

## Henoch Pradelski



Photo № 46:

Member of the Central Administration of the Częstochower Landsmannschaft in the US Zone in Germany. Summary of the speech delivered on 20<sup>th</sup> October 1946 in Landsberg:

*On behalf of the Federation for Polish Jews in Germany, I have the honour of participating in today's memorial ceremony.*

*The sorrow of Częstochowa Jewry is the sorrow of the entire Polish Jewry. The tears of Polish Jewry are the tears of the entire world Jewry - and the tears and misfortune of world Jewry are the tragedy of the current world order.*

*As a native of Częstochowa, I wish to describe some of the city's unique characteristics. As a city, Częstochowa is a symbol. On the ruins of the Jewish cities in Poland, symbols have grown. On the ruins of the multi-coloured, substantial Jewish kehillas, miniature committees have arisen. On the ruins of the Jewish financial positions, that had been attained over the course of generations, Jew-hating Rady Załogowe<sup>1</sup> have grown. On the ruins of the highly-developed Jewish cultural points, hatred and animosity have been planted, the fruits of which are assassinations and anonymous threatening letters.*

*One of the symbols, which contained all the aforementioned powers, was the city which today we are eulogising. With bowed heads, aching hearts and miserable souls, today, we commemorate this city. Tears flow from our eyes and a lava of agony and rage engulf our emotions. Our hearts are roaring to avenge our martyrs and heroes, who fell for the sanctification of God's name and the sanctification of the Jewish people. I cry out before those assembled, orphaned Jews – "Yizkor<sup>2</sup> the martyrs of Częstochowa. Yizkor the hallowed fathers*

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<sup>1</sup> [TN: Rada Załogowa, later on called Rada Zakładowa was a committee elected or otherwise made by the employees of an enterprise, to represent załoga, i.e. the team/crew/all employees of the enterprise, in relations with the managers. In early communist Poland, such councils, as "the voice of the people", served initially to limit or suppress the powers/rights of pre-war owners of companies (Professor Dariusz Stola).]

<sup>2</sup> [TN: Heb., "May (God) remember".]

*and mothers. Yizkor the brothers and sisters. Yizkor the spouses and children. Yizkor the suckling babes, who gave up their innocent souls in the horrific gas chambers and pyres!"*

*It is no coincidence that our city grew to become unique in its financial positions - just as it is no coincidence that the city was one of the greatest, Jewish, cultural centres in Poland. It is no coincidence that the master and trend-setter of Jewish music in Poland and influencer of music in the world, Abram-Ber Birenbaum, lived and worked in this city. It is also no coincidence that, in this city, lived the rabbi and prodigy, Rabbi Nachum Asz z"l, who personified Torah and Derech Eretz<sup>3</sup>, knowledge and spirituality, and wisdom and favourable traits. It is also no coincidence that the great historian, Professor Majer Bałaban, lived in this city - nor is it a coincidence that, in the vicinity of this centre, lived and operated one of the symbols of human simplicity, artlessness and humility, the personification of all good human traits, the torch of Polish Chassidism, Reb Duwid'l Lelówer z"l.*

*It is no coincidence that, in the great struggle of Jewish society in Poland, these roots dug themselves deep into this city. The flags of this same struggle were carried high, proudly and courageously.*

*We make this brief historical overview from the distance of the seven years that separate us from that life. Along with all the surviving Jews from this city all over the globe, we call out:*

*On the ruins of the Jewish towns in Poland, symbols have grown. On the wings of those symbols, new Jewish centres will grow - but no longer by the Wisła or Pilica rivers, but by the streams that flow into the Jordan and the Dead Sea. There, new Jewish towns and villages will grow. There, Jewish factories will grow and there, new fields and orchards will be planted. All this will be built by the Jewish worker - the Jewish peasant - and protected by the 'Haganah'<sup>4</sup>. The Jewish cities and the Jewish land will be consecrated under the influence of the Jewish culture.*

*We, the orphaned mourners, will devote all our might, all our energy and all our sacred and spiritual heritage there, planting and immortalising the memory of Jewish Częstochowa.*

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<sup>3</sup> [TN: Heb., lit. "way of the land", viz. correct conduct; the decorum, dignified behaviour, and gentlemanly conduct that should characterize a Jew at all times (Encyclopaedia Britannica).]

<sup>4</sup> [TN: Heb., "Defence"; the main Jewish paramilitary force in Mandatory Palestine.]