

## The RYS Daily 2/25/07 Expands III

From The Mussar Movement, Volume 1, Part 1, pages 261 - 262.

Once R. Israel had left Russia, his family moved to the house of his father-in-law, R. Elijah Eliezer Grodensky in Vilna, where the latter had held the office of chief dayan. This home became R. Israel's headquarters whenever he returned, and he would often spend long periods there. About 1870, he spent two full years in Vilna and studied in the attic of the Yagiches Kloiz synagogue. In 1871 cholera struck Vilna again. His wife contracted the disease and died on Elul 14, 5631 (August 31, 1871). She had indeed been an unusual woman, wise and permeated with the fear of Heaven. [7a] She had rendered her husband devoted assistance in all his variegated activities, and he mourned for her for the rest of his life. From then onwards his visits to Russia became less frequent, and he concentrated his efforts on Germany. He was a permanent resident of Berlin for some time; he also spent periods in other cities, and his exertions continued unabated.

[7a.] See the introduction, op. cit. A characteristic conversation took place between her and the author, later rabbi of Choroszcz and dayan in Byalystock. At the time, he was single. A match was proposed to him: he was to receive 5,000 roubles and all his needs for five years. She advised him to reject the proposal, since it would "impose a cruel, iron yoke upon him from which he would never be able to extricate himself for the rest of his life, since he would be compelled to live in luxury and maintain material pleasures in his home that would disturb him mentally and distract him from Torah study. He later married a niece of R. Israel's wife and developed to true greatness under the tutelage of R. Israel. It is told that when R. Israel married his wife, she was to have the say in material affairs, since so the Rabbis of the Talmud had ordained (Bava Metzi'a 59a). However, during their entire lifetime together they failed to discover anything unrelated to Heavenly matters.