

## Emanuel Ringelblum on Mordecai Anielewicz

The famed Uprising, in April and May, 1943 in the Warsaw Ghetto, is universally regarded as a turning point, an absolutely new departure, not only in the chronicles of Jewish resistance to the German oppressor, but also in the history of the general struggle for the liberation of Warsaw. This was the first time when Jews took part in a major, indeed large scale battle of that struggle. For the first time, after the defeat in 1939, the thunder of cannon and the echoing clutter of machine-guns were heard again in the capital city of Poland. The Jewish Uprising induced changes in the struggle of the Polish underground movement, which until then had concentrated its efforts mainly on acts of sabotage, and on acquiring arms and ammunition by disarming German soldiers and police. April 19, 1943, became a symbol of the Jewish public's contribution to the fight for freedom from the Nazi regime, and a motivating factor in the war of the Polish underground. Here are two extracts from Emanuel Ringelblum's essay about Mordecai Anielewicz, commander of the Jewish Fighting Organization:

"...since then he used to come to me often to ask for a book on Jewish history, or on economics, subjects that interested him. Who could guess in those days that this quiet, restrained and pleasant young man should become, three years later, the most important person in the entire Ghetto, a man whose name would recur in every conversation, inspiring boundless respect and, sometimes, fear and dread..."

"...Such was the love that surrounded him later, as the commander of the Fighting Organization. However, the position of power did not flatter or blind him. He stayed plain and modest as before..."

**Source: Joseph Kermish (ed.), *To Live with Honor and Die with Honor! Selected Documents from the Warsaw Ghetto Underground Archives "O.S" ["Oneg Shabbath"]*, Yad Vashem 1986, p.585.**

