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While he was grappling with the problem of his future, R. Israel received an invitation to head the Rav Mailo Yeshivah in Vilna. That year (1840), R. Eliezer Taitz, a pupil of R. Akiva Eger, had relinquished his position as principal." The trustees accordingly decided to offer the top post to R. Israel, who, together with the other Rosh Yeshivah, R. Mordecai Meltzer (1797-1883), a famous Gaon, later rabbi of Lida, would have free control. Together with his family, he moved to Vilna, and a new period in his life began.

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