

The RYS Daily 7/19/07 Philosophical Thoughts IX

From The Mussar Movement, Volume 1, Part 2, pages 142 - 143.

R. Israel Meir Hakohen, the renowned "Chafetz Chaim", recounted that he had once been privileged to spend a night in the same hotel in Vilna as R. Israel of Salant. Curious to know what the latter would be doing during the night, the "Chafetz Chaim" pressed his ear against the wall of the adjoining room which was occupied by R. Israel of Salant. He kept hearing R. Israel repeating throughout the night, in a voice trembling with excitement: "And he who does not study (Torah deserves to die.)" The Chafetz Chaim related similarly that the Rosh Yeshivah of Slonim, R. Judah, had occupied the same room of a hotel as R. Israel. The two remained awake till late, occupied with Torah discussion. Then R. Israel suggested that R. Judah go to bed. Once he felt sure that R. Judah was indeed asleep, R. Israel began pacing the floor, to and fro, for a long time, and kept repeating with deep feeling, the verse: "Fear G-d and keep His commandments; for this is the whole man."

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