

The RYS Daily 2/26/07 Expands IV

From The Mussar Movement, Volume 1, Part 1, pages 262 - 263.

In 1877, R. Israel established an entirely new type of institution in Kovno, one that was to exert a decisive influence throughout the Jewish world. Its existence was made possible through the agency of a Jew of Yonishkis (Yanishki), Eliezer Chvas by name.^{7b} Pious and G-d fearing he became obsessed with the desire to make some significant contribution to Torah advancement. At the time, there lived in Berlin a wealthy and pious bachelor, Ovadiah Lachmann, with whom K. Eliezer's brother had struck up a close friendship, to the extent of becoming his confidant. R. Eliezer Jacob set his mind on that Lachmann. Not having the fare to travel to Berlin, he made the journey on foot. Together with his brother, R. Eliezer approached this Lachmann, and the two were able to persuade him to allocate a substantial portion of his wealth for Torah. First he gave an anonymous contribution of 10,000 marks, and then in addition pledged a further 1,000 marks per annum. R. Joseph Chaim, too, pledged an annual donation of 100 marks for the same purpose.

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