







I MISSED TODAY'S TRAIN, BUT THIS NEWS CAN'T WAIT. I'LL BE ABLE TO REACH THE VILLAGE BY EVENING ON THIS HORSE, AND IF I GO STRAIGHT TO RABBI SHARANSKY'S HOME AND THEN RETURN HERE IMMEDIATELY, I'LL BE ABLE TO OPEN MY SHOP ON TUE TOMORROW MORNING.



I MUST TELL THE RAV ABOUT THE DANGER IN RIGA.



WHO'S THAT MAN? HE LOOKS RICH, ALL DRESSED UP IN THAT COAT BUT THERE ARE NO RICH PEOPLE IN OUR VILLAGE.



SHALOM ALEICHEM, R' YITZCHAK. WHAT NEWS HAVE YOU BROUGHT FROM MOSCOW?

I'M HERE TO TELL THE RAV ABOUT A DECREE AGAINST THE JEWS OF RIGA.

THAT... THAT'S PAPA'S VOICE. BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.



I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT'S HAPPENING. I WANT TO SEE THAT RICH MAN WHEN HE COMES BACK OUT.



IN MOSCOW...

CLOSED AGAIN? VERY STRANGE.





I WANT TO REMIND YOU OF THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR STORE AND HOW IT ALL BEGAN...



A MONTH EARLIER, IN BOSRUISK, RUSSIA

WE NEED TO COME UP WITH A PLAN.

THE MAYOR OF VOLHYNIA HAS DECREED A NEW TAX FOR THE JEWS. TWENTY PERCENT OF THEIR INCOME MUST GO TO THE GOVERNMENT WE WILL NOT SURVIVE THIS!

BUT HOW CAN WE FIND OUT WHAT THE CZAR IS PLANNING?

WE CAN'T DO THAT THOSE DISCUSSIONS TAKE PLACE BEHIND LOCKED DOORS.



THE PURPOSE OF OUR GATHERING IS TO TRY TO PREVENT FUTURE DECREES FROM BEING PLOTTED AGAINST THE JEWS. WE NEED TO LEARN ABOUT THE CZAR'S PLANS BEFORE THEY BECOME LAWS SO THAT WE CAN THWART THEM.



WE NEED TO FIND A WAY, OR OUR COMMUNITY WILL FACE A SEVERE OUTCOME.

I HAVE AN IDEA! WHAT IF WE SEND SOMEONE TO MOSCOW TO SNIFF AROUND FOR INFORMATION? SOMEONE WHOM THE NOBLEMEN CONFIDE IN SO THAT HE LEARNS ABOUT THE CZAR'S IDEAS BEFORE THEY BECOME LAWS.



THAT'S A GREAT IDEA, BUT... MOSCOW IS BEYOND THE PALE OF SETTLEMENT. JEWS AREN'T ALLOWED TO LIVE THERE NOW. WE NEED SOMEONE WHO CAN GO THERE IN DISGUISE.



THAT'S THE REASON FOR YOUR STORE IN MOSCOW AND YOUR NON-JEWISH COVER. IT'S WHY I ASKED YOU TO KEEP YOUR EARS OPEN FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE JEWS. YOU'RE OUR AMBASSADOR. SO MUCH RESTS UPON YOUR SHOULDERS.

"PALE OF SETTLEMENT" REFERS TO AREAS OF CZARIST RUSSIA WHERE JEWS WERE ALLOWED TO LIVE. THEY WERE NOT ALLOWED TO SETTLE BEYOND IT.