

Yehuda Kishon

The “Twin Towns” of Pajęczno and Sulmierzyce

The two small towns in the Częstochowa-Radomsko region - Pajęczno and Sulmierzyce - contained simple, dear and hearty Jews. They travelled to the markets and were sellers of geese. [They were] merchants and craftsmen, who toiled hard and bitter to make a living, but who lived respectably and married their children off comfortably. Sulmierzyce and Pajęczno were like twins holding hands. They travelled to one another’s market-days, arranged marriages between each other, bought books for their libraries together and worked in unison in various cultural fields.

In Pajęczno, the shepherd [fig.] was the proud Jew Fajwiz Jabłoński *hy”d*, whom even the non-Jews respected. He was the spokesman and leader of the *shtetl’s* Zionist youth, in the spirit of Izaak Grinbaum’s “*Al Ha’Mishmar*”¹ [“On Guard”] faction.

Grinbaum’s influence was felt in Sulmierzyce also. There, one of Fajwiz’s relatives was active – Symcha Kuszynski *hy”d*, a gentle and dear, young man, who always had a smile on his lips and who projected kind-heartedness and good spirit. He could be found at all the important regional conferences and he was especially active for *Keren Kayemeth Le’Israel*.

Of all this, nothing has remained. It has all been tragically erased, drowned in a sea of blood and tears.

¹ [TN: Early Radical Zionist faction in Poland.]