

The Daily RYS 11/01/06 Robber! Robber!

From The Mussar Movement, Volume 1, Part 2, pages 223 -224.

It happened on Rosh Hashanah, that R. Israel had delivered a stirring exhortation prior to the blowing of the shofar. Inspired, the worshippers rose afterwards to recite the Musaf Tefillah. R. Eliezer Shulevitz, one of R. Israel's disciples at the time, took his stand in the doorway of the Bet Midrash and soon became completely absorbed in his praying. Finishing his Tefillah first, R. Israel walked up to R. Eliezer and called out loudly: "Robber! Robber!" When R. Eliezer had finished R. Israel remonstrated with him: "How could you, on the very Day of Judgment itself, block the entrance to the Bet Midrash, which is filled to capacity, and deprive the worshippers of air? Someone might faint in the stuffy atmosphere, and you would be culpable, having brought distress and harm upon human beings."

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