



## **Rabbi Shlomo Dichovski**

High Rabbinical Court Judge

For over thirty years Rabbi Shlomo Dichovski served in the Rabbinical Courts; at the beginning in the local courts and afterwards in the High Rabbinical Court, and he made his mark with rulings in all areas of life. Rabbi Dichovski is not only extremely knowledgeable in Torah, Talmud and the Shulhan Arukh, he is also proficient in secular law and other fields. Rabbi Dichovski is endowed with clarity of thought and the ability to explain concepts precisely and simply. These abilities come to light in his many rulings. His rulings are far-reaching, deep, varied, clear and well-reasoned. The rulings are clear, not only to those who come from the world of in-depth Talmud learning but also to those coming from the world of law and for every reader who desires to understand the stance of halakha in any given topic.

Most people well-acquainted with the Israeli culture will assume that the rabbinical courts and secular courts are two parallel entities that will never intersect, as are the Jewish law and secular law. This assumption is correct- until one reads the rulings of Rabbi Dichovski in which he emphasizes the Jewish law, backs it up with the secular law and draws comparisons to laws from other, seemingly unconnected fields. He succeeds in closing the gap between that which is different in these two different worlds of law and, in the main, enables the modern reader to understand the logic behind the Torah. Rabbi Dichovski illustrates how the Torah is up-to-date within the norms of the twenty-first century without ever deviating from the permitted boundaries of the Torah. Rabbi Dichovski has led a revolution as far as the halakhic ruling concerning Jewish women whose husbands refuse to grant them



divorces and has worked endlessly to free these women from their figurative chains. A great number of essays have been published by the Rabbi concerning all areas of life and in many of them he dealt with technological developments and scientific novelties and how Halakha views the use of them- such as in the Jewish kitchen, on the Sabbath, Jewish holidays and so forth.

The Rabbi's teachings are valued immensely among eminent Torah scholars and deciders of Jewish law, as well as by distinguished legal scholars in Israel and around the world. The Rabbi is regularly invited to lecture in colleges and universities throughout the country, as well as to legal conventions, in order to bring the clear voice of the Torah of the Jewish people and of Jewish law.

The many rulings that have been written by the Rabbi serve as a foundation and guidance for many generations of rabbinical judges and jurists who came after him. The rulings guide the new generation of rabbinical judges in all the issues relating to intimacy, marriage, divorce and women's right to honor, housing and alimony. Rabbi Dichovski's ground-breaking rulings regarding freeing women who are, according to Jewish law, figuratively chained to their husbands who refuse to offer them a Jewish divorce, and his instructions to search for every acceptable way, within the confines of Jewish law, to put an end to their suffering and dependence on their insubordinate husbands, led to innovative rulings in the rabbinic courts.

Rabbi Shlomo Dichovski is deserving of honor and appreciation for his proving that in the rabbinic courts there is a sympathetic ear for both the



concerns of the general public and for the cries of many, many women. He is responsible for hundreds of clearly-written rulings, different to that which we are used to, with breadth of vision and drawn from secular law. His concise, reasoned rulings have caused immeasurable honor to both G-d and His Torah. The Rabbi has spent years of work in examining and investigating innovations in all areas of life and their interaction with halakha. Through his tireless work, Rabbi Shlomo Dichovski has made an invaluable contribution to the implementation of halakha in modern-day life.

In consideration of the above, the selection committee has decided to bestow upon Rabbi Shlomo Dichovski the Katz Prize for 5777 (2017).

  
Professor Menahem Ben-Sasson

  
Rabbi Haim Sabato

  
Rabbi Adin Even-Israel (Steinsaltz)