

The RYS Daily 5/13/07 Last Days VI

From the Mussar Movement, Volume 1, Part 1, pages 322 - 323.

Objections were voiced against R. Israel for having abandoned his brethren in Russia in their time of distress and for wandering abroad to other countries. Many published articles critical of his conduct in the press, to the effect that "the interests of his Russian brethren are far from his heart, and he gives his life for the interests of foreigners." One writer even called out to him: "Where are you, R. Israel, spiritual ruler of the majority of the sons of our people? Why have the winds carried you away to a foreign land?" And this writer enumerated a long list of activities "which he should undertake for the benefit of his people that live in Russia, and which no one else can perform."

Little did they know, however, that even in Paris, R. Israel was busily engaged in endeavors for the benefit of Russian Jewry. He came into contact with prominent, public figures, among them with Baron Gunzburg, and the two discussed communal affairs with beneficial results which became evident later.

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