

Kulom Kedoyshim¹

By Eliezer Shindler

Dedicated to the bright memory of my parents, Abraham Isaac and Nechama Shindler, perished in Theresienstadt. My brother-in-law, Jacob-Dov Lerman-Frider and my sister Chaya and their children, perished in Warsaw. My brother-in-law, Elijah Eleazar Psalter and my sister Kayla Hannah and their children, perished in Oświęcim.² My brother-in-law, Rabbi Eleazar Steinberg-Rathenau and my sister, HaRabbanit³ Judith and their children, perished in Oświęcim. My brother's brother-in-law, Rabbi Doctor Jacob Yekutiel Neubauer, Rosh Yeshivah⁴ in Würzburg, Bavaria, in 1933 Rosh Yeshivah in Amsterdam, perished in Bergen-Belsen.



My Bible teacher, Rabbi Doctor Israel Finklscherer of Munich, and his wife, daughter of Professor Israel Levi Breslau and both their sons, Rabbi Doctor Herbert Finklscherer More Dasre⁵ of Szczecin, perished in Piaski near Lublin, with many other Munich Jews. Rabbi Doctor Bruno Finklscherer, More Dasre of Göttingen, thereafter Rabbi in Munich, perished in Oświęcim.



Doctor Joseph Sheler and his wife, perished in Oświęcim. Menachem Ben Nachem, Nathan Birnbaum, his wife Esther and their two children Raphael Tzvi and Hannah, perished in Oświęcim, October 1944.



My countryman and friend, the folk poet and composer Nachem Sternheim, perished in Oświęcim.



¹ Hebrew: "All the community is holy" from Numbers 16:3 as Korah says to Moses, "... for the entire assembly — all of them — are holy, and God is among them."

² Polish: The southern Polish town "Oświęcim," where the Nazis located the Auschwitz death camp.

³ Hebrew: the Rabbi's wife. The Yiddish word is "rebbetsin."

⁴ Hebrew: literally "Head of the Yeshivah" (rosh ("head"), yeshive ("Yeshivah"): the prestigious title given to the dean of a yeshivah (Talmudic academy for young men). Traditionally, the Rosh Yeshive was the highest level of scholar, said to have a vast and profound knowledge of the Talmud and the astute ability to analyze and present new perspectives, often in writing.

⁵ Hebrew: the local Rabbi; the Rabbi of the city mentioned (Szczecin).

Gershon (Grishe) Oserof, the artist and writer, perished in Buchenwald.



My dear and near friend of the Oylim⁶ and Beis-Jacob⁷ movement: Rabbi Gaon Rebbe Mordechai Rotenberg of Antwerp.



Judah-Leib Orlean, Meir Voydislavski (V. Leykhter), Doctor Ben-Zion Fesler, Eleazar Gershon Fridenzon, his wife and their son Samson Raphael, Alexander Zishe Fridman, Elimelech Shtayer, Alter Shnur, Rabbi Shrage Feivel Shapiro, Rosh Yeshivah of Yeshivah Etz-Chaim Heide, near Antwerp. My brother Sholem Ben Abraham Isaac. My childhood friend Rabbi Michael Leibush Dorlich and his entire family.



The converts Abraham ben Abraham Baron Ernst von Manstein and his wife Sarah-Bas-Abraham, perished in Würzburg.

HY"D⁸

Translated by Ruth Murphy
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⁶ Hebrew: Literally, "those who ascend": refers to the "Ha Oylim" movement, "The Ascenders," a religious movement founded by Dr. Nathan Birnbaum in 1918 dedicated to raising the spiritual awareness of the Jewish people through example.

⁷ Hebrew: literally "Jacob's house," a Jewish Orthodox school for girls.

⁸ Hebrew: Acronym for "HaShem Yinkoym Domom": May God avenge their blood," a title given after the name of martyred Jews murdered due to anti-Semitism.