

The RYS Daily 9/22/06 Concealing His Greatness IX

From The Mussar Movement, Volume 1, Part 2 page 171 - 172.

R. Simchah Zisel Ziv's letter continues:

"For long have I repeatedly asserted: He remained concealed, hidden from his generation, and very very few knew him even to the slightest extent."

He became the very acme of modesty. We have stated before that he was outstanding in communal and political leadership. His actions were world-wide in scope in all that' involved Judaism and Jewry, and this in addition to his remarkable endeavors on behalf of individuals.

Usually communal figures take great pains to publicize every step they take. They trumpet every single achievement, direct or indirect, far and wide. They have no fear of exaggeration or excess, their only aim being to enhance their own glory. R. Israel's behavior was the exact opposite. All his mighty endeavors, on so vast a scale and in so many countries, remain unknown. All are enveloped in an aura of secrecy. He lived in Germany for over twenty years, and his mind never distracted its attention for a minute from worrying about that community. He traveled from one locality to the other; he established contact with the prominent figures, whether through personal contact or correspondence. Whatever took place affected him personally and profoundly, as if he alone bore the entire responsibility for the situation. And with all this, no one has any idea of what his plans and activities were, and they are hidden from us to the very day. Even of his endeavors in Russia we possess only scant information, which for some reason or other succeeded in producing some dull echo which reached our ears.

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