

# Hasidic Models of Leadership

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## I. Introduction.

- Probl of religious lp nowadays. Ours=time of troubled transition, attenuated influence. Hsm, in course of but a few decades, produced astounding array number of powerful leaders who galvanized Eastern European Jewry, pulled them out of the doldrums. Different models developed by Hsm. Any lessons f us?
- Jsm always had variety of kinds of Lp: Biblical=Moses+Aaron, מלך כהן ונביא; Talmud=פרנס+רב; since then: ת"ח רב, 17-18<sup>th</sup> centuries—מוכיחים ומגידים (+ ת"ח.)
- W Hasidism→Z! Term “Z”—used in early Hc lit., later: “Rebbe”. We’ll keep w Z.
- In this lecture will discuss phenomenon of Zaddikism, the need/function/qualifications f Hc lp; the varieties of lp by the Z, the relationship of Z and Hasid—and ultimately, whether and what we can learn from these forms of lp for our own rabbinic lp at the start of this new century

## II. Sources

TTY=first emphasis (אנשי צורה/חומר); most elaborate=נועם אלימלך (posthumously 1788)

## III. Transition from Traditional Rabbinic to Hasidic World.

1. Traditional Rabbinic world: ת"ח=highest accolade (so: intellectual); Hc: Z (=charisma); Though occasionally in Hc lit, the 2 terms used interchangeably, fundamental difference: typical biography ת"ח—linear (hagiography-Art Scroll); Z—“double life” באתנסיא/התגלות
2. Hc critique of their contemporary rabbinic lp: TTY: שדין יהודאין, חכמים להרע. Bitter against intellectual class and their pilpul, and they served to cement relations between אנשי צורה ואנשי חומר (i.e., common enemy). Hasidism argued: *Lomdus* isn’t enough, must have אמונת חכמים, i.e., is one of greater רוחניות, and that can’t be learned—ההתבטלות... So, charisma trumps cognition...
3. But while *Lomdus* not prerequisite f Z, not true they were ignorant. Many Zaddikim/Hasidim--גדולים, ת"ח. (SI: אבני חזר--rather die fr learning than not learning)
4. o-c, Mitnagdim counter-attacked with even greater ferocity

## IV. The Need for a Zaddik.

RE: Every generation, God provides a דידק הדור  
Z=ישראל כללית because he’s dedicated to their needs

## V. Function of the Zaddik.

1. Role of Z based on built-in conflict: דבקות... (constant, tends to isolation) & (social) Lp
2. Z not egocentric, also not completely spl; synthesis of solitary דבקות and care of community; RE held on to both despite tensions between them. (READ from נועם אלימלך—TRTH—pp. 277-8)
3. Likewise—Berditchever: 2 types: דבקות/שפע... Paradox: lesser Z [שפע] may be more important and helpful [i.e., better leader] than greater Z

4. World needs both types—one for "יחודים", one for שפע—to help בני חיי ומזוני w