

The RYS Daily 5/4/07 Judaism in Academic Circles

From The Mussar Movement, Volume 1, Part 1, pages 314 - 315.

Nor was there any contradiction between R. Israel's personal attitude and his simultaneous efforts to spread Judaism in academic circles. There was nothing in his views to prevent him from trying to infiltrate Torah inside the walls of the university and to influence students. Furthermore, he employed every means at his disposal to guard his son against straying from Judaism. He journeyed specially to St. Petersburg to extract a three-fold promise: that his son would observe Shabbat, refrain from eating trefah food, and not shave Z' He would say that were he able to disguise himself as a woman, he would go to work in the restaurant patronized by his son, so as to supervise the kashrut. He also requested R. Isaac Blazer, then rabbi in St. Petersburg, by mail, to keep an eye on the son. 2 In this way, it is said, the son remained a loyal Jew.

R. Israel acted in the same way towards his grandson, Robert Adler (born to his son Samuel of Kovno), who against R. Israel's will enrolled as a student in a German university. R. Israel employed all manner of techniques, direct and indirect, and even used his influence in various circles, to keep watch over the boy, prevent him from writing on Shabbat and have him refrain from eating non-kosher food. In certain cases where he saw that the grandson could not observe all the laws of kashrut, R. Israel arranged to have meat, already kashered, sent to him — at least this would keep the boy from eating nevelah (meat not ritually slaughtered) .

Earlier issues of The RYS Daily are at <http://www.stevens.edu/golem/llevine/salanter/>