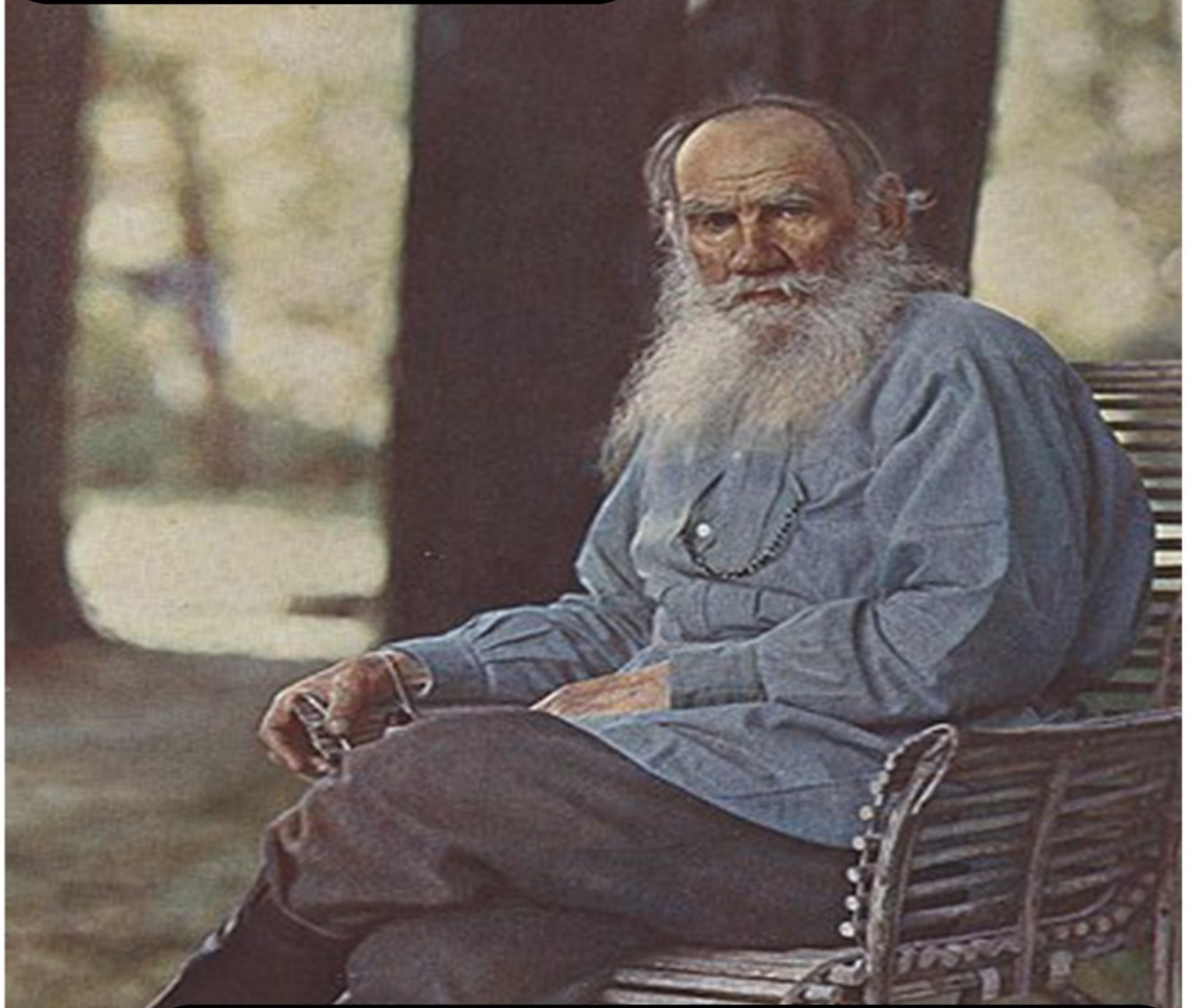
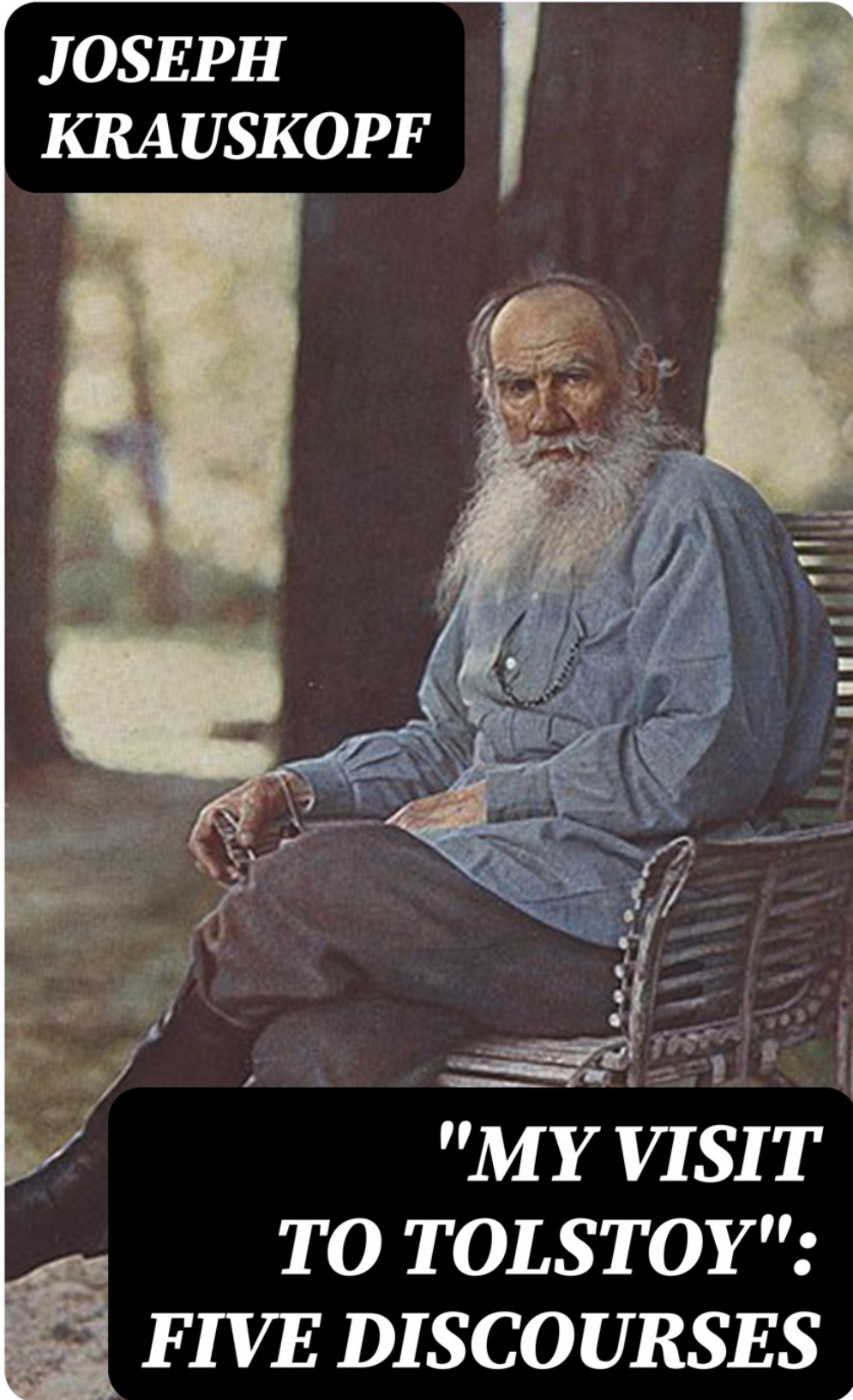


***JOSEPH  
KRAUSKOPF***



***"MY VISIT  
TO TOLSTOY":  
FIVE DISCOURSES***

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**"MY VISIT  
TO TOLSTOY":  
FIVE DISCOURSES**

**Joseph Krauskopf**

# **"My Visit to Tolstoy": Five Discourses**

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By

Rabbi Joseph Krauskopf, D. D.



Philadelphia  
1911

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## **My Visit to Tolstoy.**

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A DISCOURSE, AT TEMPLE KENESETH ISRAEL

BY

RABBI JOSEPH KRAUSKOPF, D. D.

Philadelphia, December 11th, 1910.

My visit to Russia and its purpose.

In the summer of 1894 I visited Russia for the purpose of proposing to the Czar a plan that might end or lessen the terrible persecution of the Jews in his realm. The plan intended was a removal of the persecuted Jews to unoccupied lands in the interior, there to be colonized on farms, and to be maintained, until self-supporting, by their correligionists of other parts of the world.

Refused admission by Russian government.

Learning that, because a Jew, I would not be admitted into Russia, I conferred with President Cleveland and

Secretary Gresham, both of whom heartily endorsed my plan and resolved to intervene. The Russian Minister at Washington declaring his powerlessness to *visé* my passport, our Secretary of State cabled to the American Minister at St. Petersburg to obtain the desired permission from the foreign office, only to receive as reply the words "*Russian government deeply regrets its inability to accede to request in behalf of Reverend Jewish divine.*"

Determined to test my citizenship right.

The injustice of the reply determined me more than ever to enter Russia, if only to make a test case of my citizenship rights. The treaty between the United States and Russia guarantees to every American citizen the right of entry on Russian soil, and as an American citizen that right was mine; my religion being my private affair and no concern of Russia's. The determination to test the supremacy of international law over national prejudice aroused a large part of the American press to a vigorous endorsement of my position. A bill was introduced in Congress to the effect that the treaty between the two countries be declared abrogated if an American citizen be turned back from the gates of Russia by reason of his religion.

Was admitted.

In the height of the agitation I departed for Russia, knocked at the gates of St. Petersburg—and was admitted. Russia had evidently come to the conclusion that it was better policy to admit me and to keep her eyes on me than to allow the agitation and the indignation to continue in our country.

Met distinguished Russians.