

## The RYS Daily 8/15/06 Anger

From The Mussar Movement, Volume 1, Part 2, pages 184 - 185

Rabbi Dr. Ehrmann recounted an interesting episode.<sup>5</sup> While R. Israel was resident in Berlin, it became customary for almost all Russian and Polish Jews who happened to be in the city, to pay him a visit so as to feast their eyes upon his radiant countenance or else to obtain advice or assistance. Once Rabbi Ehrmann entered R. Israel's room only to find him in a most depressed state of mind. Rabbi Ehrmann asked what had happened. R. Israel related that two Kovno Jews had just been to see him and had informed him of changes to be introduced into the Kovno Bet Midrash where he had studied in the past, changes which in his mind boded evil. When R. Ehrmann asked him whether this was sufficient cause to depress him, R. Israel answered in the negative. But, he said, as a result he had given vent to anger. "Did you show it to the visitors. Did you in any way offend them?" R. Ehrmann asked. "G-d forbid," R. Israel replied. "No one beside myself was at all aware of this." "Then why should you be so depressed?" R. Ehrmann persisted in asking. R. Israel was surprised. "Don't you know that to give vent to anger is tantamount to idolatry, and that all forms of Gehenom seize hold of one?" This is sufficient to demonstrate the extent to which R. Israel had purged himself of all traces of this evil trait.

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