

## The RYS Daily 10/20/06 Recommendations

From the Mussar Movement Volume 1, Part 2 page 199.

He refrained from giving recommendations, issuing certificates of rabbinic ordination, approbations of Halachic works and the like. If he thought that his approval of a work was justified and would be beneficial, he did not attest to the worth of the work or its author, but merely stated that he himself had bought a copy and that he requested that the author be patronized. [28]

He also refrained from heaping titles. His acquaintances, even the greatest among them, would only be addressed as "Harav".

Some individuals would not even be addressed as "Harav". In his correspondence with one of the most distinguished German rabbis and scholars, he would open with "Herr Dr. Rabbiner" in German, even though the rest of the letter was written in Hebrew. Apparently, R. Israel hesitated applying the title "Ray" to that rabbi, or else he had set himself some general rule in these instances. Not wishing to offend the recipient of the letter, however, he had found a way to circumvent the difficulty. Other, similar instances have been recounted. Here, then, is the extent to which he would weigh and count every word issuing from his mouth or pen.

[28] It is worthwhile to transcribe here the approbation given in 1855 by R. Israel to the Arugat Eliyahu (Amsterdam, 1859), a commentary on Avot, certainly one of the very few he ever issued: "I, too, will bli neder purchase a copy from the rabbi, the 'light of the exile,' the author, may he live, and for the honor of the Torah scholar I make a brief appeal to those who seek to do righteousness that they be counted among the ones helping to rouse hearts to the word of G-d, to magnify the Torah and glorify it, and do the will of G-d, as 'those souls who fear the L-rd wish, and as wishes the soul of R. Israel of Salant."

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