

Moreinu Horav Moshe Dov Ber Rivkin zt"l

5652/1891 — 5736/1976

At Yeshiva Torah Vodaath from 1928 — 1976

Horav Moshe Dov Ber Rivkin was born to R' Ben Tzion and Esther Rivkin on 21 Kislev 1891, in Zintsi, Ukraine. R' Ben Tzion was the Rav of the town and, was considered an expert in *Shas Bavli*, *Yerushalmi*, *Shulchan Aruch* and *sifrei Kabbalah*. Many *gedolim* corresponded with him in halachah issues.

From a very young age, Rav Moshe Dov Ber was known to be an *illui*. He began learning *gemara* at age 5. Rav Rivkin was a *chassid* of Chabad and most particularly, he was a beloved chasid of the "*Rashab*" (1860-1920). In his early years, he learned in Yeshiva Tomchei Temimim in Lubavitch, and he later followed the *Rashab* to Rostov where he learned with him privately and was one of the very few people that the rebbe wanted to have with him in the weeks before his *petirah*. During these last days, the Rebbe Rashab talked to the young Rav Rivkin in Torah and their discussions became the basis for Rav Rivkin's first *sefer*, *Ashkavta D'Rebbi*.

While yet unmarried, Rav Rivkin was invited to become *Rosh Yeshiva* in Tomchei Temimim. He soon married Nacha Heber of Kalisch, later a noted *mechaneches*, and immigrated to Eretz Yisrael where he was a founder of Yeshiva Toras Emes and developed a close connection with such luminaries as Horav Avraham Yitzchak Kook zt"l and Horav Yosef Chaim Sonnenfeld zt"l. He was invited to join the faculty of Yeshiva Torah Vodaath in 1928.

During his time at Torah Vodaath, he gave *smicha* to many hundreds of talmidim. He had close personal relationships with the *gedolim* of the age including R' Moshe Feinstein, zt"l, R Yaakov Kaminetzky, zt"l, Rav Yitzchak Hutner, zt"l, Rav Yosef Ber Soloveitchik zt"l and others.

Through his years, Rav Rivkin published extensively in Torah journals and also collected a selection of his *chidushim* in his *sefer*, *Teferes Tzion*.

Rav Rivkin not only taught Torah in the *bais medrash*, he was also role model to his talmidim in how to use Torah as a guide for life. When he was seen shopping for shabbos, it was a lesson in itself.

Rav Rivkin's devotion to his talmidim was unparalleled and was returned in force.

Rav Rivkin's talmidim were bound to him with such love and commitment that when he was hospitalized in his last weeks, they stayed in shifts near his hospital bed day and night. Doctors were amazed at the attachment the talmidim felt for their *Rebbi*, recompense for his dedication to them throughout his life.

Rav Rivkin, zt"l was niftar on 18 *MarCheshvon* 1976.

Yehi zichro boruch