

# IN THE Footsteps OF THE Lost Ten Tribes

Dr. Avigdor Shachan

IN THE YEAR 722 BCE, THE ISRAELITE masses were taken by the Assyrian army and led off to exile. The legends surrounding the whereabouts of these Ten Lost Tribes are so numerous, so persuasive and so enchanting as to transform them into a virtual reality. There is hardly a place under the sun that has not been searched by explorers in their quest to uncover their "true" journey.

When the longing for their lost, far-away brothers overwhelmed them, the communal heads and rabbis of the remaining tribes of Judah, Benjamin and Levi composed letters and sent them out by messenger to the Ten Tribes. These messengers generally vanished as well, and all traces of them seemed to have disappeared in a cloud of uncertainty and mystery.

Dr. Shachan has followed in the footsteps of these messengers, and returned. He tells us of the people of Pushtuhistan in Afghanistan, which is made up of twelve tribal clans whose names and genealogies relate to the Ten Tribes. Of the Gezar-Gah whose most common symbol is the Magen David. He has rediscovered the remnants of the Naphtalite Kingdom and pinpointed the location of the Ten Tribes in Central Asia. He has found traces of the Temple of Kaifeng in China. He has documented the path of the Ten Tribes through India and followed them to Japan, even including a glossary of Hebrew terms used in Japanese.

Today, a mighty torrent of relics of the culture customs and commandments of the Mosaic Law are still in evidence among different nations and tribes. Tens of millions of inhabitants of the world still claim that they are descendants of the Ten Tribes, 2,700 years after their exile.

Dr. Avigdor Shachan



DR. AVIGDOR SHACHAN, educator, author, and historian, is a specialist in studies of the Holocaust and of Jewish Martyrs and Heroes. Dr. Shachan has served as the Supervisor of Colleges for Israel's Ministry of Education and Culture, a post he held for twenty years.

Dr. Shachan has been the recipient of a myriad of rewards, including the prestigious Jabotinsky Prize.

In order to carry out his research of the lost Ten Tribes, Dr. Shachan traveled widely for four years to distant countries of central Asia. He examined hidden scrolls, studied the concealed references of crumbling maps, and perused original and translated manuscripts of the chroniclers of the history of the Greeks, the Romans, the Arabs, the Jews, Britons, Chinese and Japanese.

He studied the testimonies of tourists, adventurers, warriors and missionaries in order to follow their tracks and in so doing uncovered astonishing and wondrous facts. Dr. Shachan published his findings in the acclaimed Hebrew text, *Towards the Sambatyon River – a Journey in the Footsteps of the Ten Tribes*.

IN THE Footsteps OF THE Lost Ten Tribes

古代日本に  
辿り着いたユダヤ人

## 失われた 十部族の足跡

イスラエルの地から日本まで

Dr. Avigdor Shachan

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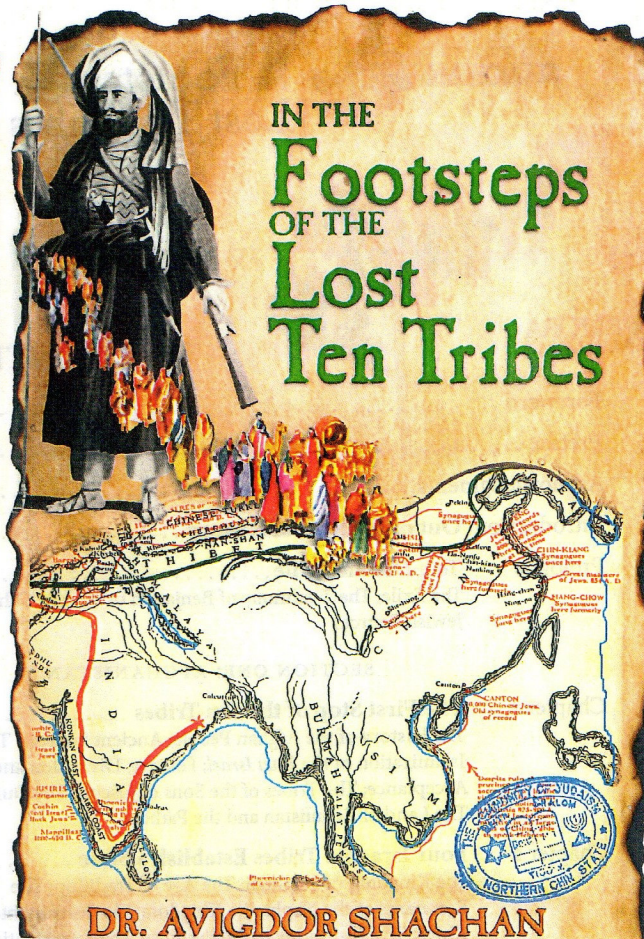
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アビグドル・シャハン 著 小久保乾門 訳

監修  
袖 浩二

*Two Shinto priests in their Tallitot that are identical to the Tallitot of the Bnei Israel. Note the thin ribbons tied to the corners of the Tallit, copying the threads of Tzitzit on the Rabbinical Tallit.*



### FOREWORD

THE MOST fascinating legend of Jewish heritage, originating in the mists of history and ending with the greatest riddle in Jewish history, is the legend of the 'Ten Lost Tribes' – the inhabitants of the Kingdom of Israel who were exiled by the Assyrians in 722 B.C.E. They were driven eastward, across the fabled Sambatyon River whose flowing waters cast out stones throughout the week, pausing only on the Sabbath, and beyond the Mountains of Darkness, where they were able to live in freedom.

Their brethren, the tribes of Judah, Benjamin and Levi, did not accept their disappearance from the annals of history. Throughout the generations they sought them ceaselessly, but the many emissaries who were sent to find them vanished in their turn.

Every Jewish community is familiar with the legend of the Ten Lost Tribes. In tones of yearning and wonder they relate thrilling tales of heroism, of mighty Jewish nations, vast and powerful, feared by those who plotted against them.

Dr. Avigdor Shachan spent thirty years studying, investigating and following in their footsteps. He gathered facts and collected documents, testimonies and folk traditions over several continents attesting to localities where the Ten Tribes stayed. They are presented

here in a manner that leaves no doubt as to their accuracy, credibility and veracity.

The author has brought together the threads of their wanderings, their sojourns and their temporary stays, interweaving tales of their valor, and their cultural, religious and social impact on neighboring peoples, many of whom attached themselves to the travelers or imitated their culture. Dr. Shachan has succeeded in dispersing the dust of history from the two Israelite nations that the tribes established in the course of their wanderings. His book charts the regions over which they ruled and provides us with stunning revelations.

This is the saga of the Ten Lost Tribes, steadfast in their faith, loyal to their destiny, and unswerving in their mission. Two thousand and seven hundred years later, their traces still remain.

Written in rich, flowing and fascinating language, frequently biblical in tone, Dr. Shachan brings the Ten Lost Tribes to life. Their breathtaking story sweeps the reader along, promising new adventures on every page.

This book is one of those rare and ageless creations that never ceases to evoke interest and wonder.

Dr. Shachan's theory of the travels and disappearance of the Ten Lost Tribes is so bold and his conclusions so amazing that I cannot discount the possibility that he may be right.

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