



Rabbi Asher Zelig Weiss

The advances of science and technology has brought to the fore new questions with wide implications in every area of halacha. This challenging reality requires encyclopedic familiarity of the technological issues. Bridging between the world of halacha and the modern world requires a broad and comprehensive Jewish law perspective that includes understanding the immediate and ensuing ramifications for the public.

Questions involving ethics and values have acquired a respected place in a range of fields. Our innovative world has laid challenges at the door of *poskei halacha* which require a value judgment on a wide spectrum of issues. Only prominent Torah scholars with wide shoulders, who have researched and drawn up the correct viewpoint which reflects our holy Torah's position, can rule on these challenges.

The effort to reach a legal decision is complex and requires broad and exhaustive familiarity with an array of considerations, such as "*sha'at dchak*" and "*hefsed merubah*." Sometimes the questioner's level of observance and his religious leanings come into play. These considerations are an integral part of *pesika* in Jewish law.

Rav Asher Weiss has taken up this important challenge. His legal rulings are cornerstones and guidelines for rabbis, medical and legal personnel, and the wide public that have come to rely on his rulings.



The rav has served for many years at the head of *batei din* and has presided over many landmark rulings. He has rendered important and sensitive guidelines.

For many years, he has served as the rabbi of Shaare Zedek hospital, which made him a lodestone for questions in the field of medicine from all over the world.

Some of his responsa on these topics were recently published in his three-volume *Minchas Asher* responsa. They contain a wide range of discussions on the new circumstances that have emerged in our generation and how to implement Torah law in light of modern living conditions.

The rav is like a beacon of light who is not afraid to decide on the most intricate and complex questions. In all of them, his landmark rulings are straightforward and clear. The genius, broadmindedness and voluminous Torah knowledge in his responsa is evident to all, from his familiarity with Shas and *poskim* to *midrashim* and the responsa of Achronim.

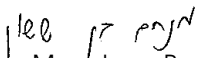
His responsa deal with all four sections of Shulchan Aruch: neighbors' disputes, *dina d'malchuta dina*, doctors' responsibility to treat his patient to the best of his ability, a Hatzalah paramedic returning home, circumcision by laser, hospitalizing a psychiatric patient, inviting non-observant guests for Shabbat meals, *tevilat keilim* in a hotel, and grave questions about *mamzerut* and *agunot*.



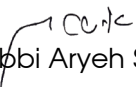
The rav is blessed with genius, charm and an inimitable power of explanation. His lectures are revered by a large and diverse audience. His ability to disseminate Torah to the Litvish, chareidi and the dati-leumi world in all their variances, as well as wide populations abroad who speak English and Yiddish, is unparalleled.

His prolific teachings have reverberated to such a degree until it appears that there is no responsa dealing with the crossroads between Torah and medicine, Torah and science, and Torah and technology, that doesn't mention Rav Weiss's views on the topic.

In consideration of all the above, the selection committee has decided to award Rabbi Asher Zelig Weiss the Katz Prize for 2018.


Professor Menahem Ben-Sasson


Rabbi Haim Sabato


Rabbi Aryeh Stern