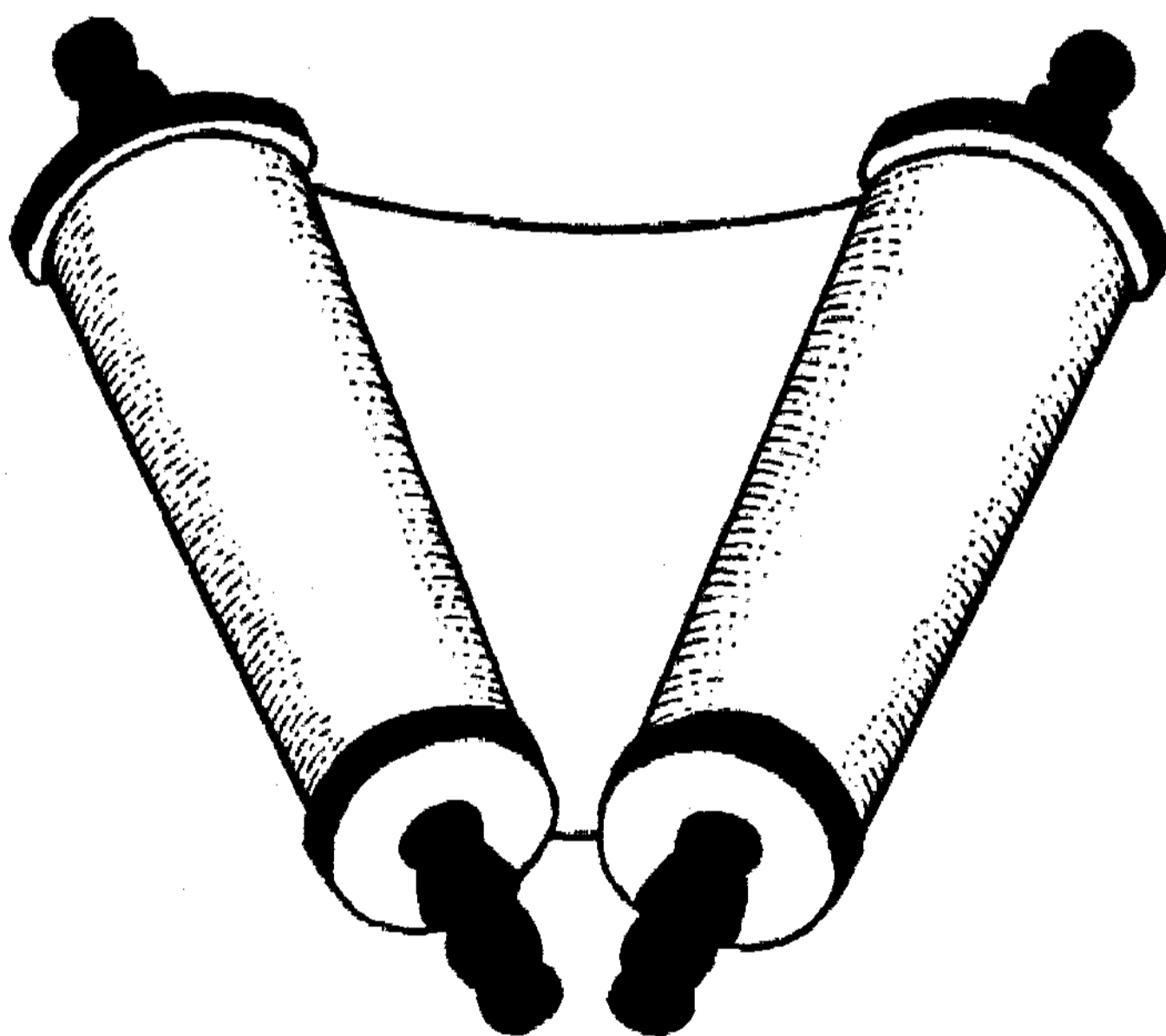


TORAH CONCEPTS

Book VI



Rabbi Joseph R. Radinsky

Torah Concepts:
the source of Jewish values

Book VI

by Rabbi Joseph R. Radinsky

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Rabbi Joseph Ruben Radinsky was born in Seattle, Washington. He is married to Juliette nee Mizrahi, and they have three children and ten grandchildren. He received his education at Yeshiva University, the University of Washington, from which he received a B.A. degree in English; Harvard University, from which he received an M.A. degree in Comparative Literature; and Hebrew Theological

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Rabbi Radinsky is the Rabbinic Chairman of the Houston Kashruth Association and Rabbinic Chairman of the Houston Chevra Kadisha. He is a member of the Executive Board of the UJA Rabbinic Cabinet and is, also, a member of the Rabbinic Cabinet of Israel Bonds and the JNF Rabbinic Cabinet. He is or has been a member of the Executive Board of the Rabbinical Council of America, President of the Kallah of Texas Rabbis, President of the Houston Rabbinic Association, member of the board of the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston and of the Community Relations Council, and a member of the Executive Committee of the Houston Holocaust Museum.

Rabbi Radinsky taught at the Seattle Hebrew School. For thirteen years he was rabbi at the Congregation Sons of Abraham in Lafayette, Indiana. Since 1976 Rabbi Radinsky has been the rabbi of the United Orthodox Synagogues of Houston, Texas.

Dedication

In memory of my father-in-law, Eli Mizrahi, whose love of life, love of people, and love of his family was an example to us all. He always had a smile. He knew how to get along with everyone. He believed we could all enjoy life fully if we only practiced moderation in all things. He always had a positive attitude. No matter what problems life threw at him, he was always able with good humor to make the best of every situation and to adapt successfully to new conditions. He loved to dance at *simchas*. He took his responsibilities as a Jew seriously and did many *mitzvahs* quietly. He touched the lives of so many people. He will always live in the hearts and minds of all those who knew him.

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Introduction

As in my previous five volumes, I have again endeavored to present the underlying values of Judaism and to explain how they relate to the world. I have tried to make explicit that which is implicit and to reveal Judaism's basic values by putting them in the modern idiom. I have used as source material the traditional Biblical commentators, the Midrashic and Talmudic literature, and the insights of such modern scholars as Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik and Rabbi B. S. Jacobson, Rabbi Menachem Sachs, Rabbi Aron Greenberg, Rabbi N. Miller, Nechama Leibowitz, Rabbi Avi Dov Kanotopsky, Rabbi Saul Weiss, Rabbi A. Besdin, Rabbi Pinchas Peli, Rabbi Menachem Schneerson, and Rabbi Abraham Twerski.

In this volume I have stressed how Judaism adds spirituality to our lives and allows us to be more than we could be otherwise. I have also tried to demonstrate how Judaism gives us the strength to overcome our many problems. It is my hope that those who read this book will see how Judaism will, if implemented in our daily lives, allow us all to live fuller and better lives.

May this book bring us all closer to our Jewish roots, and may it help us become better human beings and better Jews.