

The RYS Daily 12/7/06 Vilna II

From The Mussar Movement, Volume 1, Part 2, page 198.

Shortly afterwards R. Israel became aware of that, although unintentionally, he was overshadowing his colleague, R. Mordecai Meltzer. Most of the students were drawn to R. Israel's discourses, and evinced a waning interest in those of R. Mordecai. The methods of the two differed, and the students showed a distinct preference for R. Israel's. R. Mordecai felt hurt, and began delivering his discourses in a different Bet Midrash. The situation distressed R. Israel exceedingly. Furthermore, local gossips seized the opportunity to foment quarrels. Important as the position was to him from all points of view, spiritual and material, R. Israel, in his extreme modesty took no account of the consequences and immediately tendered his resignation.' He retired to the Bet Midrash in the Zarece court. There he conducted a daily Talmud class for the worshippers, while a distinguished Vilna businessman, Baskis by name, provided for his needs. His wife, too, opened a business.

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