

MR. DAVID LUSTMAN Z"L AND HIS FAMILY

My father (RIP), Mr. David Lustman, was a native of Kutno, the only son of Mr. Eliezer Lustman, who was related to the Apt family in Radom, and of his wife, Rachel born Falc.

My mother Leah (RIP) was the daughter of Arie Tuszinski and Toibele née Asz. The latter was the daughter of Moshe Asz and the sister of the famous writer Shalom Asz.

Father (RIP) was born in 1880, married at a young age and when he was called to participate in the Russo-Japanese War in 1904, he left five small children at home. After returning safely from the war his condition was dire, and his friends who immigrated to America wrote to him and offered him to immigrate with his family. Dad sold his shop, sent his wife with his six young children to her parents' house in Łowicz and said goodbye with a heavy heart to his parents. But when he was already at the train station, his parents came to him and wept bitterly that they could not separate from their only son and could not agree that he should go to a foreign land. Dad surrendered and canceled his trip and returned with his family to Kutno. There he opened a "*cheder*"¹ and would teach boys by day and girls by night. And until the outbreak of World War I, he had four more children.

When the war broke out, in 1914, he was recruited again and the burden of earning a living for the large family was placed on my mother (RIP) who had to work hard to support her ten children. For four years, my father (RIP) was in the war in Russia and when he returned in peace, he became a teacher in a "*yeshiva*" in Kutno and for over twenty years taught and educated generations of students in the city and everyone loved and respected him.

I will also mention here my brothers and sisters who also perished: the eldest brother, Mordechai, was married to Alexandra born Koraft. He died in 1932 and his wife and two children lived in the city of Toruń; Malka was married to Elyahu Kotlarz, a well-known family in Kutno; Arie was married and lived in the city of Kalisz; Ryvka was married to Moshe Zandberg in Kutno; Masha was married in Kutno; Yechiel was married to Bina Apelast from Kutno, she survived with her two children and now lives in Paris; younger sister Priwa; sister Chaya-Liba with her husband Zandelewicz in Kutno; my sister Hinda left Kutno in 1919 and married Chaim Spielberg in Leipzig and now lives with her family in Haifa.

I myself left Kutno in 1929, and when I talked about it with my father, he told me: "I will not delay you; to this day I am sorry I did not go to America in 1905. If you want to go – go." I said goodbye to my father and I never saw him again.

Kalman LUSTMAN

¹ TN: Jewish school for young children.