

The RYS Daily 9/28/06 Anger and Pettiness

From The Mussar Movement, Volume 1, part 2, page 185.

The eradication of anger and pettiness, like all other evil traits, had cost R. Israel prolonged and persistent effort. He used various psychological methods and devices. Some of these he revealed to his disciples, and they afford us the opportunity to survey his spiritual greatness and the processes of his character refinement. One of his tactics was to bear in mind the innumerable obligations devolving on him in his duties towards G-d and man, to improve himself and the world, for this is the purpose of life. The resulting anxiety and concern would make it impossible for one to have the time for such petty considerations as resentment and grievances. This counsel derives from basic human attitudes: It is conceivable that a person occupied with grave business cares, having to meet bills, to extricate himself from financial difficulties would divert his attention to insignificant trivialities? The same applied here."

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