

HaRav Avraham Isaac HaCohen Kook and his Attitude Regarding the Sephardi Sages During His Stay in Jaffa

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This study offers an innovative, complex and rich with information approach in researching the unique topic of the life of HaRav Avraham Isaac HaCohen Kook, regarding his attitude towards the rabbis from the East, the Sephardi rabbis, who were in Jaffa during his tenure as chief rabbi of the city from 1904 through 1914.

As a central city of the *Yeshuv*, as the Jewish settlements of then Palestine- *Eretz Yisrael* was called, there were large communities of Jews from the East, which had their own spiritual leadership. Rabbi Kook, “the new Oleh” was also their official rabbinical leader, and during that period he formulated his attitude towards their communities and their rabbinic leaders.

There were a number of important Eastern rabbis in the city, some which were as of yet unknown, but whose status was central to the community. This article discusses their various connections with HaRav Kook, mainly in their collaborative and intensive public activities together.

A large portion of this study deals with the more prominent Eastern sages in Jaffa at the time, Rabbi Ahrvatz and Rabbi Uziel.

Finally, this article offers additional aspects which point to the connections between HaRav Avraham Isaac HaCohen Kook and the Eastern rabbis, such as in his responsa in Halachah, his personal connections with those sages from outside of Jaffa, in *Eretz Yisrael* and abroad, as well as his extensive knowledge of Eastern rabbinical literature of the recent past generations.