

The RYS Daily 2/28/07 Expands VI

From The Mussar Movement, Volume 1, Part 1, pages 264 - 265. [Emphasis added by YL.]

**To R. Israel, the prime purpose of such an institution was to produce expert halachic authorities. In his proclamation appealing for public support of the institution, he put particular emphasis on this point: "The highest level of attainment in Torah study is to acquire the ability to render rulings in Israel in proper accord with the Halachah, conforming to the Gemarah and Decisors, without having to search among the rulings of the Later Authorities. Now, indeed, even in our days there are still men young in years to be found, who possess outstanding qualities, quick minds, and possessing straightforward, logical comprehension of the material, who can become fit to issue Torah and Halachic rulings in Israel.**

Most of them, however, are not rich. They have not had an easy life. As it has been said: 'Be heedful of the sons of the poor, for from them shall Torah go forth. Hence, even though their hearts are filled 'with the desire to study Torah, and they strive to swim against the waves and tides of earthly conditions, to make their long way to their destination, to take up residence in the 'Tent of Torah' and to meditate therein, nevertheless they lack the sources of strength to persevere in their studies for long periods, for at last their anxiety over maintaining themselves and their families will overwhelm them, for the present is not like the past. Human needs have increased in our days, and the possibilities for sustaining oneself have become less, and the sources from which Torah students would derive their support have become reduced to a trickle and dried up altogether in our days. In times gone by — the young in years who had reached the level of study requisite for rendering halachic decisions — and even such as had not fully attained it — could still advance further and complete their studies, for it was a simple matter to obtain their sustenance and satisfy their needs., but not so today... From where shall help come to the remnant that sits before Hashem and meditates in His Torah day and night? if they receive no monetary support towards their livelihood, then, G-d forbid, all their striving and effort will finally be in vain and such a loss can never be recouped. Will not the number studying Torah intensively and meditating in it become reduced -- crushed? Will not then, G-d forbid, the first pillar holding up the world collapse? Without Torah, the life of the Jew is worthless, since his material and moral being is based on Torah foundations. As we see, the Torah is becoming more bereft of her students day by day, and so ,what will become of our children in the next generation? Will they not stumble over the obstacles in the path of Torah? Having no one to instruct or lead them, they will grope in the dark. They will have no one to illumine the way for them by the light of the Torah. And there will be no one to decide law and give judgment."

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