

The RYS Daily 11/29/06 Early Life of RYS X

From The Mussar Movement, Volume 1, Part 1, pages 191 - 192.

His same critical nature impelled him to found the Musar Movement. He conducted an intensive investigation of contemporary Judaism as it was practised, and realized that it was wanting. For the masses, it had become a narrow and truncated Judaism. 'People merely lived routine lives, without any aspiration, without giving a passing thought to bettering themselves. They followed their natural desires and remained smug and content. They utterly neglected a significant portion of the Torah, that pertaining to character refinement and interpersonal relationships. For them Judaism was some sort of tradition, a conglomeration of rote-performed commandments. He accordingly undertook to create a movement which would proclaim as its goal: To revise all accepted views and practices, to foster consistent self-criticism, to revitalize thought and emotion, and to effect a return to the totality of Judaism in all its ramifications.

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