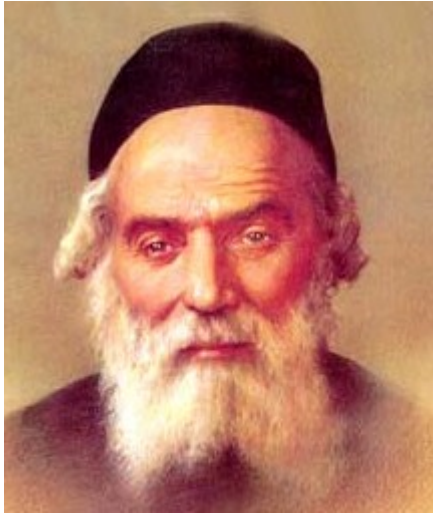


# The Importance of Stories About Tzaddikim

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Rebbe Nachman once remarked: "What most inspired me to devote myself to serving God in truth was hearing stories of *tzaddikim*." He explained that many great *tzaddikim* used to visit his parents' house, which had once been the home of the Baal Shem Tov (Rebbe Nachman's maternal great-grandfather). These illustrious Chassidim would frequently visit Medzeboz to pray at the Baal Shem Tov's grave, and in passing, most of them would visit Rebbe Nachman's parents. In this way, the Rebbe during his youth came to hear the many stories of *tzaddikim* that they would tell. These stories awakened in his soul the burning desire to serve God and to strive for the highest spiritual levels. (*Rabbi Nachman's Wisdom* 138).e the *Merkavah*" – i.e., they are a "chariot" or vehicle for Godliness in this world.