CONTENTS

Preface 13
Methodology and Content 15 ♦ Note on the Sources 17

Introduction: The Sources and the State of the Research 21
a. Polemic Tractates 22 ♦ b. Views of Insiders and Outsiders 27 ♦
c. Orthodox Historiography 32 ♦ d. Memoirs and Fiction 36

PART I: BERNYU

Chapter One: What has Happened to Me? 41
a. Bernyu’s ‘Open Letter’ 41 ♦ b. First Reactions to the Letter 44 ♦
c. Reactions in the Press 47

Chapter Two: Bernyu’s World 58
a. Bernyu and His Brothers 59 ♦ b. Sheyndl, His Hated Wife 65 ♦
c. Signs of Crisis (1866-1868) 69

Chapter Three: The Threat of Conversion and the Kidnapping 79
a. The Events of Yom Kippur and the Death of His Brother 79 ♦ b. Did Bernyu
Try to Convert? 82 ♦ c. The Kidnapping from Leova to Sadigura 86 ♦
d. Departure from Sadigura 91
Chapter Four: In the House of Doctor Reitman
a. Between Chernowitz and Sadigura 96
b. Bernyu’s New Life 98
b. Accusations of Sabbatianism Leveled at Sadigura Hasidim 102
d. The Case of Midrash Talpiyot 106

Chapter Five: The Return to the Hasidic Court
a. The Stealing of Bernyu’s Property 110
b. Negotiations between Moldova and Austria 112
c. Encounters with Family Members 115
d. Bernyu’s Return Home 117

Chapter Six: Bernyu’s Repentance
a. Beguiled by Knowledge? Explanations and Excuses 123
b. The Kol Kore Manifesto 125
b. Reactions to the Manifesto 129
d. Photographs and Drawings of Bernyu 133

Chapter Seven: Bernyu’s Demise
a. Bernyu’s Final Days 136
b. Bernyu’s Will 139
c. Bernyu’s Burial 141

PART II: THE TSANZ-SADIGURA CONTROVERSY

Chapter Eight: Are These the Apostates?

Chapter Nine: Rabbi Haim Halberstam’s World
a. On Hasidism in Galicia 148
b. Emergence of a Zealot 153
b. Differences between Tsanz and Sadigura 163

Chapter Ten: The Background of the Conflict
a. The Brothers’ Guilt: A View from Tsanz 171
b. Attempts to Avoid the Dispute 178
c. The Case of Yosef Friedman of Rymanów 180
Chapter Eleven: Early Stages of the Controversy 184
a. Rzeszów – The Beginning of the Quarrel 184 ♦ b. Excommunication and Its Historical Meaning 189 ♦ c. The Letter to the Community of Strzyżów 193 ♦ d. ‘It is Forbidden to Scorn One who Prays Loudly’ 197 ♦ e. The Controversy Expands 200

Chapter Twelve: Sadigura Hasidim Fight Back 207

Chapter Thirteen: The Controversy Moves to Palestine 229

Chapter Fourteen: Reactions to the Ban on Rabbi Haim 252
a. The Rabbis’ Epistle 252 ♦ b. Renewal of the Ban in Palestine 259 ♦ c. Between Lemberg and Jerusalem 266

Chapter Fifteen: The Verdict of the Tsanz Rabbinical Court 269

Chapter Sixteen: The Controversy over the Women of Sadigura 295
a. On Wigs and Crinolines 295 ♦ b. Halachic Considerations 300 ♦ c. Polemic Attitudes 303 ♦ d. The Way of the Prostitute and the Life of the Exile 313 ♦ e. Rabbi Sinai Halberstam’s Notes 316
Chapter Seventeen: Does Everything Stay in the Family?  
321  
a. The Brothers Halberstam from Tsanz 321  
b. The Brothers Hager from Kosów 328  
c. ‘I Warn You to Shut Your Mouth’: The Zaddikim of Chernobyl and Karlin 330  
d. The Fox with the Cold, or Why It’s Better Not to Get Involved 335

Chapter Eighteen: Admonition and Fear  
339  
a. Rabbi Elimelech of Grodzisk’s Polemic 340  
b. Mediation Attempts and Plans to Restore Peace 345  
c. The Two-Faced Rabbi of Belz 349  
d. Fear and Helplessness 353

Chapter Nineteen: The Rabbis of Hungary Face the Controversy  
357  
a. The View of Rabbi Haim Sofer of Munkács 359  
b. A Mediation Attempt by the Rabbis of Ungvár 362  
c. The Dismissal of the Rabbi of Borșa 367

Chapter Twenty: The Dust settles  
370  
a. Rabbi Haim Halberstam’s Death and the Decline of the Controversy 370  
b. The Tsanz-Sadigura Controversy as Social Drama 374  
c. ‘Anyone Can Make a Mistake’: Explanations and Excuses 378  
d. ‘Changing Times’: Winners and Losers 383

Chronology  
390  
Notes  
393  
Works Cited  
499  
Indices  
523