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From The Mussar Movement, Volume 1, Part 1, pages 233 - 234.

His main effort, however, was concentrated upon the spiritual development of his pupils. In his approach to them, he laid the foundation for the new direction taken by the Musar Yeshivot, which assumed the function of molding the nature of their students. He changed the Yeshivah into a training school. In his Bet Midrash, Musar study was a basic subject of the curriculum to be studied with fervor and emotional excitement. He himself would pay personal attention to the students, address them frequently, discipline their thinking and habits, sensitize their perception and cultivate their spiritual characteristics. "He gave his life to training them, teaching them the way of G-d and the awareness of true understanding, implanting and embedding within their hearts the fear of G-d, upright and desirable character traits and instructing them in the way to serve Hashem, may He be blessed."

To some of his students he would give intensive personal attention. He knew them to be especially receptive to his influence, and he would lead them into the inner sancta of the science of Musar and the fear of G-d and raise them to ever higher levels in serving Hashem. He would organize groups and devise special methods for them. In his talks to them, too, he would delve profoundly into the depths of Musar. These talks were conducted with a modicum of secrecy. They were delivered behind closed doors. Were some outsider to intrude, R. Israel would stop short, and not continue until the group was alone once more.

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