

The RYS Daily 4/24/07 Boldly Conceived, Revolutionary Plans IV

From The Mussar Movement, Volume 1, Part 1, page 303 - 304.

He made a regular practice of reading the Russian and German press,' to keep up to date with current affairs, and to be able to adapt his tactics to any given situation.

He was by no means averse to employing all manner of scientific techniques in order to spread the knowledge of the wisdom of the Jews among Jews and gentiles alike. In his view, Jews rejected their religion only out of ignorance. He therefore wanted to make Talmud study accessible to all types of people and especially to university and college youth. If the Talmud were presented in simplified form to the community at large and could be read without difficulty, it would become a popular discipline, and its illumination would attract many back to the fold. Several ideas on how to achieve this goal passed through his mind. At first he envisaged the compiling of a dictionary of the Aramaic vocabulary of the Talmud. He approached experts in Oriental languages with the view of undertaking this assignment.

Later he conceived of a more sophisticated scheme, but much more difficult to achieve, to translate the entire Talmud into clean and easy Hebrew, and to append a simple commentary to clear up difficult points. The student could then tackle the subject matter without the aid of an instructor. He proposed that 100 rabbis undertake the task, each having to translate some thirty folios. For some reason or other, this ambitious scheme was not carried out .8 At the same time, he also tried to find a publisher who would print the Talmud in a single volume, cheap edition which could find its way into every Jewish home. Years later, this plan, at least, was implemented, and the "Shass in One Volume" made its appearance in the Jewish book market,

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