

The RYS Daily 2/11/07 Germany VI

From The Mussar Movement, Volume 1, Part 1, pages 251 - 252.

There, too, R. Israel commenced publication of a monthly journal, Hatevunah, devoted to Halachic novellae and Musar ideas. It was the first of its kind, and was to fulfill three purposes, which he outlined in his introduction to the first issue:

"(1) To enhance the prestige of Torah, to extend its domain so that it should not remain isolated, confined to each man in his home. — Any person of goodwill who has discovered some Halachic novella or who has an article of worth... should bring forth his words in book form.

"(2) To bring the study of derush (homiletical explanations) into the sunlight — such true matters as pertain to the working of the processes of character traits and their ramifications — and all eyes shall rove about in awesome criticism peering into human character (since this perhaps is of primary importance for body and soul), words of truth for them who seek it.

"(3) To refine character traits and to train fresh young minds, before their progress becomes stunted by the trials and tribulations of the time, to ask and answer properly through this medium, in correct manner and with proper respect (since good manners preceded Torah, and all character traits are related to it), attractive material worths- of study and of following, in character refinement in the approved manner."

His main objective was, apparently, to attain the two last-mentioned objectives, to spread the spirit of Musar and to propagate character refinement among the Torah studing community, as is evidenced by the name, Tevunah (understanding). To attract the attention of such readers, however, he also allotted space for Halachic novellae, and he thereby assured the participation of the "Geonim and great scholars of the time." Between these articles he inserted his own discourses and studies in character training and virtue acquisition, and disclosed the fundamental principles of his Musar doctrine.

Earlier issues of The RYS Daily are at <http://www.stevens.edu/golem/llevine/salanter/>