

The RYS Daily 5/7/07 Last Days I

From The Mussar Movement, Volume 1, Part 1, pages 317 - 318.

LAST DAYS IN PARIS AND KOVNO — HIS DEATH

In his last years, R. Israel suffered intermittently from excruciating headaches. He was seized with frequent attacks and was under medication. His doctors ordered him to bathe in the sea and to breathe sea air. Hence he would arrange to spend the major part of the summer in the Lithuanian town of Palanga, close by the German border. He was also kept on a strict diet and had to modify his mode of living.

He followed the doctor's orders implicitly, for the Torah had specifically enjoined, "And you shall guard your lives." Nevertheless he would not allow his regimen to interfere with his intense application to his studies, his profound, reflective thinking, and his dynamic activities. His public addresses rose to new levels of eloquence. More than once he reached such a state of ecstasy in his speaking, that in the middle, he would suddenly stop, rest his head on his hands and lapse into deep reverie, until he could calm down and resume his remarks. Upon occasion he would stop, walk down from the Bimah, and not continue.' At the same time, he did not relax his communal activities either, but threw himself into them with more vigor than ever before. His energy seemed inexhaustible as he pursued all his manifold undertakings indefatigably, without allowing himself any rest whatsoever.

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