

Subj: Rav Rosenberg 70 year jubilee publication - page 5

HaRav haGaon hamefursam (the well-known) Rebbe Yudel Rosenberg

(biographic notes)

Rabbi Yudel Rosenberg was born to religious ('frum') parents in the shtetl Skarshov, near Radom, in Poland, in the month of Cheshvan in the year 5620 (1860) (translator's note - seemingly should be 1859 & 5629 or 5621 & 1860, as Cheshvan is in the fall, after the Jewish New Year, but before the xian one). The family reckons itself as being from the line of Rabbi Yehudah haChasid, and therefore they are careful not to give the name Shmuel to a child, in accordance with his will. By the age of thirteen he was already famous as the 'Skrashov'er ilui (prodigy). His parents then had to bring down to him big melamdin (teachers) from other cities. No dikduk ('Hebrew grammar') sefer or haskalah books, that used to be called in the 'shtibel' "treifoh-posul", were allowed to reach him. However, once an unfortunate occurrence happened that they found by him, hidden in his chests, the works : tilmod lishon ivri (learn Hebrew), sefer haberis (a science related work in Hebrew, I believe), Layeshorim Tehilloh, meluchas Shaul, and maamarei chochmoh (a book on science I believe) by Slominski, and they burned them all. At the age of fifteen years he became a talmid muvhak (thorough disciple) of the city Rav haGaon R. Mordechai Ze'ev z"l, and at sixteen years of age the Rav empowered him to pask'en she'eilos in the city when the Rav would go away. At seventeen years of age he got married from a small shtetl, Tarlow, where the 'Pnei Yehoshua' was once Rav. The wife was a grandchild of the Ostrovitzer Rav, haGaon R. Leibish Zucker z"l and a great grandchild of the old Ostrovitzer Rebbe who was called R. Meir'el b"r (son of R.) Hertzkes z"l. In Tarlow he conducted a Yeshiva of city young men and bochorim with whom he learned two shiurim every day. In the eighth year after his wedding he became a widower. Later he married a woman from the line of hatzaddik R. Yisroel'tche Rizhin'er (founder of Rizhin branch of hassidism) zt"l, a great grandchild of the tzaddik R. Yitzchok'l Bohush'er zt"l.

He tried to be a businessman and very much did not want to take upon himself the yoke of Rabbonus (the rabbinate). He became a leather merchant and an iron shopkeeper - however if not agreed upon from heaven, it is futile. All of a sudden, a fire wiped out everything. At that time a Rav was missing in Tarlow, so he filled in the city all Rabbinic functions, and therewith suffered plenty of tzoros, as was customary in Poland, including a poor parnossoh (livelihood). As rabbinic compensation, he was granted the right (perhaps [likely I suspect] a monopoly) to sell yeast, candles and salt. As at that time there was the decree that a Rav in Poland must know (go through ?) four classes of Russian (language), he took such an examination in Radom, before the Governor (government examiner ?), in order to be able to become a Rav in a larger city. He then acquired 'heter horaah' (permission to pasken - aka semicha) from three geonim gedolei hador. The Lublin'er Rav, haGaon hagodol R. Shneur Zalman z"l, author of 'Toras Chessed', the Ostrovitz'er Rav, hatzaddik haGaon hagodol Rebbe Yechiel Meir haLevi

zt"l, and the Varshav'er (Warsaw) Rav, haGaon hagodol Rebbe Zainveli Klepfish zt"l. At that time the Lublin'er Rav took him to himself as a dayyan until his departure to Yerusholayim. R. Rosenberg then went to Warsaw as a moreh horaah (Rabbinical decisor) and there issued a monthly Rabbinic newspaper 'Kol Torah'.

Subj: R. Rosenberg 70 year jubilee publication - page 6

From Warsaw, he went to Lodz, also as moreh hora'ah (Rabbinic decisor). Since the world started to show smell of gunpowder then, with the approach of the great war (WWI), his son-in-law, Mr. Glass, who lived then in Toronto, Canada, shared with him that the Polish Jews of Toronto want him as Rav there. In the year 5673 (1912 or 1913) he came with his family to Toronto. In the year 5679 (1918-9) the organization Adas Yisroel of Montreal took him on as Rav, where he is until today very esteemed and beloved by the whole city.

Rabbi Rosenberg has ten children, sons and daughters. Of the sons are (well) known the Rav Rosenberg from Plainfield in the states (USA), also in Montreal a son a shochet, and other sons that are merchants. His 'ben zekunim' (son of his older age) is a exceptional bochur that learns in Yeshivas Rabbeinu Yitzchok Elchonon in New York. The son-in-laws are known businessmen.

Rabbi Rosenberg has accomplished very much with the pen for the Jewish nation. He issued many seforim for all classes of Jews. We can divide his works into three categories : 1) Rabbinic works : 2) Drush (homiletic Torah exposition) and Kabbalah seforim, and 3) folk literature.

Rabbinic seforim, as follows : 1) 'Yodos Nedorim' on Maseches Nedorim. 2) 'Mikveh Yehudah', on how it is possible to construct a small home mikvah; 3) 'HaChashmal' , laws regarding electric lighting ; 4) 'Dorsho tzemer ufishtim', regarding the laws of shaatnez ; 5) 'She'eilos uteshuvos (responsa) Alufei Yehudah', still in manuscript, ready for printing. 6) 'Kriah hakedosho', laws of krias haTorah.

Drush seforim and Kabbalah seforim : 7) Here Rabbi Rosenberg accomplished one of the most useful things, on which he worked for twenty five years to translate the Zohar hakodosh from Aramaic to Hebrew, so it should be easy to learn the holy work. He has already long issued it on Chumash in five large volumes called 'Zohar Torah', with a commentary called 'ziv haZohar'. Presently a sixth volume, of Zohar on Tehillim, has been issued and a seventh volume of Zohar on Shir Hashirim, Mishlei and Koheles is being printed ; 8) sefer 'Ateres Tiferes' (crown of glory), fifty deroshos about mitzvoh of tefillin, now being printed in Warsaw, and will be soon out and available ; 9) 'Niflaos haZohar', all the stories of the Zohar hakodosh ; 10) 'Yalkut Eliyohu hanovi' with (commentary ?) 'Ohr tzach' ; 11) 'Hagaddas Mahara"l miPrague' according to a manuscript from a library ; 12) 'Eitz Yehudah' on chumash according to Parde"s (psht-

remez-drush-sod) (simple meaning-hints-homiletical exposition-secret meanings) with derushim (homiletical expositions) on Shabbosos and holidays. This is yet in manuscript, ready for printing.

Folk - literature : 13) 'Niflaos Mahara"l miPrague', about the golem, a thorough account ; 14) sefer 'Rafael haMalach' ('Rafael the [healing] angel'), about ancient refuos and kamayos (cures and amulets), as well as cures based on medicine ; 15) sefer 'Refuos hanefesh urefuos haguf' ; 16) 'Tiferes (glory of) Hamare"l Mishpoli', (a hassidic personality) known as 'the Shpola Zeide', wondrous stories ; 17) 'Divrei Hayomim LiShlomo Hamelech' ; 18) 'Avnei Choshen Mishpat' ; 19) 'Goral ha'asirios' ; 20) 'Refuos Homopathia' (Homeopathic cures).