

The RYS Daily 8/16/06 RYS in Germany

From Three Generations by Dayan Dr. I Grunfeld, pages 40 -41.

Of special historical interest is the relationship between Samson Raphael Hirsch and the famous founder of the Mussar movement in Lithuania, Rabbi Lipkin of Salant, generally known as Rabbi Israel Salanter. About the year 1856 Reb Israel Salanter became ill and went to Halberstadt in Germany to consult a great German physician. In Halberstadt which was then a stronghold of Jewish Orthodoxy, Reb Israel Salanter was the guest of Salomon Hirsch, the famous copper magnate and industrialist equally known for his staunch orthodoxy and his great wealth. After Reb Israel Salanter had recovered from his illness, he went to Koenigsberg and settled there. Koenigsberg had then a famous University and was frequented by many Jewish students. As the Reform movement in Germany had started amongst the intelligentsia, Reb Israel Salanter who had always been a realist, tried to influence the Jewish students of Koenigsberg by drawing them into his house. Almost every evening he gave Talmudical courses and lectures to the students. In this task he had the full co-operation of Rabbi Jacob Zvi Mecklenburg, the author of the well-known work, *hak'sav v'hakabbah* who was then the Rav of Koenigsberg. But Reb Israel Salanter was also in constant contact by correspondence with the three main pillars of re-awakening German Jewish orthodoxy: Rabbis Samson Raphael Hirsch, Dr. Esriel Hildesheimer and Dr. Marcus Lehmann. It was in Koenigsberg that Rabbi Israel Salanter printed anonymously his famous *Egeres Hamussar*. During his stay in Germany Reb Israel Salanter dressed in the western fashion, acquired a complete mastery of the German language and also applied for and was granted German citizenship. No doubt he did all that in order to be able to wield greater influence among the educated Jewish youth in Germany. From Koenigsberg Reb Israel went to Memel where he lived for some time.

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