

The RYS Daily 9/18/06 Concealing His Greatness V

From the Mussar Movement Volume 1, Part 2, page 168.

The Kovno community celebrated the completion of the study of the entire Talmud. Present at that time, R. Israel was accorded the honor of delivering the *hadran*, the discourse tying the conclusion of the tractate just completed to the beginning of the next tractate to be commenced. On this occasion, R. Israel gave full rein to his G-d given abilities. **His address lasted six hours.** He ranged over the whole Talmud, connecting the end of each tractate with the beginning of the next and brought out the most profound and striking novellae. The entire assembly was dazzled by his brilliance. After the celebration was over, his disciples found him dejected and unhappy. They asked him the reason. "I look like a circus clown to myself," he said in reply. "I made a display of my scholarship for no good reason." Apparently he judged that he had gone too far in revealing himself.