 points)

- A. Torah Lishmah:
  1. What are the three classes of definition of Torah Lishmah?
  2. What was the criticism of the Hasidic definition by R. Hayyim of Volozhin?
- B. What is meant by the term "double consciousness"?  
How is the concept used by Hasidim?  
How by Mitnagdim?
- C. How does the Desht (quoted by R. Mosheh Hayyim Ephraim) interpret the last letter in the word אמת? Why is he so apprehensive in proposing this interpretation?