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Rabbi Shai Held
President and Dean
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Rabbi Shai Held, one of the most influential Jewish thinkers and leaders in America, is President and Dean of the Hadar Institute in New York City. Rabbi Held received the prestigious Covenant Award for Excellence in Jewish Education, and has been named multiple times to Newsweek's list of the most influential rabbis in America and to the Forward's list of the most prominent Jews in the world. He is the author of Abraham Joshua Heschel: The Call of Transcendence (2013) and The Heart of Torah: Essays on the Weekly Torah Portion (2017). His most recent book, Judaism is About Love, was published by Farrar, Straus, & Giroux in March 2024. He is also the host of Hadar's newest podcast, Answers WithHeld.