



For what is Charedi-ism? Fear of Hashem, being strict on oneself to perform difficult Mitzvot as well as easy ones, self-sacrifice for learning Torah, distancing oneself from corrupt culture, providing children with pure education, etc. If so, Maran Ha-Rav Kook was certainly Charedi.

In fact, liberal Orthodox groups in Israel declare that although they greatly respect Maran Ha-Rav Kook, he is not the guiding force for them. Each issue is decided on its own merits. As a result, they reject Charedim as being outside of their "box", they are against stipends for Charedi Yeshivot and they spread many lies about the Charedim. There are certainly many problems in the Charedi world, and their Rabbis acknowledge as much, but this is no reason to cast aspersions at them.

Furthermore, Maran Ha-Rav Kook was more Charedi than the Charedim. How so? He was the Divine agent for working not only to perfect the individual, but also to perfect of the entire community, i.e. the revival of the Nation of Israel in its Land, which is a more difficult realm than working to perfect an individual. Matters relating to the entire community are always more complicated than matters relating to the individual. It is more complicated to be David, King of Israel, who was completely holy, than an individual Tzadik hidden away in one's room.

And if a person who is closed off in his own individual world, as we were in the Exile, must be equally careful in performing easy and difficult Mitzvot, then

this is all the more so true for we who are involved with matters regarding the Nation, the army, the economy, politics, societal issues, etc.

May we – students of Maran Ha-Rav Kook – serve Hashem with all our heart, with all our soul and with all our might.



**Yeshivat Ateret Yerushalayim** P.O.B. 1076 Jerusalem 91009 Tel.02-6284101 Fax.02-6261528  
**www.ateret.org.il** To subscribe, send e-mail to: [toratravaviner@yahoo.com](mailto:toratravaviner@yahoo.com)

