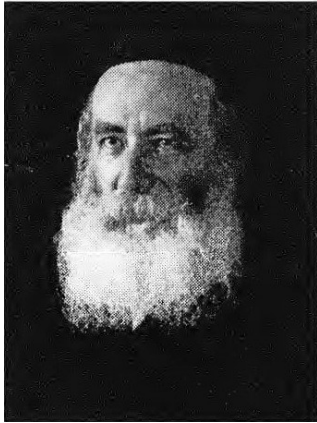


Rabbi Meier Henoah Iszajewicz z”l



Rabbi Meier Henoah, son of Reb Pejsach Iszajewicz, who was from the town of Wola near Warsaw, settled in Częstochowa after his marriage to the *Rebbetzin* Sara - Rabbi Nuchem Asz's sister. With his arrival in Częstochowa, and after he had been appointed as rabbi and head of a rabbinical court there, he established a *yeshivah*, which was called "The *Yeshive* of the Rabbi from Wola"¹.

The *yeshivah* admitted, as pupils, children above ten years of age, who already had some knowledge of the Talmud. At this *yeshivah*, besides the Talmud with its interpretations, pupils were also taught the Hebrew Bible [and] the Hebrew language with its grammar. They also learnt Polish and mathematics. Rabbi Iszajewicz chose the best *melamdim* and teachers for his *yeshivah* - Reb Mojsze Wolbromer, Reb Icchok Rozenberg and Reb Fajwysz Fajwlowicz, who taught Hebrew Bible and Hebrew. He was later replaced by Reb Berisz Wajnberg. Among the teachers at the *yeshivah* were also Edelist, Awner and Messer.

At the end of the year, examinations were held in Rabbi Asz's room at the rabbinical court. The examiners were Rabbi Asz and Rabbi Meier Henoah Iszajewicz, who were joined by a public examining council of the city's best scholars - Reb Menasze Margulies, Reb Duwid Icchok Edelist [and] Reb Icze Majer Krel. The pupils, who excelled in their examinations, were given prizes by the examining body.

After a few years, the *yeshivah* closed due to financial difficulties. Rabbi Iszajewicz was unable to relinquish his good pupils, especially the poor ones - from whom Torah will emerge² - and he chose a few of his best pupils and taught them Torah in his home - free of charge, of course. Although Rabbi Iszajewicz was distinguished for his kind-heartedness and courtesy towards people, he was very strict in his study with these pupils, in whom he endeavoured to develop independent thought, in order to quicken their scholastic progress.

We should mention that one of his pupils, Szaje Kozłowski, was the son of a simple porter and one of his best students. The Rabbi paid him special attention, thanks to which he became a renowned scholar, thus bringing glory to his forefathers.

During his time as rabbi and Head of Court in Częstochowa, he was well-liked by our townsfolk, many of whom came to him for advice and guidance, both in heavenly and earthly matters.

In 1925, Rabbi Iszajewicz made *Aliyah*, together with his family, after changing his surname to the Hebrew "*Ben-Ishai*" ["Son of Isaiah"].

Rabbi Iszajewicz published a book, which included a "thousand-year calendar".

Upon his arrival in the Land [of Israel], he was immediately appointed as rabbi in the "Neve-Sha'an" [Tel-Aviv] neighbourhood and became one of the country's prominent rabbis.

He died in Tel-Aviv in 5700 [1940], after serving 15 years as rabbi there. He was shown as much respect in death as in life, and was well eulogised. May his soul be entwined in the thread of eternal life.

¹ [TN: According to Hebrew-language historical sources (see: <http://www.tidhar.tourolib.org/tidhar/view/4/1937>), Majer-Henoch Szajewicz was born in Szreńsk on 21st Elul 5633 (13th September 1873) to Reb Pejsach and Ester, and he married Sura Asz, the daughter of Reb Szmul-Josef Asz, Rabbi Nachum Asz's brother. In 5652 (1892), he was appointed Rabbi of Wola, near Warsaw, and in the following year he was appointed Head of the Rabbinical Court in Częstochowa.]

² [TN: See Talmud Bavli, Nedarim 81a: "Be careful with regard to the education of the sons of paupers, as it is from them that the Torah will issue forth".]