R. Yehoshua Heschel Rabinovitz of Monastyrishche (1860-1938), a leader of several Hasidic communities dispersed through the Ukraine, was deeply involved both intellectually and emotionally in the challenges confronting the Jewish world. His reflections on contemporary concerns and their larger meta-historical meaning differ markedly from the views commonly voiced in journalism, belles lettres, and even scholarly works of the period, with their open antagonism toward traditional Jewish society in general and Hasidism in particular. This paper considers R. Yehoshua Heschel’s on-going dialogue with modernity through the prism of his homiletical works, autobiography, and personal letters. The first section focuses on the mandates of religious belief. His views on the hotly debated issue of simple faith versus intellectual theological inquiry are compared to those of contemporary ultra-Orthodox thinkers. Discussion then turns to autobiographical and historiographical aspects of his works, and to his ideological responses to the powerful forces that were rapidly transforming Jewish society – the rise of nationalism, emancipation and equal rights; Zionism and the renaissance of the Hebrew language; secularization and assimilation; pogroms, political revolutions, and mass emigration. His oeuvre offers a rare and important contribution to our understanding of a vital period of transformation in Judaism and Hasidism.