

The Halachic Authority¹ Reb Józef Prokosz z”l



Reb Jossele "Kira"

He was born in Galicia in 1872 and was brought to Częstochowa by the renowned magnate Reb Nuta Pankowski, to teach Torah to his sons and sons-in-law. Once he became well-liked in the city, he married the daughter of Reb Hersz Józef *Amstower*² and, in due course, was appointed as a Halachic authority in our city.

He propagated Torah study, especially among the religious youth, who all cheerfully rushed to his door. He strived to bring them up and educate them to Torah and good deeds and, above all, to humility which was literally the foundation of his whole life.

He was loved by the community and, with his great sensibility and powers of persuasion, he was able to bring enemies to full reconciliation and to wisely resolve conflicts between people.

Our Teacher, the prodigy Reb Nuchem Asz, also respected him greatly and would often pass time with him, delving in Torah and the depths of Halacha.

¹ [TN: Mo'tz in the original Heb., an abbreviation of "More Tzedek", literally "teacher of righteousness", which is also translated as "decisor", i.e., a rabbi who has the authority to decide on halachic matters.]

² [TN: Amstower is not a surname but a nickname meaning "from Mstów". Reb Józef's wife was Dwojra Amsterdamer, according to the records published in the JRI Poland database.]