

The RYS Daily - 7/10/06 RYS nixes Torah & Zemiros at the Shabbos Table

The story below is yet another one about RYS that illustrates that one is not to be frum on another's chesbon.

Someone once told me that he heard his rosh yeshiva say, "The most dangerous person in the world is someone on his way to do a mitzvah." For some, nothing matters but for them to do their mitzvah, no matter what.

From The Mussar Movement, Volume I, Part 2 pages 226-228.

One of his disciples had invited him for Friday night dinner. R. Israel had stipulated that he would not dine anywhere till he had satisfied himself that the kashrut was above reproach. The disciple informed R. Israel that in his home all the Halachot were observed with utmost stringency. He bought his meat from a butcher known for his piety. It was truly "glatt" - free of any Halachic query or lung adhesion (sirchah). His cook was an honest woman, the widow of a Talmid Chacham, daughter of a good family, while his own wife would enter the kitchen periodically to supervise. His Friday night meal was conducted in the grand style. There would be Torah discussion after each course, so there was no possibility of their meal being "as if they had partaken of offerings to idols." [53] They would study Shulchan Aruch regularly, sing Zemirot and remain seated at the table till well into the night. Having listened to this elaborate account of the procedures, R. Israel consented to accept the invitation, but stipulated that the time of the meal be curtailed by two full hours. Having no alternative, the disciple agreed. At the meal, one course followed another without interruption. In less than an hour, the mayim acharonim had been passed around in preparation for the Grace after Meals. Before proceeding with the Grace, the host turned to R. Israel and asked: "Teach me, rabbi. What defect did you notice in my table?" R. Israel did not answer the question. Instead he asked that the widow responsible for the cooking come to the room. He said to her: "Please for give me, for having inconvenienced you this evening. You were forced to serve one course after

another - not as you are used to do." "Bless you, rabbi," the woman answered. "Would that you would be a guest here every Friday evening. My master is used to sit at the table till late at night. I am worn out from working all day. My legs can hardly hold me up, so tired do I become. Thanks to you, rabbi, they hurried this evening, and I am already free to go home and rest." R. Israel turned to his disciple. "The poor widow's remark is the answer to your question. Indeed your behavior is excellent, but only as long as it does not adversely affect others." [54]

[53.] Avot Chap. 3.

[54.] Told by R. Dov Rovman in the name of the aged Shachevitz.

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