

מוסדות אור שמה מרכז טננבאום ע.ר. 58-

00-21343-00

רח' שמעון הצדיק 22-28 ירושלים ת.ד. 18103
טל: 02-581-0315

Teves 5784

MICHTAV BRACHA

R. Yosef Sebag, a Ben Torah and Yarei Shamayim who has already authored a number of fine works including a translation of Chovos HaLevovos, has written a book of stories about tzadikim. It is, however, quite different from the normal works we encounter. Klal Yisrael has been blessed with numerous biographies of gedolim, the great leaders of our people who guide and direct us. For the most part, these are famous widely-recognized Roshei Yeshiva, Chassidic Rebbes, Rabbonim, Poskim and sometimes even an occasional lay leader of great distinction. But there is another category of tzadik -an Eved Hashem, totally attached to his Creator with intense passionate love, living a life of unbelievable holiness but without a yeshiva or community that he leads. Unknown to most people, these tzadikim may often be simple laborers-cheesemakers cobblers, tailors, street cleaners, people we might not even notice. And yet we have a tradition that in every generation there are 36 hidden tzadikim in whose merit the world endures. While none of us can ever know for sure who "makes" the list, R. Yosef gives us truly amazing stories of hidden tzadikim who may very well qualify. Humble, quiet, simple, physically present on earth but, like angels, rooted in Heaven. It is important to know that such people still exist as a living testimony to what a Jew is capable of becoming. B'ezras Hashem, may this inspire us to be a little better and aim a little higher in our own Avodas Hashem . .

With Torah Blessings,

Yitzchak A. Breitowitz,
Rav, Kehillas Ohr Somayach
Yerushalayim

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