

The RYS Daily 5/30/07 Inscription

From The Mussar Movement Volume I, Part 1, page 336.

THE INSCRIPTION ON R. ISRAEL'S TOMBSTONE [34]

One alone in his time was he, in his Torah and character traits.
He had no second in his precious deeds.
Russia cries out: "Where is my chosen, my Israel?" Germany answers: "On the King's
mountain, in my shade, rests he."
Truth mourns at his death for it is banished,
His heart, his hands, his mouth,
Holy one of Israel, precious soul,
He, the mighty Gaon, crown of glory,
Who taught Torah and Musar and fear of the Almighty, Who sought the good of his
people in his love for the Fiery Law,
Our Master and Rabbi, R. Israel Salanter,
Of righteous and blessed memory, of Vilna,
Where he set down Torah, and in Kovno, in Memel and in Paris,
Author of the works: Tevunah, Imre Binah, Etz Peri,
Son of the rabbi, the Gaon, R. Zeev Wolf, head of the Bet Din of Telshe,
Author of the commentary, Ben Aryeh, on the Talmud. - Born in the year 5570, died on
the eve of the holy Shabbat, a good sign for him,
Which was the 25th of the month of Shevat of the year [5]643.
May his soul be bound up in the bond of life.

[34.] This text appears in Steinschneider's *Ir Vilna*. However, R. Jacob Berman visited the grave in 1912, and found a different inscription. Apparently the original inscription became effaced over the years, and a new text was engraved on the stone.