We tend to look at the history of Jewish life in a linear way, ignoring or dismissing the influences and the stimulators from beyond the comfort zone of traditional Judaism. But we must ask ourselves: What were the outside factors that influenced what happened on the inside? How did the Shabbetai Tzvi and Emden-Eybeschutz controversies affect how we live our lives as Jews in the twenty-first century? How did the Get of Cleves controversy influence Jewish law going forward, so that rulings arrived at today are determined by this seemingly marginal episode?

*Mavericks, Mystics & False Messiahs* contains an array of unusual historical episodes from Jewish life in the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries presented in an engaging narrative style. All the mavericks whose lives are explored in this book somehow represent – in their individuality and their unique stories – aspects of the broader narrative of their eras. What they prove, in all their fascinating oddity, is how aspects of Jewish history which occur outside of the spotlight have a residual effect on what is happening in today’s Jewish world.

**RABBI PINI DUNNER** hails from a prominent German rabbinic dynasty that miraculously survived the Holocaust and reestablished itself in London, England. He is an acknowledged expert on antiquarian Hebrew books and manuscripts and is frequently consulted by libraries, academics, dealers, and private collectors. Rabbi Dunner currently serves as the Senior Rabbi at Beverly Hills Synagogue and resides in Beverly Hills, California, together with his wife and children.

For more information and media inquiries, contact Yehudit Singer: pr@tobypress.com
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Mavericks, Mystics & False Messiahs
*Episodes from the Margins of Jewish History*

A thoroughly engaging introduction to some of the most colorful episodes in Jewish history. A wonderfully enjoyable read.

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Rabbi Dunner shows his mastery of all the byways of Jewish history – the combatants, crackpots, dreamers, and tzaddikim who together embroider the Jewish mosaic. He is a wonderful storyteller with several remarkable stories to tell. So pull up a chair, put away distractions, and enter a world where the past comes to life.

Rabbi David Wolpe

Rabbi Dunner’s writings are marked by a profound level of brilliance, combined with a voluminous, deep knowledge of history and world events. His perspective is fascinating, his ability to contextualize, unique. On top of all that, he’s incapable of writing a boring sentence.

Jonathan & Faye Kellerman

*Bekol dor vador* - in every generation in Jewish history there rises a unique person who some view as a great leader and others view as a complete charlatan. This is a fascinating book written by a great scholar Rabbi Pini Dunner, who teaches us quite a lot in hindsight, but also gives us the ability to judge some in our generation.

Isaac Herzog, Chairman, The Jewish Agency

There is something totally intriguing about these Jewish mavericks. They seem to be spawned by a combination of Jewish mysticism and hucksterism that runs through the Jewish faith. A compelling and brilliant introduction to some of our more bizarre personalities.

Steven Berkoff