

By D.Sz. Kamiński z”l

## Reb Srul Kamiński z”l



Reb Srul Kaminski was counted among the most prominent Aleksander *Chassidim*. He was a righteous man, both in his deeds and his morals. All who knew him honoured him for the uprightness of his heart. The love for the Land of Israel nestled deep inside his heart and he implanted it in the hearts of his sons and daughters from the dawn of their childhood.

In 1924, when my brother and I decide to emigrate to the Land of Israel, his heart was filled with joy. When one *Chassid* who opposed Zionism inquired of him why he had agreed to our emigration, he replied that he, too, yearned to live in the Land of Israel but that, due to his age, he had no chance of achieving this. But, if his sons were there, there was no doubt that, in time, they would enable him to emigrate as well.

Affairs reached such a state, that the Aleksander *Rebbe* was informed of our plans for emigration. I was summoned to him. Before my journey, a cherished and respected Jew from Częstochowa, Reb Awigdor, asked me in the study-hall as why I was forcing the End [of Days] and not waiting for The Messiah to arrive [first] - although he had no doubt that I had faith [and waited] every day for him to come. I answered him that there was no prohibition to await the coming of the Redeemer in the Holy Land and I mentioned to him the words of the Sages:

*A person should always reside in the Land of Israel, even in a city that is mostly populated by gentiles, and he should not reside outside the Land of Israel, even in a city that is mostly populated by Jews, [for] anyone who resides in the Land of Israel resembles one who has a God, and anyone who resides outside the Land of Israel resembles one who has no God. [Talmud Bavli, K’tubot, 110b].*

He was convinced by my responses and said to me that had he been my age, he would not hesitate, for an instant, to do the same as I.



*Reb Srul Kamiński*

When I travelled with my father to the Aleksander *Rebbe*, my father told him what I had said to Reb Awigdor. The *Rebbe* told my father that, several days earlier, a Jew had come to him to receive his approval [before] departing for America. The *Rebbe* said to the Jew that in all the lands of the gentiles, the curse of exile crouches upon us and God’s glory fills the entire earth. [Thus] there is absolutely no difference between America, Poland or any other country. “But, when a Jew comes to me asking whether to ascend to the Land of Israel”, added the *Rebbe*, “I never hesitate an instant to agree to it”. The *Rebbe* [then] turned to me, and entreated me not to stray from the path of the Torah and [its] precepts.

My father was ecstatic that the *Rebbe* had given his approval. My brother and I made *Aliyah*, as the family’s pioneers. Before long, my father and mother and the rest of our family [also] emigrated to the Land [of Israel].

Before my father passed away in 1947, he comforted himself with the fact that he had been privileged to see, with his own eyes, the portents of the approaching Redemption. Thanks to their devotion to the Land of Israel, my parents were saved from the Holocaust.