

Conflicting attitudes toward R. Nahman Krochmal's
thought: The *Nazir* (R. David Cohen) versus R. Abraham
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This paper analyses the stances of Rabbi Abraham Isaac Hacoheh Kook and his student, Rabbi David Cohen regarding the writings of Rabbi Nahman Krochmal. A religious leader and *maskil* in Galicia during the first half of the nineteenth century, Krochmal was a figure who stood on the borderline between the traditional rabbinical world and the Jewish Enlightenment. His book *The guide of the perplexed of the time* (*Moreh nevukhei hazeman*) raises a wide variety of unorthodox subjects and treats them in ways that were acutely at odds with accepted norms in the Torah world of his generation. R. David Cohen envisioned the possibility of including study of Krochmal's writings in the yeshivah curriculum that he proposed to R. Kook. The *Nazir's* diary entries, however, record that R. Kook was opposed to study of Krochmal's work. My discussion seeks a way to explain this dissonance between the stances of master and disciple. Through certain biographical details related to R. David Cohen, his unique stance on Krochmal's writings comes to light.