

The RYS Daily 7/13/07 Philosophical Thoughts IV

From The Mussar Movement, Volume 1, Part 2, pages 138 - 139.

His application to Torah study, too, was assiduous in the extreme. From his early youth till his death, he never ceased studying. He made no distinction between day and night. He would continue to study without interruption till his strength gave out. Then he would sleep for a few hours and, having regained his vigor, apply himself once more to his studies. It is told that while he was living in Salant, his efforts to keep himself from falling asleep caused his feet to become frozen.⁴ Similarly, in Paris, when he was already old, he studied day and night, on weekdays, Saturdays and Festivals without distinction. Even after concluding the Pesach Seder, he would sit and study till morning. On Shabbat or any other occasion when he could not light a candle, he would study by heart, allowing no change or interruption in his habit.' Basing his appraisal on "the constant examination of his ways, actions and motions," R. Isaac Blazer concluded that "R. Israel would never walk four cubits thinking of anything else than Torah and the fear of Heaven."

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