

The RYS Daily 10/13/06 Rabbinic Enactments

From The Mussar Movement, Volume 1, Part 2, pages 194 - 195.

Nor was this diligence manifested in Torah commandments alone. The same care was applied to Rabbinic enactments as well. There was no limit to the precision and stringency of his observances. The violation of a single custom would cause him deep distress. For fifteen years, he was heard to repeat the saying: "And my sin is before me always." It happened that he had forgotten to feel his pockets on a Friday afternoon with the approach of dusk, as the Sages had ordained, and afterwards found a scrap of paper in a pocket. Also, once before Pesach he had forgotten to search the place where the salt was kept. Hosts were afraid to offer him any food or drink, since he would feel compelled to accept even to the detriment of his health, since the Sages of the Talmud had ordained: "Do whatever your host tells you."

His intentions in carrying out each mitzvah were also strictly scrutinized. If he ever found himself to have recited a berachah or prayer without the proper concentration and fervor, he would walk about for hours, engrossed in thought, searching for the means to mend his ways in the future.

Earlier issues of The Daily Salanter are at
<http://www.stevens.edu/golem/llevine/salanter/>