

A Message from Rabbi Benjamin Borzykowski

Introduction

Rabbi Benjamin-Eliezer Borzykowski, the writer of the message [below], is a *Częstochower landsmann*. He was a *talmid muvhak*¹ of the Chachmei Lublin [Sages of Lublin] Yeshiva, which was founded by the world-famous [Rabbi of Piotrków], Rabbi Majer Szapira z"l. At the age of eighteen, Rabbi Borzykowski wrote and published a book entitled "*Kav Ve'Noki*"², in which he answers 103 queries in the Talmud and *Poskim*³ that were left unresolved by the Rabbi and *gaon* [Heb., prodigy] of Kintzk⁴ in his book *Chelkas Joaw* [Joab's Field⁵]. Rabbi Borzykowski's book was published in Warsaw in the year 5797 [1936-37]. We may glean the importance of this work from the fact that the approbations were written by such authorities as the *Rebbe* of Boyan⁶ [Bojany, Ukraine], the *Rebbe* of Piltz⁷ [Pilica] and the Rabbi of Kozięgłowy, the *gaon* Rabbi Arje-Cwi Fromer, who was one of the main directors of the Chachmei Lublin Yeshiva.

During the Second World War, Rabbi Borzykowski was in Częstochowa and, together with all the Jews, he took the path of suffering under the Nazi tyranny.

Following liberation, Rabbi Borzykowski and a group of disciples arrived in the city of Padua, Italy, where he [helped] found the Meor Ha'Golah [Light of the Diaspora] Yeshiva, which was subsequently relocated to Rome. The *yeshiva* enjoyed the fullest support from the Chief Rabbi of Italy [sic Rome] Professor David Prato, Senior [Jewish] Chaplain of the British Army in the Middle East Colonel [Rabbi Myer] Berman and Chaplain Major Isaacs. The *yeshiva* had branches in Santa Cesarea and in [?]⁸ near Milan. The *yeshiva* and its branches were centres of Jewish spiritual and religious life, drawing the greatest attention from the most important religious personalities.

At the start of 1949, Rabbi Benjamin-Eliezer Borzykowski arrived with his pupils in Montreal, where he heads the *yeshiva* to this day.

The Editor

Blessed be the Name [of God], Thursday, 27th Cheshvan 5724 [14th November 1963]

Esteemed and prestigious *Częstochower landsleit*!

Peace and blessings! I congratulate you heartily on the publication of the book on Częstochowa and the Society of Montreal, and wish you that, in the future, you should be

¹ [TN: Heb., lit. "distinct disciple"; rabbinical term used in reference to one who studies with a particular teacher or in a particular institution for years on end, as opposed to temporarily.]

² [TN: Heb. Talmudic phrase meaning roughly "succinct, but accurate"; said of something that is small in quantity, but pure in quality and very valuable.]

³ [TN: "All authors of responsa and of books dealing with Jewish law are referred to as 'Posekim'" (Encyclopaedia Judaica).]

⁴ [TN: Końskie in Polish; ref. to Rabbi Joaw-Joszua Weingarten (1845-1923).]

⁵ [TN: This title is taken from 2 Samuel 14:30.]

⁶ [TN: As four different Boyaner Rebbes were active in 1936-37, and we have been unable as yet to locate a copy of Rabbi Borzykowski's book, we cannot ascertain the identity of this Rebbe.]

⁷ [TN: Ref. to Rebbe Chanoch-Henech-God Justman (1883-1942), the second and last Piltzer Rebbe, who was murdered in Treblinka.]

⁸ [TN: בעגאיו in the original Yiddish; possibly misprint of "Baggio", a district of Milan.]

able to continue with your good work and do deeds of charity and goodwill to benefit of the needy.

Much has already been written about the town of our birth. Nonetheless, it is written that *“There cannot be a study hall without a novelty”*⁹ — which means that, in spiritual matters, there is no end. Just as a sea cannot be drained, thus the topic of our nation’s heroes, the spiritually mighty ones and martyrs, cannot be exhausted.

I believe that everyone will find something to learn in this book, as well as a reminder.

With reverential awe and respect, let us continue further along the path in life, aspiration and faith of our martyrs, that their memory be honoured.

Rabbi Benjamin Borzykowski

⁹ [TN: Babylonian Talmud, Chagigah, 3a.]