Twitter Thread by Joshua Cypess

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1/ I'm just reflecting about how many leaders from the Modern Orthodox community passed away in 2020. The list is an overwhelming pantheon of pivotal, unique, and creative rabbis. I'm stunned by the enormity of the loss.

2/ Right at the end of the year, the 9th of Tevet, we lost Rav Henkin z'l, probably the most prominent & compassionate Dati-Leumi posek we had! It's rare to have a highly superior halakhist with unimpeachable standards who is also wise & thoughtful.

https://t.co/W7x3dWZkMB

3/ Another Dec. loss: Rav Schwartz z'l of Chicago, another towering posek who took brave & indominable positions that understood modern society while having complete, airtight respect for tradition.

In my work in medical halakha, he was a crucial ally.

https://t.co/GoAiiA3fiR

4/ In Nov. we lost Rabbi Dr. Sacks z'l! His paramount leadership wasn't in halakha but in theology. He was able to navigate the secular & traditional worlds at the highest level; a rare rabbi whose philosophical work was universally recognized as valuable.
https://t.co/5sFrwsgWoh

5/ In Aug. we lost Rav Steinsaltz z'l! I'm - accurately - running out of superlatives; please understand this thread is not overstated. Steinsaltz is a nearly irreplaceable, unique figure in modern Jewish history.

https://t.co/W0EK8ku2Hm
https://t.co/2mdhUPYkcZ

6/ In June we lost Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm z'l, president of YU when I was in RIETS, bridge figure in the translation of Torah U-Madda after the passing of his dissertation advisor, The Rav, Rabbi Dr. Joseph Soloveitchik z'l.
https://t.co/RY9cUb0sx3

https://t.co/Ukzv7ts8Oy

7/ In May we lost Rabbi Dr. Nachum Rabinovitch z'l, former head of Jews College, rosh yeshiva of Maale Adumim, a major figure in combining secular knowledge with the highest levels of Torah skill & a leader of Dati-Leumi community.

https://t.co/Jp5bzW6N43
https://t.co/Mo8xW6OWXx

8/ This list isn't meant to be comprehensive, it was spontaneously spurred by the cumulative enormity of the losses that I remember. These were leaders of my community, a specialized, difficult, l'chatchila path of respect for all God has commanded us. Yafet in tents of Shem.

9/ Being Modern Orthodox aka Dati-Leumi (religious Zionist) aka Torah U-Madda (religious academic) is the path I'm on b/c of the intellect & talent & history God gave me. I believe this path is what God wants from Judaism. These leaders helped me immeasurably & the loss is great.

10/ We've lost other irreplaceable leaders this year: Rav Dovid Feinstein z'l, Prof. William Helmreich z'l, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg z'l, Rav Matis Blum z'l & the enormity of those losses cut deep, but the specialized leadership in Torah U-Madda is so difficult to replace.

11/ If I've missed other giants who passed in 2020, I will add them to this list. I apologize for not eulogizing these Arzei Levanon properly. I've described our time of crisis as needing to swim in rapids; when calm is attained, B"N I will provide a proper recall & reckoning.

12/ @threadreaderapp please unroll.

@threader_app please compile.