

The Daily RYS 3/8/07 Expands XIII

From The Mussar Movement, Volume 1, Part 1, page 271.

R. Isaac Blazer profoundly influenced the students, training them in his Musar spirit which had been directly derived from R. Israel. Officially Musar formed no part of the curriculum but the spirit was everywhere evident.

R. Isaac delivered Musar Talks in his home during the closing hours of Saturday afternoons. A good proportion of the students would come to hear him, and they formed the nucleus of the Kolel. Both R. Isaac and R. Naftali Amsterdam would draw numbers of avid listeners every Rosh Chodesh when they delivered addresses in the two local Musar Houses, the one, previously mentioned, in the Sawmill Workers' Synagogue, the other in the Tailors' Synagogue. Musar adherents would generally attend, as well as a fair sprinkling of the Kolel members.

The housemaster of the Kolel was also a Musar adherent. He was R. Joshua Zadikowitz. It was he who distributed the monthly stipends and his influence, too, was considerable, both directly and indirectly Z' R. Israel, too, would make his way to the Kolel whenever he happened to be in Kovno, and he would deliver his eloquent addresses there, imbuing the students with his mighty spirit. So the Kovno Kolel became a key Musar center.

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