

The RYS Daily 6/22/07 Musar Enthusiasm V

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R. Israel looked out upon the world. Before him there loomed a picture of terrifying spiritual petrification: ears stopped up, hearts hardened, minds contaminated — all submerged in indifference, everything at a standstill. To rely upon ordinary methods in such a situation would be futile. More effective weapons had to be forged and a bold strategy initiated, "to exert a mighty impression upon the heart" till its indolence, fettering bodily desires and evil traits be overcome.

Here he made a discovery. He found a new instrument for combating the insensitivity of the heart — namely, stirring up (lit. "the storm of") the spirit. To rouse, to shake up the spirit, it was necessary to induce powerful emotional excitement. The emotions were to be utilized to rouse the intellectual powers to combat the subconscious drives. Only as stormy an arousal as this would generate the strength to strike root in one's personality and to exert the required influence.

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