

The Daily RYS 8/3/06 Laws of Virtuous Behavior

From The Mussar Movement, Volume 1, part 2, pages 266 - 267.

R. Israel passed the whole Torah in review before him, and he subjected it to microscopic examination, and it appeared to him in a novel guise. A new Talmud and new laws rose up before him.

Having deduced these Halachot, he did not regard them as inferior to the rest. Just as one is obliged to fulfill the positive commandments of tefillin, tzitzit, etc., so is one obliged to carry out these laws as well; just as it is necessary to learn the laws of permitted and forbidden things in depth (using the pilpul method) and to bring up questions and compile lengthy responsa, and invent innumerable novellae so as to exhaust the most elaborate details of the laws, so is there room for the expansion of the laws of virtuous behavior and human relations as well, to develop numerous thought-systems and to compile numbers of literary works, thus producing an entire literature clarifying the Halachot and their legal principles.

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