

The RYS Daily 12/12/06 Vilna V

From The Mussar Movement, Volume 1, Part 1, page 201.

Yet he could not view these activities as his life's mission. There was no dearth of Geonim in those days. Even without him, Torah was in no danger of being forgotten. For himself, he regarded his life's work to be the propagation of reverent faith in G-d and moral perfection, in effecting a spiritual revival in Israel. Indeed, his sole justification for allowing such fame and repute to accrue to him was in order to serve this end that, through his established reputation as Torah authority, people would pay attention more readily to him and be more receptive to his influence.

Vilna afforded him ample opportunity for his aspirations. It was a flourishing Jewish city, teeming with outstanding Torah scholars and saintly, G-d fearing men, and with notable communal leaders. It was the focal point, too, for Maskilim and literati who had formed their own society. Even the masses were of superior caliber, permeated with the spirit of Torah learning and piety. It constituted the spiritual center of all Lithuanian Jewry and was called "Lithuanian Jerusalem."

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