

The RYS Daily 5/11/07 Last Days V

From The Mussar Movement, Volume 1, Part 1, page 321 - 322.

Beside improving their spiritual state, R. Israel also endeavored to ameliorate their physical condition as well. At that time, the famous philanthropist, Baroness Gunzburg was living in Paris, and so R. Israel approached her for financial assistance to allow the immigrants to establish and maintain themselves. The Baroness became a great admirer of R. Israel, and never refused a single request of his. She even asked him once to do her the honor of paying a visit to her home. R. Israel considered it important to accept the invitation, and so, he went there accompanied by the local rabbi, R. Joshua Heschel Levin, and his own grandson R. Aryeh (born to his son Yitzchak), who had accompanied him to Paris. His presence in her home enhanced his influence over her, and he used this to the best advantage of the community. The Baroness was also desirous of bestowing personal favors on R. Israel. The day after he had paid his visit to her home, she sent an exclusive tailor with expensive cloth to R. Israel's lodgings to take R. Israel's measurements for a suit. R. Israel, however, was not prepared to sacrifice his principle of not accepting gifts from others, and had to refuse this gesture as well.

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