

Tzvi Józef Kaufman

The *Shtiebel* of Otwock *Chassidim*

My memories are from my childhood and up to when I left Częstochowa in 1919.

The Otwock *shtiebel* was at the house of my grandfather, Reb Aba'le *Shoichet* [ritual slaughterer] (Kaufman), at ul. Targowa 8 (the meat-market street). The members of that *shtiebel* were:

- my great-grandfather, Reb Mojsze *Shoichet*;
- my grandfather, Reb Aba'le *Shoichet*, and his sons: Reb Józef Majer and my father, Reb Menachem Mendel *hy''d*;
- Reb Binem;
- Reb Aleksander Ziskind;
- Reb Gronam and Reb Mordche Nechemie, his son-in-law, Reb Leibisz Sztajnfeld, who led the morning prayer and read the Torah on the High Holidays;
- Reb Zajnwel (*Shoichet*) Borzykowski, who led the *Mysef* prayer on the High Holidays and his son Reb Mordche Jankew, who blew the *shoifar*;
- Reb Majer Kaufman and his son Reb Mendel Kaufman;
- Reb Ze'ev Wolf Kaufman and his son Burech Duwid;
- Reb Srul Duwid Okladek (*Warszawer*), who had travelled to the "Middle *Rebbe*" of Vurke¹, and his sons: Reb Aron Alter, Reb Icze Majer and Reb Leizer, and his son-in-law, Reb Szlojme Grosberg, the renowned *mohel*, and Reb Berl Pelc.

At first, the [rabbinical] judge Reb Józef Prokosz (who was nicknamed Reb Józef Kira) also worshipped there, with his son Reb Joel, [as well as] Reb Gecel Ajdels; Reb Ber Rysocki; Reb Berl Horowicz and his son Reb Nachman Aron; Reb Duwid *Shoichet* and his sons Reb Chaim Ber and Reb Wolf; Reb Chaim *Shoichet* (Reb Duwid *Shoichet's* son-in-law); Reb Berisz Berliner, the owner of the *matzo* bakery, and his son-in-law Reb Gerszon Szwarcbaum; Reb Chaskel Rozencwajg; Reb Awrum Rozenblat HaCohen and his son Chaim.

In later years, about 1904, my grandfather Reb Aba'le *Shoichet* left his flat on ul. Targowa and moved to Nowy Rynek 13 and, at approximately the same time, the *shtiebel* was also moved from No.8 to No.69 on the same street, to the house of Reb Mendel Pelc. Above it was the Radomsko *shtiebel* and there was also another *minyán* in the same building (at the house of the *melamed* Reb Benjamin Litwak).

¹ [TN: *Rebbe Mordechai Menachem Mendel Kalisz, 1819-1868.*]