

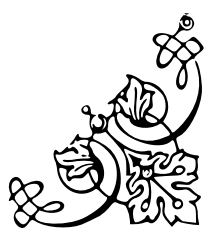



# Lectures on **TANYA**



The System of *Tanya*: Chapters 1-25

*A Special Supplement*



# Lectures on TANYA

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## PREFACE

With gratitude to G-d, we are honored and overjoyed to present you with a special supplement: *The System of Tanya, Chapters 1-25*. In honor of the 19 of Kislev we designed *Tanya* visuals that will enhance our ongoing series *Lectures on Tanya*, a project that transcribes and translates Reb Yoel Khan's *Tanya shiurim*.

\* \* \*

Reb Yoel Kahn, the chief oral scribe of the Rebbe, delivered many lectures on *Chassidut*. One renowned series was his in-depth lectures on *Tanya*, given almost 40 years ago. Reb Yoel's lectures on *Tanya* are thorough, often revisiting concepts from previous lectures, each time a little differently; with a little more depth. These lectures have been transcribed and translated from the original *Yiddish Tanya Shiurim*. They have since appeared in audio and written formats, but never in English. The original recordings have been preserved by Heichal Menachem, and have served as the basis for this project. Our ambitious goal is to present these valuable and authentic lectures to the English readership, it is our *tefillah* that we are successful in doing so.

\* \* \*

It has been two years since the beginning of this project, and since then we have worked on the first 25 chapters of *Tanya*. Due to various reasons, we were only able to release five installments of the lecture series, some of which were printed out of order. However, it is our goal to publish them all in an organized fashion, and soon, please G-d.

The present publication is different from the other five. In fact, none of the chapter titles or questions are to be found in Reb Yoel Khan's *shiurim* on *Tanya*. However, they have been generated using the clarity and organization gained from them.

We have attempted to present not only a visual aid to the study of the first 25 chapters of *Tanya* but the system and structure of those chapters themselves. Surely we have made mistakes, and the attempt itself is quite arrogant. But isn't it the mission of our generation –the last generation of *Golut* and the first of *Geulah* –to spread the wellsprings of *Chassidut* abroad?

We our hope that these visuals assist the study of *Chassidut* in some way. May this effort to disseminate the teachings of *Chassidut* abroad be a fulfillment of our obligation, to some degree, leading us towards a peaceful era under the guidance of *Moshiach* in the Presence of G-d.

*Shlomo Galperin*

19 Kislev 5785

Brooklyn N.Y.



# INTRODUCTION

*Chassidus* was traditionally communicated face-to-face.

At first, the Alter Rebbe relayed the ethos of *Chassidus* in short, but fiery, discourses. Following his freedom from imprisonment, the discourses become longer, and deeper. The *manichim* (scribes) committed the words of their Rebbe with utmost reverence and precision. However, the only *Chassidus* the Alter Rebbe himself for us is the *Tanya*.

Have you ever wondered what the novelty of the *Tanya* is?

The Alter Rebbe gave us the system of *Chabad*. He codified the inner reality of the soul, and the Universe. And with it, we have an organized way to serve G-d with love and awe. Chapter after chapter, page after page, the Alter Rebbe exposes the *Benoni* –the character whom he saw could be any one of us.

The *Tanya* is a guide that counsels you through your problems and setbacks, beyond what you knew was possible. For you to serve G-d –fully –with love and awe.

Yet, sometimes the counsel may seem too foreign. Or perhaps something appears not to resonate with you. However, the Alter Rebbe constructed the *Benoni* one chapter after another. It is a magnificent system that unfolds step by step.

The key to learning *Tanya*, therefore, is to stay focused, and recognize how all the pieces of counsel come together, forming the holistic philosophy we have come to know as *Chabad*.

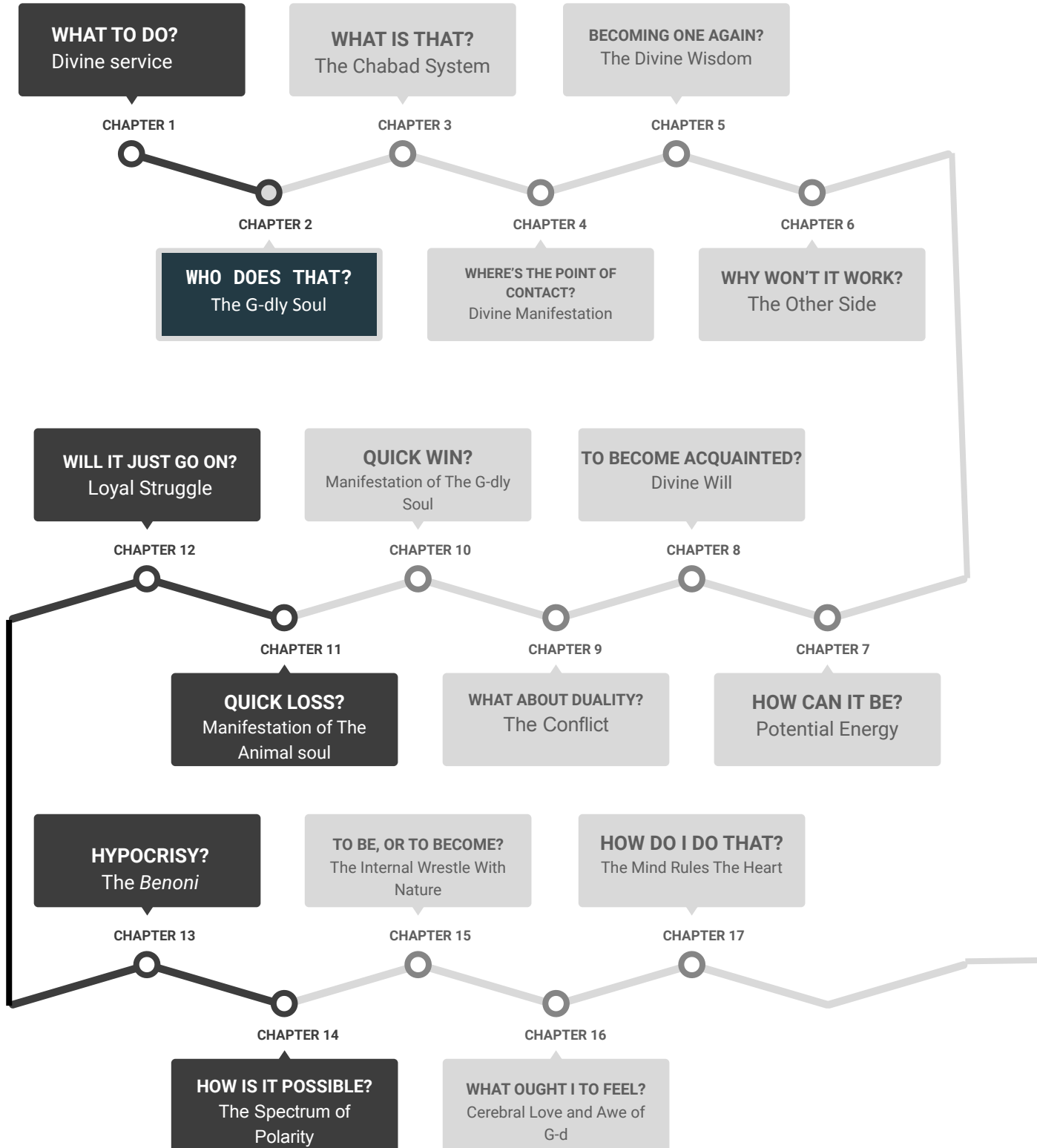
Each chapter of *Tanya* has its essential concept, a unique component in the total system of *Tanya*, but all stem from the central point: Divine service.

You can see that there are some chapters that contain important paradigms, and have a small orbit of other chapters around them, while some others appear to be isolated. The goal here is to show how they are all connected. Not only because they are all chapters in the same *Sefer*, but because each chapter is a unique component in a holistic system.

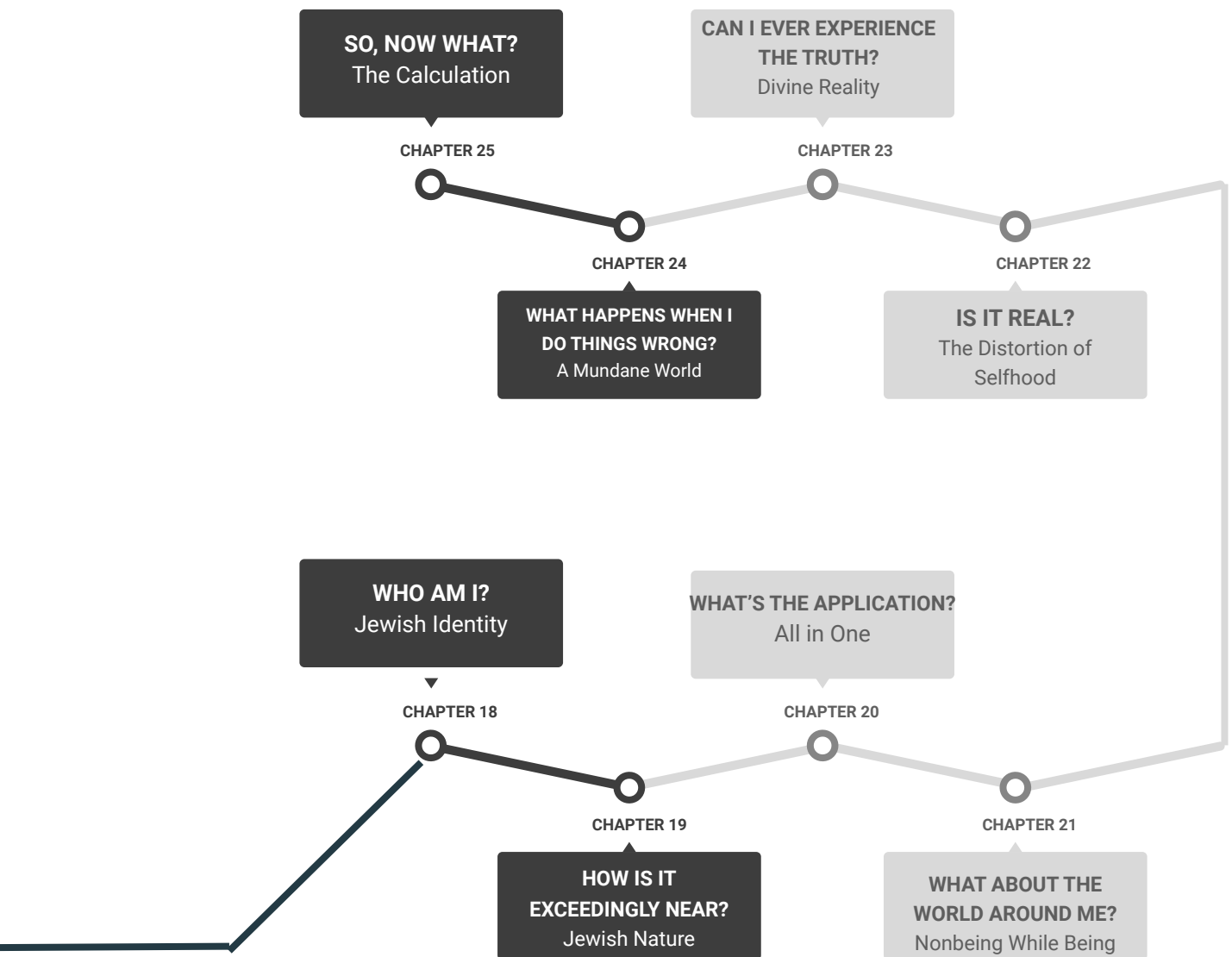
# THE FLOW OF *TANYA*

The Alter Rebbe writes the following in his Foreword to the *Tanya*: "...all of them are responsa to many **questions** which all our faithful in our country have constantly asked, seeking advice, each according to his station, so as to receive moral guidance in the service of G-d....I have, therefore, recorded all the **replies** to all the questions, to be preserved as a **signpost** and to serve as a **visual reminder** for each and every person, so that he will no longer press for admission to private conference with me."

The questions, however, weren't appended to the chapters of the *Tanya*. But with some effort, and a little creativity, an attempt to trace those questions can be made. With them, the flow of the structured responsa organized in the systematic chapters of the *Tanya* become clear.

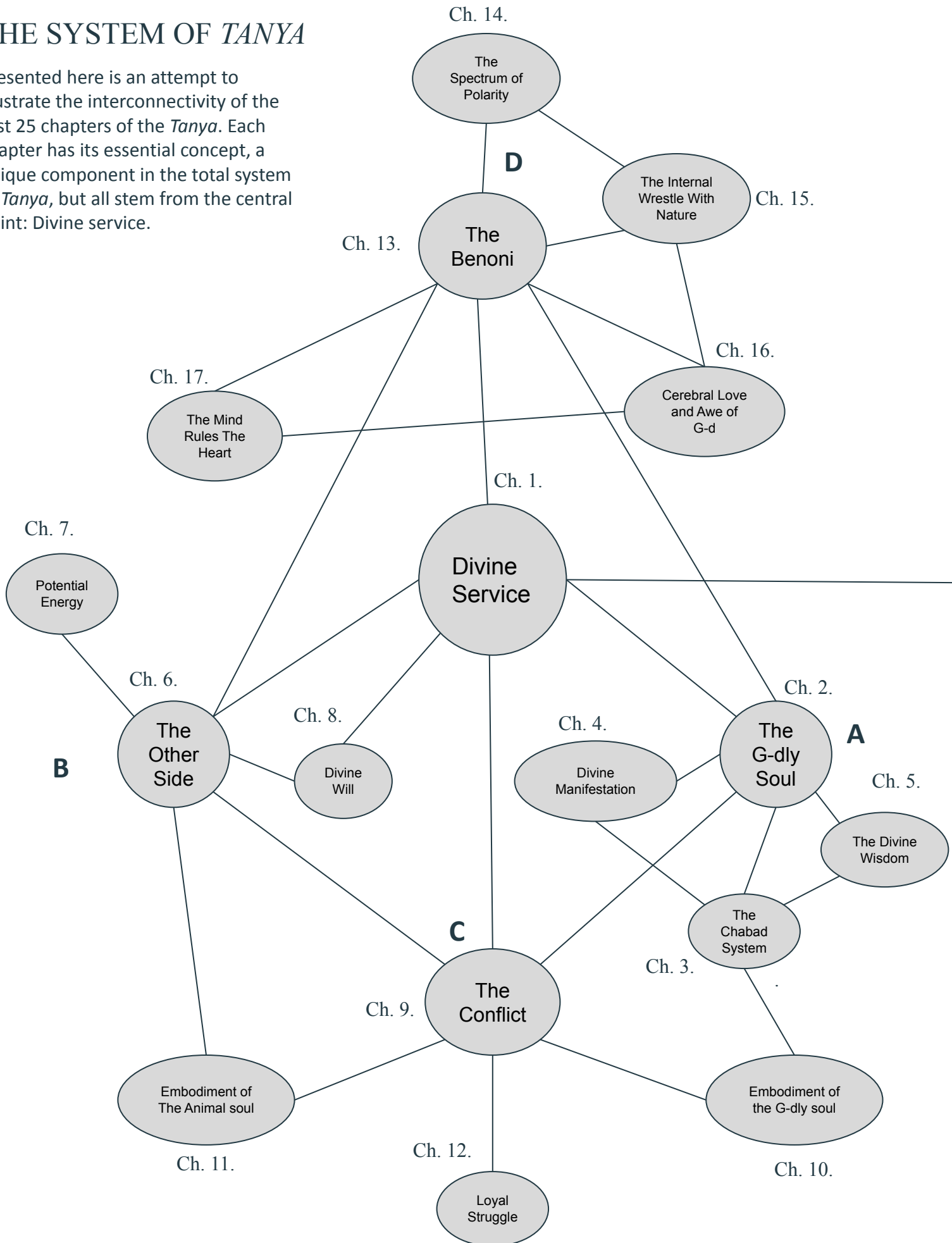


"COMPILED FROM SACRED BOOKS AND FROM SAGES, EXALTED SAINTS, WHOSE SOULS ARE IN EDEN; BASED ON THE VERSE "FOR IT IS EXCEEDINGLY NEAR TO YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART, TO DO"; TO EXPLAIN CLEARLY HOW IT IS EXCEEDINGLY NEAR, IN A LENGTHY AND SHORT WAY, WITH THE AID OF THE HOLY ONE, BLESSED BE HE."



# THE SYSTEM OF *TANYA*

Presented here is an attempt to illustrate the interconnectivity of the first 25 chapters of the *Tanya*. Each chapter has its essential concept, a unique component in the total system of *Tanya*, but all stem from the central point: Divine service.





# MAJOR THEMES

**A:** The essence of G-dly soul, and its faculties and functions that express its unity with G-d.

**B:** The animal soul and the broader dimension of the opposite side of holiness are a hidden form of G-dliness.

**C:** The ensuing conflict between the two souls within the mind, heart, thought, speech and deed.

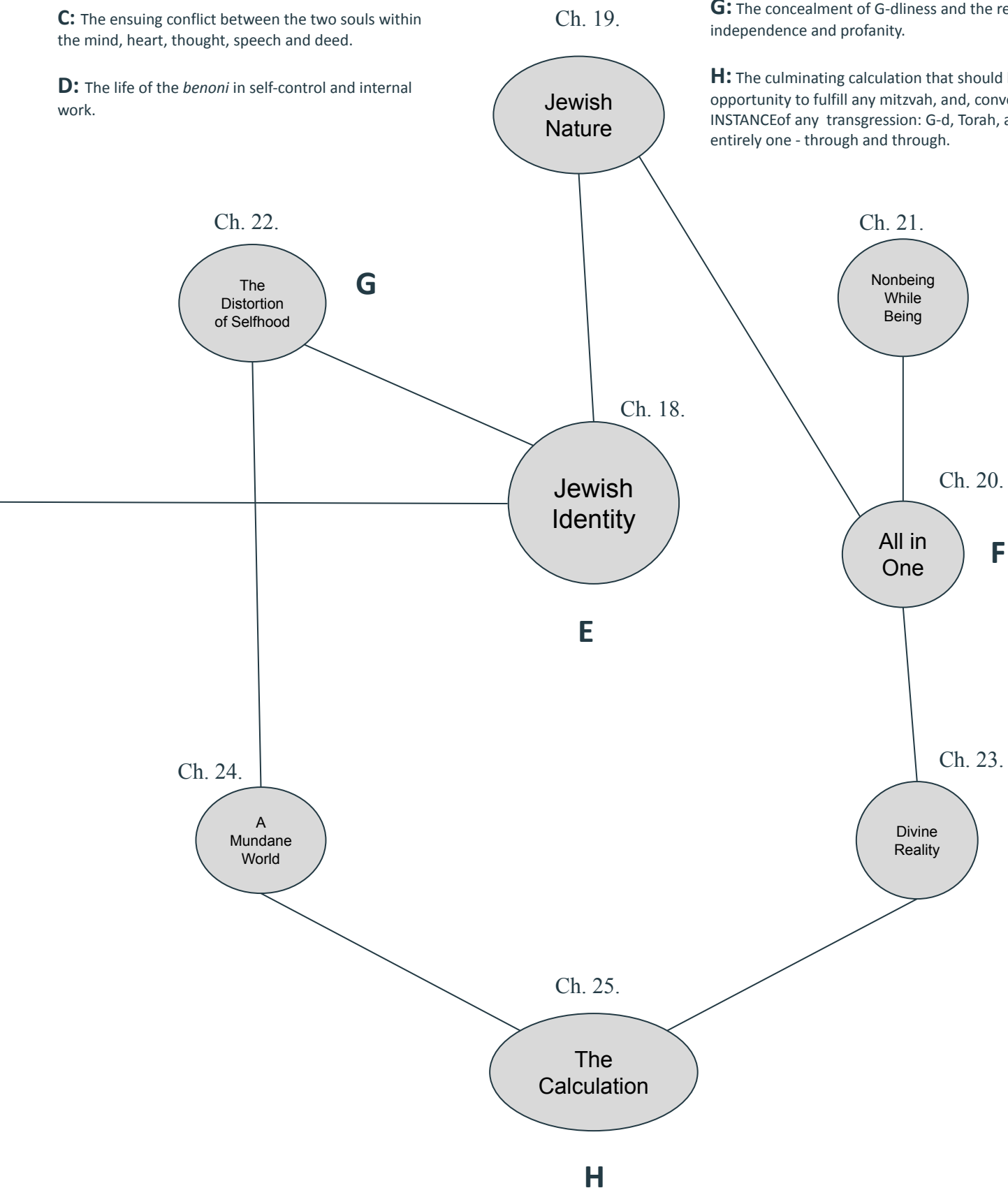
**D:** The life of the *benoni* in self-control and internal work.

**E:** The inborn love and awe of G-d that every Jewish person has inherited from the Patriarchs.

**F:** The True Reality of the whole of Creation: G-d is everything, and everything is in G-d.

**G:** The concealment of G-dliness and the resulting mask of independence and profanity.

**H:** The culminating calculation that should be made at the opportunity to fulfill any mitzvah, and, conversely, in the INSTANCE of any transgression: G-d, Torah, and you are entirely one - through and through.



# BULLET POINTS

## CHAPTER 1

### DIVINE SERVICE

Paradox in Divine service

Classes in Divine service

Evaluation in Divine service

Two souls in Divine service

## CHAPTER 2

### THE G-DLY SOUL

Essence of The G-dly Soul

Unity of The G-dly Soul (I)

Unity of The G-dly Soul (II)

Transcendence of The G-dly Soul

## CHAPTER 3

### THE CHABAD SYSTEM

Wisdom, Understanding, and Knowledge (*ChaBaD*)

## CHAPTER 4

### DIVINE MANIFESTATION

Instruments of Divine manifestation

Contraction of Divine manifestation

Descent of Divine manifestation

Actualization of Divine manifestation

## CHAPTER 5

### THE DIVINE WISDOM

Apprehension of the Divine wisdom

Unity of the Divine wisdom

Diversity of the Divine wisdom

Permeation of the Divine Wisdom

## CHAPTER 6

### THE OTHER SIDE

Soul of the other side

*Bitul* of the other side

Paradoxical darkness: Status quo of the other side

Paradoxical darkness: Lust of the other side

## CHAPTER 7

### POTENTIAL ENERGY

Potential Energy in mundane matter

Potential Energy used in Divine service

Potential Energy used in the profane

Potential Energy exiled by transgression

## CHAPTER 8

### G-D'S WILL

Transformed through G-d's will

Bound by G-d's will

Released by G-d's will

Made Rigid by G-d's will

## CHAPTER 9

### THE CONFLICT

Conquest in the conflict

Ultimate goal of the conflict

Transformation in the conflict

## CHAPTER 10

### EMBODIMENT OF THE G-DLY SOUL

Embodiment of the G-dly soul: Transformation

Embodiment of the G-dly soul in service

Embodiment of the G-dly soul and its relationship

## CHAPTER 11

### EMBODIMENT OF THE ANIMAL SOUL

Incomplete embodiment of the animal soul

Complete embodiment of the animal soul

**Fig. 12.**

## CHAPTER 12

### LOYAL STRUGGLE

Loyal struggle in passions

Loyal struggle in Divine service

Loyal struggle in seeing goodness

## CHAPTER 13

### THE BENONI

The regular *benoni*

The Torah influenced *benoni*

The *davening benoni*

Truth of the *benoni*

## CHAPTER 14

### THE SPECTRUM OF POLARITY

Oath of the spectrum of polarity

The spectrum of polarity has no Grey Area

Advancement through spectrum of polarity

## CHAPTER 15

### THE INTERNAL WRESTLE WITH NATURE

Working in the internal wrestle with nature

Dispositions that eliminate the internal wrestle with nature

Perfection achieved in the internal wrestle with nature

# BULLET POINTS

## CHAPTER 16

### CEREBRAL LOVE AND AWE OF G-D

Cerebral love and awe of G-d locked in the mind

Cerebral love and awe of G-d contained in *tevunah*

Cerebral love and awe of G-d uplifting the mundane

## CHAPTER 17

### THE MIND RULES THE HEART

The mind rules the heart: The key to love and awe of G-d

The mind rules the heart was the intention all along

The mind rules the heart –regained through *teshuvah*

## CHAPTER 18

### JEWISH IDENTITY

Jewish Identity as an Inheritance

Jewish Identity fashioned through the Patriarchs

Jewish Identity visible in *chochmah*

Jewish Identity is undeniable

## CHAPTER 19

### JEWISH NATURE

Jewish Nature is *mesirat nefesh*

Jewish Nature postponed

Jewish Nature expressed in *ahavah mesuteret*

## CHAPTER 20

### ALL IN ONE

Creation remains All in One

The Universe is All in one Divine Word

*Otiyot* are All in One

## CHAPTER 21

### NONBEING WHILE BEING

Nonbeing While Being in its Source

Nonbeing While Being despite *tzimtzum*

## CHAPTER 22

### THE DISTORTION OF SELFHOOD

The Distortion of Selfhood: The Kelipot

The Distortion of Selfhood as a Medium

The Distortion of Selfhood is Idolatry

## CHAPTER 23

### DIVINE REALITY

Divine Reality Exposed in the Torah and Mitzvot

Becoming a Vehicle to Divine Reality

Becoming One With Divine Reality

Divine Reality Becomes Your Reality

Recognizing Divine Reality

## CHAPTER 24

### A MUNDANE WORLD

A Mundane World Created Through Selfhood

The Folly of a Mundane World

The Lowliness of a Mundane World

The Exceptions of a Mundane World

The Disgrace of a Mundane World

## CHAPTER 25

### THE CALCULATION

The Calculation to avoid Bad

The Calculation to do Good

The Calculation that has it all