

Rabbi Eliezer Melamed

Rabbi Eliezer Melamed is an Israeli talmid chacham, who serves as the rabbi and spiritual leader of the town of Har Bracha, and as the head of the community's yeshiva. He teaches Torah to the public in a clear and eloquent manner, while emphasizing its application to modern life.

Most of Rabbi Melamed's energies are dedicated to the study, writing and dissemination of the Torah in every written and electronic medium.

Rabbi Melamed's extensive activity is a combination of his different roles as a Torah scholar who diligently studies the Torah, an author of numerous works, and a rosh yeshivah and town rabbi. His comprehensive teachings have brought Torah teachings to life for the general public, rabbis, Torah scholars and the Jewish people everywhere.

His Pninei Halacha series has won a distinguished place in the Jewish bookshelf and can be found in synagogues, study halls, and many homes. They have been translated into English, French, Spanish and Russian.

Pninei Halacha comprehensively and methodically discuss all the daily practical Jewish issues of our time, in keeping with the Rabbi's overriding vision of bringing the Jewish people closer to Torah and mitzvot observance.

The uniqueness of his Torah work is characterized by its ideological and faith-based explanations for halacha. He combines solid Jewish tradition going back generations with in-depth clarifying and

interpreting halacha from the sources until arriving at the correct halachic decision. His method is lucid and engaging, in tandem with our times and with the general public. Over the years, many Torah scholars and students requested that he expand the scope of Pninei Halacha and explain his sources in a more profound and scholarly manner that would strengthen the halacha and judicial decision in light of dissenting views. For this purpose, supplementary sections were written for the Pninei Halacha series.

Rabbi Melamed authored Revivim, a weekly column that ran for many years in the B'Sheva newspaper, in whose founding the rav also had a hand. His articles received much exposure and praise, and have so far been published in three volumes: the first volume - marriage, society, family and career. The second volume - nation, country and army. The third volume - the lives and deeds of the great Jewish sages.

As if all this was not enough, the rabbi has also made his incisive mark over the years in the public arena.

In consideration of all the above, the selection committee has decided to award Rabbi Eliezer Melamed the Katz Prize for 2019.


Professor Menahem Ben-Sasson Rabbi Aryeh Stern Rabbi Shlomo Dichovski Rabbi Haim Sabato