

S.B. Szancer

Shoichet* Reb Mojsze Szancer *hy”d

My father, who was born in 1890, was already noted in childhood for his diligence and quick perception in his studies and his teachers predicted a bright future for him. Indeed, he attained that which not every man is able to achieve - as a young, married man, just 24 years old, he was engaged as *shoichet* in an important city like Częstochowa - an uncommon occurrence in those days! All this was due to his extensive and exact knowledge of the laws of ritual slaughter and examination, as well as his practical, professional excellence.

Although, at first, he was only hired as a *shoichet* of poultry, after just a few days he was honoured with the position of slaughtering large beasts, as one of the experienced and distinct slaughterers in our city.

Also, being naturally endowed with a talent for public activism, he immediately occupied an important position in all the rulings and actions that arose around questions of ritual slaughter and those involved in it - in particular, in that period, when the haters of Jews in Poland raised their heads and began scheming against Jewish ritual slaughter.

Here is not the place to tell of his clever actions in this field, but all those, who were closely involved in the affair, glorified and praised his deeds in connection with it, which were always performed intelligently and wisely.

My late father was a follower of the Aleksander *Rebbe* and he was the *gabay* at the Aleksander *shtiebel* on ulica Krakowska (at Reb Zajnwel Szwidorski's house), in which he introduced various improvements for the worshippers' benefit.

He also saw to the establishment of a charitable fund by the *shtiebel*, from which all those in need received aid - and everything was done graciously, "*in order not to shame anyone who had none*" [Mishnah, *Taanit*, Ch.8, 4.].

My father also excelled in fulfilling the precept of hospitality to guests. Every *Shabbes*, and particularly on holidays, he arranged a place for every "guest" who came to the *shtiebel* at the tables of the [most] respected *Chassidim*, whilst he always endeavoured that, at his own table, should sit those "guests" whose clothes were torn and worn, who were unwanted as guests in the homes of the wealthy.

He also blew the *shofar* at the *shtiebel*, and regularly led the first section of the morning prayer.

(He shared the bitter fate of the martyrs of Częstochowa and, together with them, was annihilated by the relentless enemy in Treblinka. May God avenge their blood!)