

### The Daily RYS 6/3/07 Mussar Doctrine III

From The Mussar Movement, Volume 1, Part 2, pages 13 - 14.

The precondition for fearing Heaven, according to R. Israel, is familiarity with all branches of the Torah. It is impossible to be a true servant of G-d without being a learned Torah scholar, versed in all the laws, capable of constructing novellae by means of broad erudition and a sharp intellect so as to distinguish between the various opinions and arrive at the proper halachic ruling to be adopted in practice. "There are G-d-fearing individuals who mistakenly believe it is only necessary for those to be learned who wish to attain proficiency in deciding points of halachah for the public, while on the other hand, anyone who decides to live in isolation -- even if he does not become much of a scholar — may become a servant of the L-rd, may He be blessed, and fulfill all the requirements of the Torah and its mitzvot. Yet the more anyone, who wishes to follow the ways of the L-rd and to chart the course of his life by the Torah, even for himself alone, adds to his knowledge and becomes wiser, all the more will he be capable of observing the Torah and carrying out its mitzvot. Every individual person as such must be properly versed in the entire Torah and possess an understanding heart and a keen intellect in order to be able to observe and carry out the Torah in according with the principles of its laws. He must also be readily familiar with the decisions of the Choshen Mishpat and Even Ha'ezer divisions for his own benefit and practice.

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