

A Rabbi Kaduri Amulet

By Pinchas Bar-Zev

The images which appear below are of an amulet issued by Rabbi Yitzhak Kaduri, a kabbalistic sage who lives in Jerusalem. It is claimed that he is over 100 years old as his real age is kept secret. He is believed by many oriental Jews to possess magical powers. He has issued amulets by the hundreds of thousands. Sometimes they are made of metal as is the one pictured below. Others have been issued sometimes on pieces of laminated cartons, plastic, paper, key chains, holy water, holy ointments. You name it, he has issued it, especially during election time, when some political parties try to obtain his endorsement. His amulets are sometimes handed out by party activists - free of charge, while they sell for about NIS 100 each. The Kaduri business is a multi-million dollar empire, and he has a website: <http://www.kaduri.net>

The words on the obverse are kabbalistic expressions, apparently from a book '*Sefer Pinot HaMerkava*' (The book of the Corners of the Chariot) by Rabbi Moshe Haim Luzzato (*The Ramchal*), one of the founders of kabbalism. These have no regular meaning in Hebrew, but those proficient in kabbalah may know what they mean.

Obverse: Top: 'Macabbi' (the Hasmonean heroes) Center: Rabbi Kaduri's effigy. Bottom: 'Tzamarkad' - twice, but with different punctuations Near bottom rim, in small letters: '*HaRav Kaduri*' (Rabbi Kaduri)

Reverse: Around: '*Kamiah LeRefua LeShmira LeHatzlacha*' (Amulet for Health - or well-being or recuperation, for Safety, for Success) Center: '*Kar'aSatan*' (The root of Kar'a means 'to tear apart'). So, the meaning might be that he or she who wears this amulet will be guarded against Satan (courtesy of Rabbi Kaduri, of course...)

