



# Rabbis of Chicago



רב אברהם אליעזר אלפערשטיין

Rabbi Avraham Eliezer Alperstein

1853-1917



Born in Korbin in 1853, in his youth Rabbi Avraham Eliezer Alperstein learned from the Ridba"z, and then in Kovna and Vilna. As a young man he showed tremendous capabilities and was proficient in both Talmud Bavli and Talmud Yerushalmi, and he received s'micha from Rav Mordechai Metzger, Av Beis Din of Lida, and Rav (רא"ל) Shacnavitz (בעל יפה עינים). At the age of 20, Rabbi Alperstein married Bayla Shneider, who was related to the Gr"a.

Rabbi Alperstein served as a Rav in Europe before he came to New York in 1880. In 1884 he moved to Chicago and served as the Rav in Congregation Anshei Kovna and Congregation Sovalk as well as in Ohev Shalom Mariampoler and Etz Chaim Congregation, located at 96 Judd Street. In 1887 Rabbi Alperstein published Harel, a scholarly volume discussing Maseches Bikkurim in the Talmud Yerushalmi, which has the haskama of the Brisker Rav and Rabbi Yaakov Yosef. In 1890 Rabbi Alperstein moved to St. Paul and eventually made his way back to New York.

Rabbi Alperstein was one of the founders of Agudat HaRabbanim and one of the first expert Rabbonim to come to America. His character was exemplary; he was a צדיק ועניו and a בעל השנאה בצע בתכלית השנאה and worked to enhance the level of religiosity in his community without any hope of remuneration, aside from his allotted salary. Rabbi Alperstein was also very much interested in an intensive Jewish education for the youth. It was through his efforts that the Moses Montefiore Talmud Torah was founded on the occasion of the 100th birthday of the great philanthropist. He also accomplished a great deal in the areas of kashrut and chinuch and made a special effort to provide for כלי קודש, to arrange for shoachim, and to ensure that b'nei Torah had adequate and appropriate employment.

Rabbi Alperstein died on January 28 1917 and was buried in Mount Judah Cemetery, New York. His wife founded the Beth Abraham Home for the Incurably Sick in the Bronx in his memory.