

The RYS Daily 9/15/06 Concealing His Greatness III

From The Mussar Movement, Volume 1, Part 2 page 166.

Whenever R. Israel would make a public appearance and be compelled to reveal his identity in order to influence people, he would first size up his audience. He would survey them and exercising his brilliant perspicuity, determine how much of himself he ought to expose and how much he could hide. This was no simple skill. At times he suffered mental anguish. On the one hand he would be distressed, thinking that he had gone too far and that this was motivated by desire for honor, and on the other hand, by diminishing his stature, he had reduced the measure of his influence. It happened more than once, that such occasions aroused an inner struggle of conflicting impulses and he would complain of the difficulty to his disciples.

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