

The RYS Daily 7/24/06 R. Zundel and Secular Subjects and Grammar

The following is from page 129 of The Mussar Movement, Volume 1, Part 1.

Reb Yisroel Salanter considered Rav Zundel of Salant to be his rebbe.

He (Reb Zundel) possessed profound knowledge of astronomy and geometry and was well versed in arithmetical operations as well. A large work on arithmetic and geometry copied in his own hand was found in his library, together with his own notations and diagrams, which prove his total familiarity with the material. He had copied down the Gaon's geometry rules together with the various diagrams appearing in the El Hameshulash. He wrote responsa on the lunar and solar cycles, and had made calculations pertaining to the Sabbatical and Jubilee years. He was also familiar with such other disciplines as: physical science, psychology and the histories of various peoples, and with current events. He understood human life and knew several languages.

Hebrew grammar and the Massorah were also among his interests. He composed several rules along the lines set down by the Gaon. This knowledge he considered of primary importance because presumably it afforded the opportunity to determine the precise meaning of the texts.

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