

Sz. Niski

The “*Hachnoses Kallah*”^{*} Society

This association was founded by ordinary Jews, simple people, who did not seek honours for themselves but, very simply, desired to fulfil the great precept of “*Hachnoses Kallah*”, about which they had already heard from their fathers and mothers, grandfathers and grandmothers.

In a small room, at ul. Senatorska 5, there was a “*minyán*” [small prayer-group], where the so-called *Amcho*^{**} people prayed - Jews who, *nebech*, were blackened the entire week by their hard labour - shoe-making, tailoring, baking and blacksmithing. These types of people were forced to sit and work in their workshops till late at night, to somehow squeeze out a wretched livelihood for their wives and children.

These same Jews created the *Hachnoses Kallah* Society and, literally, scrimped on their chunk of dry bread, themselves giving and procuring money from different donors, for poor brides, and supported them in every possible way - generally even above their power - that only Jewish daughters should not become, heaven forbid, ashamed and should continue the growth of the Jewish people.

They always talked about the brides in need of support during the prayer [meetings] - Friday night and *Shabbes* in the morning. But, at the close of the *Shabbes*, immediately after *Havdolah*^{***}, these poor craftsmen, together with their collectors Lajbel Niski, Zelig Bratt, Abram Einbinder, Laszer, Kornenc and Gelber, went out to collect money for the “*Hachnoses Kallah*” Society.

To the praise of the Częstochowa Jews, it must be stressed that no-one, heaven forbid, refrained from supporting this important association and all the poor brides, who required support, were provided with a “bride’s outfit” and with the wedding expenses.

The grateful couple would invite the collectors to their events and, specifically there, they would also fulfil the great precept of making the groom and bride happy. They later also participated when the couple had children and, when it was necessary, they also helped arrange the *bris* at the expense of their Society.

(Of course, these honest activists also met the bitter end of all the Częstochowa Jews. May God avenge their blood!)

* [Translator’s note: Pronounced “*Hachnuses Kalleh*” in Poland; Heb.; lit., “bringing the bride into (the chuppah)”. This type of organisation provides charitable support for poor young women to get married.]

** [Translator’s note: Pronounced “*Amchu*” in Poland; Heb.; lit., “Your People”, meaning simple people.]

*** [Translator’s note: Pronounced “*Havduleh*” in Poland; Heb.; “Differentiation”. “*Havduleh*” is a religious ritual performed to mark the passing of *Shabbes* and the beginning of the weekdays.]