

RYS Daily 10/11/06 Negative Commandments

From The Mussar Movement, Volume 1, Part 2, pages 192 - 194.

He was similarly strict in obeying negative commandments and in all that pertained to forbidden things. He would not eat anywhere unless the kashrut was known to be impeccable. In other instances he would either slaughter the fowl himself or else examine the shochet's slaughter-knife. He avoided foods to which the slightest suspicion might attach. In some localities he refrained from any food in which kashrut requirements were involved. A controversy about the kosher meat tax had broken out in Vilna. The parties in control had warned the shoachim that they would declare the animals non-kosher unless the shoachim complied with their wishes. From then onwards, R. Israel refrained from eating meat of the local shechitah for as long as he remained in Vilna."

He also paid strict heed to the observance of chadash (not to eat new season's grain till after the 16th of Nisan), and would inquire about the source of the food he ate. He was most particular that the fruits and vegetables should be free of worms and ants, and observed so many stringencies that he was distressed at the burden he became to his family." Here, too, he would draw an analogy from the conduct of business. As people normally pursued financial gain, so did he pursue mitzvot and avoid transgression, basing his approach on the verse: "If you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures, then shall you understand the fear of the L-rd."

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