**Introductory Note to Gan Eden**

Aaron ben Elijah (“Aaron the Younger”) of Nicomedia composed the work *Gan Eden* in 1354 while living in Constantinople. It circulated in handwritten manuscript form for centuries before being typeset in the 1860s by Judah Savskan in Gözleve (Eupatoria). Savskan’s edition appears to have been issued twice, with one publishing run in 1864 and another in 1866. We have used his edition as the basis for this digital edition of the sefer.

In his foreword, Savskan describes his own editorial approach and main source:

“This work has circulated only in handwritten manuscripts for over 500 years, and been copied by many different wise copyists… the text has become somewhat thorny. I did not rest until I had gathered all the various different manuscripts and texts available, and on their basis I was able to produce a single clear and correct text for this printing. Of all the copies in my possession, four in particular were the most correct and reliable. … The fourth of these is the prize of the bunch: the copy made by Isaac HaSofer in the year 5517 (1757) in Lutzk. … That particular copy is what I primarily relied upon, and I corrected its text carefully with the help of some intelligent colleagues here in our city, and printed my edition on its basis. I did my best to eliminate and avoid any and all errors.”

Our digital edition directly reflects the text of Savskan’s edition, with one notable exception: in cases where the text of *Gan Eden* misquotes a Biblical verse, or conflates / confuses two verses, we have restored the language of the intended verse to the main text, with a footnote indicating what was in the text of *Gan Eden* and why it was modified.