

The RYS Daily 2/21/07 Germany XV

From The Mussar Movement Volume 1, Part 1, page 258.

Interestingly, he required his disciples to be both teachers and pupils at one and the same time. On the one hand he utilized every pedagogical technique in educating them, as if they were being taught in class, and at the same time he was ordering them to be the teachers of others. To one of his outstanding disciples, R. Isaac Blazer presumably, he wrote: "A man young in years, superior to his peers in intelligence, is obliged on the one hand to regard himself a man among men, so that he may have the courage to influence, and confer benefit on, others. On the other hand he is all the more obliged to consider himself young in years, and hence having to train himself to be capable in time to come of bestowing benefit on the public as the times will require."

Presumably it was with this in mind that R. Israel left Russia. He relied on his disciples who had attained so high a level as to be capable, as far as he was concerned, to take his place. They did not disappoint him. While he was pursuing his endeavors in Germany, they were laboring to propagate his Musar doctrine and the fear of G-d and to make them prevail throughout Russia.

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