

The RYS Daily 4/8/07 Public Problems III

From The Mussar Movement, Volume 1, Part 1, pages 296 - 297.

R. Israel's practical attitude to problems manifested itself not only in public affairs, but in his dealings with private individuals as well. His friend, R. Mendel Lefin was about to leave on a trip to Eretz Israel. In a letter to him, dated Av 5624 (c. Aug. 1864), R. Israel wrote, stating that his words were almost in the nature of an order, "See to hasten your return journey from Eretz Israel to come home in peace, and thereby assure that you will do no harm to your commercial interests and not lose G-d forbid your business standing. Even though to tarry in the Holy Land is a great mitzvah, nevertheless one must not allow oneself to undergo the trial of having to reduce one's living [standard] which leads G-d forbid to unhappy results, either between man and his fellow man... and this does not conflict with the virtue of having trust in G-d," In the same letter, he first admonished R. Mendel to "see the holiness of the Land and its virtues," and then proceeded to admonish him to reckon with "the amount of his expenditures and not to be extravagant."

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