

The RYS Daily 9/29/06 Greeting Another on Erev Yom Kippur

From http://www.aish.com/sukkotthemes/sukkotthemesdefault/Joy_to_the_World.asp

Rabbi Israel Salanter, a great 19th century sage, taught that the expression on our face can affect the mood of those around us; thus, our face is considered in the "public domain," not within the "private domain."

One Yom Kippur eve, Rabbi Salanter met a person on the way to synagogue for the Kol Nidrei prayers. Rabbi Salanter warmly and cheerfully greeted him, but this person was so absorbed with the solemnity and awesomeness of the Day of Atonement that he did not return the greeting. In fact, he had a gloomy expression, as he contemplated the seriousness of the Divine judgment.

Rabbi Salanter then remarked to his student, "Why must I need to suffer because of someone else's preoccupation with the Divine judgment?" Rabbi Salanter was teaching that regardless of one's mood, we have a responsibility to greet everyone with a cheerful and pleasant countenance.

Earlier issues of The Daily Salanter are at
<http://www.stevens.edu/golem/llevine/salanter/>