

The RYS Daily 5/21/07 Last Days XIII

From The Mussar Movement, Volume 1, Part 1 page 330 - 331.

R. Israel stopped over just briefly in Kovno, and left for Memel, where he spent the High Holidays, and then returned to Koenigsberg. Even there, however, he could not rest. Almost every week he posted another letter to R. Jacob Lipschitz urging him to expedite R. Isaac Elchanan's sending of his letter. He also addressed appeals to his fellow workers, conceived all manner of plans, and took secret counsel how to "close up the breach and frustrate the designs of the nobles." In his letters, he discussed the advisability of sending a special deputation to Baron Gunzberg in St. Petersburg to persuade him to discard his plan. He also entertained some doubt as to whether the procedure he had initially adopted, the soft-spoken approach, would be effective, "for who knows whether sufficient time is still left to proceed with the gentle approach.

R. Israel's promptings succeeded. R. Isaac Elchanan opened the campaign by compiling some type of memorandum on the subject, which he forwarded to Baron Gunzberg. Then the rest of the prominent rabbis flooded the Baron with letters of protest "phrased attractively and pleasingly" and gave him to understand how perverse the whole idea really was. The Baron sent no reply, but it is known that he abandoned his plan.

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