

The Daily RYS 8/25/06 Torah Study for All, Including Women

From The Mussar Movement, Volume 1, Part 1 page 261.

(Please keep in mind that Reb Yisroel lived in the nineteenth century, well before Sarah Schnierer appeared on the scene. Note also that education for women was instituted in Germany long before the founding of the Bais Yaakov movement. Indeed, the elementary Jewish school the RSRH attended in Hamburg educated both boys and girls. Furthermore, the congregational school that Shearith Israel ran in New York at the beginning of the 19th century also admitted girls. See "[The Beginning of Jewish Education in New York](#)" for more on this. YL)

With the aim in mind of raising the spiritual level of the poor, of lifting them out of their degradation, R. Israel initiated a new project on their behalf in 1865~1869.2 Assisted by his disciples and admirers, he established special Bate Midrash for manual laborers and artisans in several Lithuanian cities. There these classes would congregate, conduct their services afternoons and evenings, while between Minchah and Ma'ariv they would study selected chapters of the Talmud, Shulchan Aruch, En Yaakov, Musar works, etc. Rabbis were engaged for these synagogues, and they were assigned the function of teaching these subjects and of lecturing on the Sidrah of the Week. Elaborate celebrations would mark the dedication of these synagogues, and one of R. Israel's disciples or associates would be sure to take part. He would dwell on the supreme importance of studying Torah and Musar and would proclaim it the purpose of the synagogue that it be conducted in the spirit and after the manner of R. Israel of Salant. [3]

Circles for youth and artisans were organized in Germany as well, through R. Israel's instigation or, at least, with the fear of G-d, etc. [4] He urged the study of Jewish law upon girls as well. When informed that Rabbi Dr. Esriel Hildesheimer had instituted girls' classes of the study of Halachah, R. Israel was overjoyed. He audited some of these classes, and remarked that he envied, Dr. Hildesheimer the share in the world to come that would be his in reward for this undertaking. [5]

[3.] His disciple, Joshua Hellir, also participated in the festivities, according to information in our possession. He was a remarkable preacher, presenting his ideas in the manner of R. Israel. For biographical details, see the next volume (Hebrew).

[4.] His letters to Rabbi Dr. Ehrmann, who assisted him in organizing these groups in Germany, preserved in the latter's archives.

[5.] Related by his aged granddaughter, Mrs. Chana Leah Rogovin.

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