



## Chapter I: The Dream and the Fire

Reb Schneur Zalman Mendelovitch was a member of HABAD, an illustrator and miniaturist, who lived in Hebron in the middle of the 19th century; he has traveled all over the world. He is also associated with many surreal and anarchistic Hassidic stories. We follow his imaginary travels from chapter to chapter in the comics strip, as he wanders through countries and ages, from the Great Indian Rebellion to Akre during Napoleon's siege and Victorian London. In the first chapter, Reb Mendelovitch leaves his home after seeing a vision, and ventures out into the world.

Column / David Duvshani January 1, 2017

## Fire The And Dream The I Scroll Mendelovitch

Horizontal viewing recommended  
English translation (scroll the image from right to left):

In his fair house in the town of Schipselscherer  
Neither faraway nor nigh  
Many a thousand years ere events have come to pass  
And several years past others  
Reb Schneur Zalman Mendelovitch slept  
And in his slumbers saw tidings  
Images from near and far appeared before him  
And first a prophet in his winged chariot.

### Chapter 1: the Dream and the Fire

Wherefore blows the horn?  
For corn, for sardines, for bread and chives  
And for whom?  
For Reb Mendelovitch, his fair house in flames.

From the smoke an image of a lady rises and he hears her name:  
"Queen"  
From beneath her an infant springs into the world  
He is but Reb Mendelovitch himself.

Out!

Wherefore do you weep, Gwendolinda my beloved?  
For apple vinegar, some sliced herring, a bed of spuds...

Hear me, for in my dream I saw the fire  
And the prophet blew the trumpet  
And a Queen gazed upon me  
And out poured a babe  
And a desire to know  
Enkindled in my aged heart



The fair, benign wind  
Carries Reb Mendelovitch  
Far from that which is near, rousing the flames  
Of knowledge and oblivion.

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