

Chaim Szymonowicz

## An Evening Service in the Daytime

A bizarre episode has remained engraved in my memory.

Four weeks after the *akcja* in which my father perished, I said *Kaddish* in the afternoon with Reb Jankel the Lame at *Machzikei Hadas*. Since it was forbidden to be out at night, we wished to pray *Ma'ariv* [the evening service] directly after *Mincha* [the afternoon service].

But part of the congregation argued, "What's all this? It's still daytime!"

At this point, Reb Jankel *Melamed* stood up, banged once on the table, and shouted out, "Let us pray *Ma'ariv* already!"

Once complete silence had fallen, Reb Jankel added, "Just as the Master of the Universe does not care for us, so we too shall not risk our lives for Him".

The result was that we prayed *Ma'ariv* when it was still daytime.