

The Daily RYS 7/19/06 - Total and Complete Honesty

The following is from The Mussar Movement, Volume 1, Part 2 pages 206 - 207

His disciple, R. Simchah Zisel Ziv wrote of him: "Our master and rabbi illuminated the eyes of the diaspora through his many inquiries into, and vast knowledge of, the laws pertaining to money matters, robbery and damages. In this respect he was indeed unique in these generations." He introduced many new laws in this field, not known and accepted by the people at large, and which sometimes struck people with amazement. "He showed many examples, how, according to the justice of the Torah, one is liable to stumble and violate the laws of robbery and damages." He did not rest content with the run of the mill definition of robbery as being the willful and forcible seizure of someone else's property, and the person guilty of damage, one who does so directly. Whoever, intentionally or inadvertently, prevents his neighbor from acquiring some benefit to which he is entitled, or derives benefit from his neighbor without permission, is a robber. Anyone whose laxity or carelessness, whose neglect to guard his property or damaging agents, causes someone else suffering or harm or some loss to person or property, is himself, or else his property is, a damaging agent and he is guilty under Torah law. The verbal formulation is nothing new, but the application of these principles to daily affairs and conduct was an innovation that aroused astonishment.

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