Introduction



A few years ago, shortly before *Rosh Hashanah* (the Jewish new year), one of Rabbi Ginsburgh's students gave him an original holiday present: he opened a Twitter account for him.

A Chassidic Rabbi and Twitter? Anyone who's seen Rabbi Ginsburgh or read any of his books can immediately tell he's not the computer type, certainly not someone who surfs the web and tweets his friends about his whereabouts and activities. Besides, even if he were, such tweets would be so monotonous, no one would bother reading them (they would read something like: "At home. Davening. Finished davening. Learning Torah and working on new book. Great stuff! Will tell you all in class," repeated day after day...).

However, contrary to all expectations, Rabbi Ginsburgh did start using his Twitter account. In fact, for nine long months it was constantly open while he was studying, ready to collect his thoughts. Day after day and night after night, he would tweet away the most beautiful, original, and thought-provoking Torah insights, like an origami master laying colorful paper swans on the surface of a lake. Though often whimsical in nature, the tweets were in fact deep meditations upon ideas the Rabbi was studying. Constricted by Twitter's character quota, they were formulated concisely, and were strung together by links of

free association. Twitter became the unexpected channel for Rabbi Ginsburgh's unique stream of consciousness, a portal into his mind's boundless creativity—arguably the most original and innovative Torah-mind of our generation.

At first the Rabbi's tweets were single stand-alone aphorisms, capturing a thought or a feeling in a single sentence. But gradually they grew into short essays, broken down into single sentences. As the ideas expanded and more tweets were needed to convey them, it became clear Twitter wasn't the appropriate medium. Unless you had read the tweets live as they were being submitted, you would have to read them either in reverse order, or from the bottom up—hardly convenient for the consumption of lengthy ideas. It was then that another of the Rabbi's students gave him a second present: this time, he opened a blog for him! In his new blog, titled *Wonders of Your Torah*, Rabbi Ginsburgh was free to communicate his messages without Twitter's length quota, and as a result, his essays became lengthier and more serious in tone.

The volume in your hands is a collection of nearly all the tweets and blog-posts from that year—the year 5771 by the Jewish calendar (2010-2011). They have been arranged into short pieces, somewhat edited for coherency, and sorted into chapters by topic. All in all, the book is composed of 31 chapters, divided into six headings: *God & Man, Heart & Soul, Torah & Commandments, Ancestors & Archetypes, Here & Now,* and *Weird & Wonderful*.

This book should be read as it was written: in small chunks and with a half-smile throughout. In many places the book follows an associative logic, meandering from one place to another, and is laced with much playfulness, as is evident from the many *gematrias* scattered throughout it (see note below). The English language puns in particular should be

taken lightly. King David said: "Your Torah is my amusement" (Psalms 119:77). So too, for Rabbi Ginsburgh the Torah offers never-ending enjoyment, allowing his mind to roam its infinite expanses, exploring uncharted worlds, long-forgotten souls, and God's infinite wonder.

You're invited to enter the playground of Rabbi Ginsburgh's mind, a truly Wondering Jew, whose soul is forever voyaging in search of God and His mysteries. We hope you come out of it a better, richer person, and have fun along the way.

Nir Menussi & Moshe Genuth, editors

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