

The *Rebbe* of Zhurik [Żarki] – Reb Duwid Aron Twerski¹ *hy”d*



The *Rebbe* of Żarki, *Rebbe* Duwid Aron Twersi *hy”d*

He was one of the sons of the *Rebbe* Reb Yankev Leibale *ztz”l* and a descendant of the “*Trisker Maggid*” and *Rebbe* Nuchem of Chernobyl, who chose to settle specifically in Congress Poland, where the light of Chassidism then shone at its brightest, unlike in Wołyń, where its sun had already set. He agreed to serve both as Rabbi and *Rebbe* in Żarki.

The *Rebbe* Reb Duwid Aron put down roots and acquired a large following. He conducted his leadership with great magnificence. He was of an average stature, handsome and of noble features. All his garments were of silk. Most of the addresses he delivered at his table were built on *gematria* [Jewish numerology]. His voice was pleasant and many enjoyed his singing. Multitudes attended his “*Hakufes*” on *Simchas Torah*. He danced at the centre of the “circuit” with a Torah scroll in his arms and each and every “circuit” lasted for about a quarter of an hour². His followers accompanied him with thunderous singing and clapping. His prolonged “shaking” of the “four species” on “*Hoshana Rabba*”³ was also a work of art.

The splendour and magnificence reached their peak at the Passover *Seder*. Separate tables were set in his study hall for the men and for the women, who were headed by the *Rebbetzin*. The tables were laden with many silver and gold [vessels and] utensils, and his followers felt as in a royal palace. Their son-in-law Reb Awrum Szapira also added to the very impressive ceremonies. He was tall of stature and sang well, and would sing Modzitz⁴ melodies, especially Modzitz’s famous “*Bemotzuei Yom Menyche*” [After the Day of Rest].

Prior to the First World War, the *Rebbe* married off his daughter Rayze’le. Her grandfather attended the wedding, together with the rest of his sons, who had, by then, settled in different locations. A great multitude then surged to town, until it could not contain them. The wedding and the festivities during the week of the “*Sheva Bruches*” [Seven Blessings] were held with great pomp. Music and jesters entertained the guests.

(The *Rebbe* of Żarki, as mentioned above, lived during his last years in Częstochowa and perished there with all the House of Israel, who were murdered by the cruel Nazis. May God avenge their spilt blood!)

¹ [TN: Reb Duwid Aron Twerski was the son of Reb Yankev Leib of Trisk [Turisk, Ukraine]; son of Reb Mordechai Zishe of Trisk-Iasi; son of Reb Menachem Nuchem; son of the “*Trisker Maggid*”, Reb Awrum; son of Reb Mordche, The “*Maggid of Chernobyl*”; son of Reb Menachem Nuchem of Chernobyl, one of the distinct fathers of Chassidism.]

² [TN: There are 7 “circuits” in the “*Hakufes*”.]

³ [TN: Aramaic, “*Great Supplication*”; this is the last day of the High Holidays, on which evil decrees for the year may still be changed. “*Circuits*” are made, carrying the “four species” used for the festival of Sukkos, which are shaken to emphasise the prayers.]

⁴ [TN: Polish Chassidic dynasty renowned for its melodies which derives its name from Modrzyce, one of the boroughs of the town of Dęblin.]