

Chassidism in Krzepice^{*)}

In our town, there was no Chassidic *Rebbe*, to whom followers would stream from other localities.

There was no Chassidic “court” in Krzepice. But we did have *Chassidim*, who were tied body and soul to illustrious Chassidic courts, to their *Rebbes* - historic dynasties in the Chassidic world, such as Ger [Góra Kalwaria], Aleksander, Pilica and others.

There were also sagacious *Chassidim* in our town, who travelled to Kock, to the famed *Rebbe Mendele*, for *Shabbosim*, the Holidays and the High Holidays. They would commune with their *Rebbe* during prayer services, at the “tables” and when handing him redemption money and notes^{*}.

When the *Chassidim* came home, they brought the *Rebbe’s* radiant light with them and they told ardently about the *Rebbe’s Kiddush* and his Torah addresses, which were interwoven with incomprehensible words about Kabbalah and Gematria.

Krzepice’s *Chassidim*, returning from the *Rebbe*, would sing the newest melodies, which reflected each separate *Rebbe’s* distinct path in Chassidism.

The songs of the *Chassidim* were varied – lyrical, calm, filled with secrets and introspection.

But best of all were the Chassidic dances - tempestuous, tumultuous [and] filled with passion, with singing that reached high up to the heavens. Fiery flames then gleamed from every direction and corner, rising boldly and with renewed strength to serve God.

From all this, all that remains are ashes.

May these modest lines serve as a headstone for the holy and pure ones - the Krzepice *Chassidim* - who perished at the foul hands of the Nazi murderers.

^{*)} **Note:**

Seeing that we have, in our possession, historical documents – the correspondence of the *Kotzker Rebbe*, Reb Mendele, with a follower from Krzepice - which will be included in the *Yizkor* Book, we mention Chassidism in Krzepice in this booklet.

^{*} [TN: “Tables” are the Shabbes or holiday meals the Rebbe takes together with his congregation; “redemption money” (used for charity) is given to the Rebbe in order to redeem the person of his sins, and together with the money the follower hands the Rebbe a note with his name and the issue he wishes him to pray for.]