



**H**aRav Moshe Chaim ben Avrohom Aharon Weiss, from Kleinwardein, published a commentary called Bris Moshe on the Sefer SMA"G of the Tosafist Rabbeinu Moshe of Coucy. The Belzer Rebbe Rav Yisochor Dov pressed him to publish the sefer in Munkatch תרס"ה, and it appeared with a host of glowing haskomos from leading Rabbonim. Oddly, though, none of the haskomos make any mention of the mechaber's holding any official rabbinic position. In truth, throughout his life, he had longed for a position of rabbinical and communal leadership, and remuneration was not the obstacle, since he himself was man of ample means. Rav Yosef Chaim Grunwald cites לך יהוה הגדלה והגבורה והתפארת והנצח וההוד כי כל בשמים ובארץ לך יהוה הממלכה והמתנשא לכלו לראש (דברי הימים): *Yours, O Lord, are the greatness, and the might, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and on the earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom and You are He Who is exalted over everything as the leader.*

**STORY OF THE WEEK:**  
*Even a great Gaon in Torah is not assured of Rabbinic leadership*

**T**his teaches that true leadership, be it rabbinic or secular cannot be bought for money, for it is vested in the Oibershter, who bestows it on whom He sees fit. Early on, our Rav Moshe Chaim had a close relationship with the Belzer Rebbe, and later when he moved to Kleinwardein he would travel with his close friend Rav Shaya miKerestir to Kiviashd to Rav Mordechai miNadvorno. Rav Moshe Chaim begged all of the Rebbes for a brocho of becoming a Rav with an official position, but each and every one of them declined to grant him that brocho. Once when the two chaverim were seated at Rav Mordechai's tisch, the tsaddik asked the two young men to sit next to him. Moshe Chaim confided in Shaya that he felt the time for his personal salvation had come. This happened at Shalosh

Seudos also. Sitting in the customary darkness of the waning minutes of Shabbos, the Rebbe distributed shirayim/leftovers from his plate – large pieces of carp -- first to Shaye and then to Moshe Chaim, but this caused a problem. Moshe Chaim was a wealthy man and as such was more than a bit finicky about the food he ate. He would only eat food prepared specially for him, and that ruled out fish from a communal plate, for who knew how fresh it was? And yet, he could not reject shirayim from a Rebbe whom he hoped could help him, so he pushed it on the sly to Jankusz, the gabbai's son, who was sitting next to him. Moments later, the Rebbe turned to him and asked, "Moshe Chaim, did you get fish?" "Yes," he replied somewhat evasively. "Did you eat it?" "No, Rebbe, I gave it away," he admitted sheepishly. "Oh no, what a shame. A shame. A great pity. Whom did you give it to?" "Jankusz, the gabbai's son." *Rabbosai, Shaya and Jankusz are each going to be rabbonim. I can't say anything about Moshe Chaim.* For the rest of his life, Moshe Chaim rued the day when he rejected the gift the Rebbe extended to him. He never did attain a rabbinical post, and his legacy for future generations was destined to be only his exalted sefer.



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