

The RYS Daily 3/21/07 Public and Political Action VI

From The Mussar Movement, Volume 1, Part 1, pages 281 - 282.

A similar incident occurred in Kovno as well. There a child of a poor woman had been seized. She came on the Sabbath morning to the synagogue where R. Israel was praying and prevented the reading of the Torah. Some of the worshippers tried forcibly to push her away from the Ark, and so allow the Sefer Torah to be taken out. R. Israel came to her aid. He was most indignant, and sternly rebuked the stone hearted who had remained impervious to human suffering. Some relate that after the Torah had been taken to the Bimah R. Israel left the synagogue and finished praying in his private home, since he held that to worship in that synagogue was forbidden.

When R. Israel received the report that the ukase had been annulled, he celebrated the occasion as a festival, and rebuked his disciples for not reciting the blessing; "Who is good and Who does good," with the mention of G-d's Name and sovereignty!

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