

The RYS Daily 2/2/07 Kovna XX

From The Mussar Movement, Volume 1, Part 1, page 244.

At that time, the first signs of antagonism to R. Israel and his doctrine made their appearance. R. Leib Shapiro and R. Isaac Avigdor, who had succeeded him as rabbi of Kovno, together with several other rabbis: R. Joshua Heschel of Jonewe (Yonava), R. Avraham Samuel of Rosyenny (Raseiniai), R. Mordecai Eliashberg of Buskoye (Boisk), R. Isaiah of Salant, and others disapproved of R. Israel's methods and were afraid that his activities would lead to the emergence of a new schismatic sect. Their antagonism was aimed in particular against the Musar Houses. R. Leib Shapiro would say: "Scripture calls on 'O house of Israel' to 'bless the L-rd'; 'O house of Aaron' to 'bless the L-rd.' But it states 'You that fear the L-rd, bless the L-rd,' and not 'O house of them that fear the L-rd.' It follows then that special houses are in nowise needed for fearing G-d." R. Leib even dispatched R. Joshua Heschel of Jonewe, one of the outstanding orators of the day, to speak from time to time in the synagogues where R. Israel had delivered his addresses so as to contradict his messages.

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