

The RYS Daily 8/14/06 Impatience with Others

From The Mussar Movement, Volume 1, part 2 pages 183 - 184

He also opposed with the utmost strictness impatient or irritable behavior towards others, endeavoring utterly to eradicate it since this is the cause of many sins... He used to say that "almost all the transgressions in human relations stem from impatience with others." No one ever saw him really angry or resentful even though he was extremely sensitive and his temperament restless. He had eradicated all hatred and resentment from his heart, till these characteristics could find no place within him. If anyone caused him harm or provoked him, he not only overlooked the indignity to himself, but roused himself at the very moment to do good to the person in question. True, he would give vent to anger in public affairs, in order to produce an effect upon others or to reprove the public listening to his addresses. But this was simulated anger. Some noticed that while affecting such moods, he would turn his face to the wall and whisper to himself: "Anger of the face and not of the heart." Only once did he lose control and become really angry. This happened during the cholera epidemic in Vilna. He remembered the incident for the rest of his life. His only consolation was that his anger has stemmed from his intense sensitivity to matters of life and death for which, as is known, he risked his own life at the time.

Earlier issues of The Daily Salanter are at <http://www.stevens.edu/golem/llevine/salanter/>