

The RYS Daily 5/27/07 Last Days XVI

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His passing came as a great shock to Jews of every type and description, wherever they happened to live. Many of the greatest rabbis of the time came to Koenigsberg to attend his funeral. He was eulogized by R. Isaac Blazer who had succeeded in arriving in time from Kovno, Dr. Ezriel Hildesheimer of Berlin, the local Rabbi - Dr. Bamberger, R. Israel's disciple — Rabbi Dr. Grunfeld, and Rabbi Shapiro. All described "the great disaster that had befallen the generation that had lost its leader, the ship that had lost its steersman."

Throughout the entire diaspora, from Kovno to Paris and from Berlin to Jerusalem, Jews in their masses flocked together to pay tribute to his memory, among them all the heads of the various communities. The entire Jewish press devoted long, laudatory articles to him, giving public expression to their admiration of the "mighty personality who had been sent from Above for the deliverance of his people and as an example to his generation." Special memorial volumes were published by his disciples and admirers, such as R. Joseph Feldberg's Kedosh Yisrael, R. David Solomon Slouschz of Odessa's Kevod Yisrael. In more comprehensive works, authors devoted special articles to the memory of the "gaon and saint, the Rabbi of all Israel."

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