

The RYS Daily 10/4/06 More on Robbery

From The Mussar Movement, Volume 1, Part 2 pages 187 - 188.

Like all other means, such an approach [as described in yesterday's RYS Daily] is contingent upon many prior assumptions: that one realizes the gravity of robbery and that it not only applies to objects having some monetary value, etc. Were one to master these prior considerations, this means would become, according to R. Israel, the most effective method of all. He enumerated other stratagems for dealing with anger and resentment — some having a psychological, ethical background — others an intellectual, Halachic background.

By a process of induction, one may infer from this instance the amount of study and effort he invested in improving all his character traits. For years "he kept working on himself", descending to the depths of his own self, examining and scrutinizing every impulse and trait, purifying and refining each in turn by all manner of devices, and raising his virtues to the very summit of perfection. So he went about purifying himself over and over again till his great disciples testified of him that he had developed each of his virtues to a marvelous extent. And he serves as the perfect example of purity and cleanliness of spirit to posterity.

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