



המכון הישראלי לפרסומים תלמודיים

The Israel Institute for Talmudic Publications

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RABBI ADIN STEINSALTZ

Curriculum Vitae

“Jewish lore is filled with tales of formidable rabbis. Probably none living today can compare in genius and influence to Adin Steinsaltz, whose extraordinary gifts as scholar, teacher, scientist, writer, mystic and social critic have attracted disciples from all factions of Israeli society”.

Time, 1980

Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz was born in Jerusalem in 1937. Alongside his Jewish studies and rabbinic ordination, he also studied physics and chemistry at the Hebrew University. After graduating, he established a number of experimental educational institutions in various parts of Israel and, at the age of 23, he was the youngest school principal in Israel.

In 1965, with the encouragement of Israeli President Zalman Shazar, Prime Minister Levi Eshkol, and Knesset Chairman Kadish Luz, he founded The Israel Institute for Talmudic Publications, and since then he has been working on his monumental project of translating and reinterpreting the Talmud. This new edition of the Talmud, of which 38 volumes have thus far been published, has made the Talmud accessible to tens of thousands of Hebrew-speakers. In 1989, he began producing an English edition, which now numbers 21 volumes. Eighteen editions have been published in French since 1994, and five editions have appeared in Russian. The Talmud project has been acclaimed as the most important Judaic publication of the century.

In 1984, Rabbi Steinsaltz founded the Mekor Haim Educational Institutions in Jerusalem, which now has over 800 students from preschool through post high-school yeshiva. These institutions strive to create integrated religious personalities capable of helping bridge the enormous gaps that have developed among the Jewish people.

In 1988, Rabbi Steinsaltz received the Israel Prize – Israel’s highest honor.

In 1989, the Rabbi established a Russian branch of Mekor Haim – the first Jewish institution to receive official recognition in the former Soviet Union. Since then, he has established in Open Jewish University in Moscow, the Lamed umbrella organization of teachers of Jewish tradition throughout the former Soviet Union, and the Institute for Leadership Training.

In 1989, the Rabbi also founded the Aleph Society in New York, London and Israel, whose aim is to help propagate his teachings and sustain his various institutions.



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Rabbi Steinsaltz has written numerous books and articles dealing with a wide variety of topics, and his works have been translated into English, Russian, French, Portuguese, Swedish, Italian, Chinese, and Japanese. He has lectured at major universities and research institutions in the United States and Europe, including Princeton University, Yale University, the Woodrow Wilson Center, Oxford University and the Sorbonne. In August 2000, he participated in the Millennium World Peace Summit of Religious and Spiritual Leaders at the United Nations.

The Rabbi has developed a reputation as a profound spiritual leader who does not belong to any social, religious or political organization. His advice is sought by statesmen and by simple people alike, and his opinions are frequently aired in the printed and electronic media.

Rabbi Steinsaltz lives in Jerusalem with his wife. He has three children and ten grandchildren.