

The RYS Daily 6/7/07 Mussar Doctrine VII

From The Mussar Movement, Volume 1, Part 2, pages 19 - 20.

The procedures in Torah study apply equally to the acquisition of the fear of G-d, which in his view — and of all the earlier Musar exponents - is a broad academic discipline to be studied with the same concentration and depth as all the laws of the Torah. For so the wisest of all men has declared: "Behold, the fear of G-d that is wisdom." Not only are its laws to be learned from the Talmud and decisors which encompass all branches of Torah wisdom but also from Aggadot, Midrashim, and the works specifically devoted to Musar, since one will thereby come to know the methods and rules "and understand and discern the way to serve G-d. R. Israel did not regard the Fear of Heaven as a separate division of Torah learning, but as one permeating the entire Torah, being the "study to know His will, may His Name be blessed." There is no difference between this and any other branch or branches of halachah. In these studies — "studies to serve G-d, may His Name be blessed" as he defined them — one must use the same approach: "first by means of intellectual acuity" and finally by approaching the material objectively in the quest for truth.' Just as one has to possess thorough knowledge and exercise the keenest analytical powers in all divisions of Torah study, so must one possess thorough knowledge and exercise one's intellectual acumen in the science of the Fear of Heaven." So much for the study and knowledge of Musar.

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