

The RYS Daily 7/11/07 Philosophical Thoughts II

From The Mussar Movement, Volume 1, Part 2, pages 137 - 138.

Furthermore he observed such extreme modesty all his days that he utilized every stratagem to conceal his deeds and activities from view, as will be related below. No one really appreciated his worth; no one could really depict the greatness of his soul. As Rav Kook had observed: "Whatever is written about the greatness of this giant among giants, the mighty in saintliness, glorious among the most prominent Torah personalities of the great generation just passed, is inadequate to convey any idea or significant fraction of his glorious holiness and greatness." Having expressed this admiration, Rav Kook declared it "a holy obligation to undertake a profound study of the glory of this renowned Gaon, who restored the crown of the true fear of G-d to the territory of Israel." He considered the undertaking worthwhile "if we succeed in making some small beginning, if we illuminate our dark horizons by exposing some rays of this precious light, which passed like a pillar of fire through the camp of Israel." We, however, have not set ourselves so ambitious a goal. No such attempt will be made here. Our object is to present his Musar system, and it is necessary for us to deal with him as a person and with his way of life only insofar that this bears upon his doctrine.

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