

## The RYS Daily 10/16/06 Government Laws

From the Mussar Movement, Volume 1, Part 2 pages 195 - 196.

His punctilious compliance with Rabbinic injunctions was also responsible for his unquestioning loyalty to the government and its laws, since "the law of the government is legally binding."<sup>7h</sup> He studiously avoided violating any laws and regulations of the state, and would admonish others similarly to obey whenever any occasion arose. In his monthly, Hatevunah, he wrote: "True, the obedience to the laws of the state belongs in the category of justice, and human intelligence dictates that these be observed in full (lit. "without diminishing from them"), even when no one sees; yet as laws these are also mitzvot of the Torah, derived both from the Written and Oral Torah, which admonish with full force that one acknowledge and fulfill whatever issues from the government, may its glory be enhanced. And this should compel \* one to dismiss all the prompting of desire, till the eyes of reason become enlightened to see the truth as it is, and to love the rulers of the state and to give one's life to obey their orders."

When the government had issued restrictions forbidding Jews to reside in certain specified localities, R. Israel was most distressed at having to resort to illegal stratagems to visit certain localities in the public interest. He accordingly decided to learn a craft which would entitle him to live anywhere in Russia. Although over sixty at the time, he spent day after day for several weeks in a chemical laboratory and mastered the art of ink making, to the extent that he excelled over his teacher. As a result he was given a permit granting him the right of residence in all of Russia.

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