

The RYS Daily 1/22/07 Kovna X

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R. Israel would also seclude himself for long periods during those years. On weekdays he would retire to Aleksot, a suburb of Kovno, on the other side of the Neman River, and only for Shabbat would he return home. Some ten select students would visit him once a week. There he would unfold to them all that was involved in the true fear of G-d, and he would draw up programs of exercises in Musar cultivation. His talks would last for several hours at a time, and he would conclude with such eloquent admonitions that the listeners were brought into a state of spiritual ecstasy in which they became impelled to pour forth their hearts in fervent supplication to G-d to purify their hearts, cleanse their spirit and straighten out their personalities. These exercises could almost be described as "a spiritual laundering and stretching-out to dry." The students were, indeed, elevated to sublime heights.

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