



**A Glimpse Into the Life of the
Last Lubavitcher Rebbe:
Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson**

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Chasidic Judaism

- A form of charedi (ultra-Orthodox) Judaism
- Founded by Israel ben Eliezer AKA the Ba'al Shem Tov (1698-1760), a mystic and healer
- “Chasid” means “pious one”
- Emphasis on joy and happiness
- Opponents are mitnagdim (or misnagdim)
- Sects are led by rebbes, parts of dynasties

Lubavitch Chasidism

- Founded 1775
- 1st Rebbe – Schneuer Zalman of Liadi (1745-1812)
- 2nd Rebbe – Dovber Schneuri (1773-1827) (The Mittlerer Rebbe)
- 3rd Rebbe – Menachem Mendel Schneerson (1789-1866) (Tzemach Tzedek)
- 4th Rebbe – Shmuel Schneerson (1834-1882)
- 5th Rebbe – Sholom Dovber Schneerson (1860-1920) (Rebbe Rashab)
- 6th Rebbe – Yosef Yitzhak Schneerson (1880-1950) (The Frierdiker Rebbe)
- 7th Rebbe – Menachem Mendel Schneerson (1902-1994)

חב"ד - Chabad

חכמה - Wisdom

בינה - Understanding

דעת - Knowledge

אודל דרבניות
באוהל זה טמונות
ישיבת סטערנא אהל הצדיק
הגדול שרי"ם אהל אברהם האשכנזי
ישיבת חיה מושקא אהל אריה שניידער
אחד נשי ישיבת בית הרב
בשנת ה'תשנ"ו ע"פ

Early Life

- Born 11 Nissan 5662 (April 5, 1902) in present-day Ukraine
- Parents Levi Yitzhak and Chana Yanovski
- Great-great-great-grandson of Third Rebbe - Menachem Mendel Schneerson
- Married Chaya Mushka Schneerson, daughter of the sixth rebbe, in 1928

Europe

- The Schneersons moved to Berlin in 1928 where he began working for his father-in-law
- Studied physics, mathematics, and philosophy at the University of Berlin
- Moved to Paris in 1933 after Nazis rose to power
- Studied mechanical and electrical engineering
- Escaped Paris for Vichy, then Nice and left Europe in 1941

America

- Arrived in New York on June 23, 1941
- Immediately went to work on behalf of Chabad organizations and outreach
- Was able to balance integration and distinctiveness
- Never visited Israel – his headquarters at 770 Eastern Parkway became the emblem of Chabad

Leadership

- International outreach and emissaries
- Community and campus outreach
- Public space Judaism
 - Chanukah Candlelighting
 - Tefillin and mitzvot
 - Lag b'Omer parades
- Dollars for charity
- Farbrengen
- Must-see for dignitaries and politicians
- Human rights and religious rights worldwide – Iran, Soviet Union

Legacy

- Died June 12, 1994 without designating a successor
- Messianism disagreement
- Education and Sharing Day (11 Nisan)
- Worldwide movement that endures beyond his lifetime without a successor

Lessons for the Rest of Us

- A glimpse into a vanished world
- Commitment and faith
- Rootedness in communities
- Accessible Orthodoxy

