

Emanuel Wajcenblat

He was known in town as “Menul’ke Brushmaker”, because that was his trade. He manufactured by hand brushes for brushing clothes, shoes and also footbaths. That was how he made a living, working long hours during the day and, afterwards, selling the merchandise himself.

He told himself that one should not live just for oneself - one also needs to do something for society. Without dwelling on it for too long, he organised a society [which people called] “*Git-Shabbes-Yidelech*”¹, which would go about every *Shabbes* with baskets, throughout the courtyards, calling out, “*Git Shabbes, Yidelech! Hand down whatever you can!*” Everyone was very fond of this society and all supported it. Housewives would bake *challes*², particularly for this purpose. The children waited for the “*Git-Shabbes-Yidelech*” and happily held out the *challes*. The society had great success, and more and more respected townsfolk joined it.

Menul’ke Brushmaker, a tall Jew, who wore blue spectacles, carried out his tasks with great devotion. Both in summer, in the great heat and in winter, in the coldest frost, instead of sitting at home with his family, he ran about with the basket and collected food, which he then distributed amongst his poor Jewish brothers and sisters. Menul’ke conducted this activity to the last minutes of his life.

¹ [TN: “*Good Shabbes, Jews!*” (the word “*Jews*” is in the diminutive, affectionate form).]

² [TN: *Special sweetened bread eaten on Shabbes and holidays.*]