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HAKOHOL

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WARUM CHANUKO-LICHTER ?

RABBI SHLOMO KAHN

Ueberall bekannt ist der historische Grund von Chanuko. Dieses Fest feiert die beiden Wunder die von G'tt unseren Vorfahren gewiesen wurden. Das erste ist das Wunder der Siege, G'tt ueberlieferte "Starke in die Hand Schwacher, Viele in die Hand Weniger, Unlautere in die Hand Reiner, Boesewichte in die Hand Gerechter, Mutwillige in die Hand derer die sich mit G'ttes Thora beschaeftigen."

Das zweite Wunder ist das Wunder des Oelkruegleins, das nur fuer einen Tag ausreichend jedoch acht Tage lang brannte.

Interessanterweise weiss die Ueberlieferung von einer weiteren Begebenheit zu erzaehlen, auf die das Chanuko-Fest mit seinen Gesetzen und Gebraeuchen zurueckzufuehren ist.

"Es war als die Hasmonaer siegten und das Heiligtum betraten, da fanden sie dort acht eiserne Spiesse. Diese

pflanzten sie dort ein und an ihnen entzuendeten sie Lichter."

Eine gar merkwuerdige Geschichte! Acht Spiesse, Ueberreste der Feinde, wurden im Tempel G'ttes gefunden und aus ihnen machten die juedischen Sieger, die Kaempfer G'ttes, ein Symbol das fuer alle Zeiten das leuchtende Symbol des G'ttesvolkes geworden ist.

Welch schoener Gedanke liegt doch in dieser Erzaehlung! Mit dem Eisen der Kriegswaffe versuchten unsere Feinde den Geist der Thora zu vertilgen, jedoch dieser Geist ist nicht zum Erloeschen zu bringen. Im Gegenteil, das Licht der Thora besiegte den Waffengeist und die acht Spiesse, Symbol des Kriegs, dienten als Leuchter der Chanuko-Lichter.

Uausloeschbar sind sie, unsere Chanuko-Lichtlein. Sie werden einst noch brennen, wenn Gewalt und Krieg von der Erde geschwunden sein werden.



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CHILDREN'S PAGE

THE SPARK AND THE STRAW



"Aren't they pretty?!" Debby asked as the family gathered around the Chanuka-lights. The night had just begun. Outside the street was dark but on the window sill the Menorah stood proudly. The blessings over the lights had been pronounced and now they were flickering brightly into the night.

"Yes," Joey admitted, "the Chanuka lights are pretty but they are rather small, aren't they? Wouldn't it be nicer if the lights of Chanuka would be very large and very bright?"

"O yes," Debby joined in excitedly, "Why not use strong electric lights, maybe even huge spotlights which would light up the night for blocks!"

The children sat for a while thinking over their plans for a new type of Chanuka light but presently Joey sadly shook his head.

"No Debby, that won't do at all," he said.

"Why not, wouldn't it be nice and festive?"

"Yes, it would," said Joey, "but don't you remember the story our teacher told us about Jacob and Esau? When Jacob saw the many descendants of Esau and among them many chiefs and princes and kings, he became afraid. But G-d consoled him and said: Don't be afraid. Once a big wagon load of straw passed a blacksmith's shop. The blacksmith was greatly impressed by the huge amount of straw on the wagon but a bystander told him: If one spark from your anvil reaches the straw, it will go up in flames and be completely destroyed. So also the fiery spirit of your descendants will be able to overcome all the might and all the power of Esau."

"I see what you mean," said Debby. Our Chanuka lights should rather remain small because that shows us that with the spirit of the Torah we can fight

against a whole world full of evil and we shall win."



Quiz

Answer these 16 questions and find the name of the "holiday" which is formed by their initial letters. Send in complete answers to win a prize.

1. Abraham's father
2. Biblical garden
3. Prophet in time of King David
4. Divine book
5. First language
6. First person who died
7. Aaron's oldest son
8. Worked with Ezra
9. First Jewish son
10. Queen before Esther
11. Man who never died
12. Great-grandmother of David
13. Wisest man
14. Rebelled against his father
15. Its horn used on Rosh ha-Shono
16. 365 days

Only one correct entry was received for last HAKOHOL'S quiz. A prize was won by Steven Mayer.

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	Vorabend	Schacharis	Mincho	Maariw	Tages- anfang*
Schabb. Mikeitz, 13. Dezember	4:00	8:30 Predigt	4:40	5:10	6:06
Schabb. Wajigasch, 20. Dezember ...	4:10	8:30	4:40	5:13	6:10
Schabb. Waj'chi, 27. Dezember	4:15	8:30	4:45	5:16	6:13
Schabb. Sch'mos, 3. Januar	4:20	8:30	4:50	5:21	6:14
Schabb. Wo-ero, 10. Januar	4:25	8:30 Predigt	4:55	5:28	6:14
Schabb. Bo, 17. Januar	4:35	8:30	5:05	5:36	6:11
Schabb. B'schalach, 24. Januar	4:40	8:30	5:10	5:44	6:07
Schabb. Jisro, 31. Januar	4:50	8:30 Sermon	5:20	5:53	6:02

**(In dieser Spalte erscheint die fruehste Zeit fuer Schacharis fuer die darauffolgende Woche.)*

Chanuka morgens 7:30 A. M.

Sonntag 8:00 A. M.

Mincho 4:40 P. M.

Assoro b'Tewes, Sonntag, 21. Dezember

Fastenbeginn 5:45 A. M.

Schacharis 8:00 A. M.

Mincho 4:30 P. M.

Fastenende 5:10 P. M.

Sonntags 8:00 A. M.

Montags & Donnerstags 7:30 A. M.

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JUDAEUS

III

Our rabbi's name was Rabbi Sundel, may his memory be blessed and his merits and righteousness shield us. I mention his name so that you will not doubt the truth of this story. Rabbi Sundel was then in the prime of his life. Upon the suggestion of the congregation's president, he presided at the meeting which had been urgently called to discuss this matter. At that meeting, the rabbi was to declare in public whether the community is obligated to observe the Shabbos even at cost of life or whether it is permissible to desecrate it in order to be spared.

Although usually general meetings were extremely noisy affairs, this time a solemn, dignified, almost deathly silence reigned among the assembled. All eyes were turned in tense excitement to the rabbi who had come in company of his Beth Din, his assistants and associates. Women and children had also been invited to this meeting.

While all members were downcast, even desperate, the countenance of the rabbi displayed radiant peace and almost cheer. This served to calm the congregation even before the rabbi began the words which were to decide the life or death of the entire community. The rabbi spoke gently as if the matter at hand were a purely ordinary halachic problem.

"The reason which has brought us here," so he began, "is known to you and needs no additional explanation. I have pondered deeply together with my colleagues the question whether we are obligated to die for the sanctity of the Shabbos. My colleagues and I have come to the unanimous decision that in this case it is not necessary to sacrifice our life for the holiness of the Shabbos. We are explicitly taught by Jewish law that the Shabbos must be desecrated whenever a danger of life

occurs. Therefore whoever will be designated by the authorities to do work on the Shabbos, commits no sin by obeying the request and G-d, Who has sent this decree over us, will surely forgive him.

A more difficult question is the one, whether it is permitted for a person to rather lay down his life than to desecrate the Shabbos. A difference of opinion exists among the rabbinical authorities and we, my colleagues and I, were not able to reach a unanimous decision. It was my opinion that an individual is justified to glorify G-d's name by choosing death rather than to comply with the order to work on Shabbos, but the majority opinion of my colleagues prevailed.

You are therefore bound by the decision of the Beth Din. For myself, upon my own urgent request, the Beth Din has granted an exception. I am the first one who will be ordered to report for work day after tomorrow. Perhaps my death will serve as an atonement for you all. When our ruler and tyrant sees at the very outset that we prefer death to desecration of G-d's will, then he will perhaps abstain from his evil intention and you will then be able to continue unhindered the observance of the Shabbos."

Upon hearing these words, a loud muttering came from the rows of listeners, which the rabbi correctly interpreted as the congregation's refusal to accept such a sacrifice. He stated, however, that he expects the congregation to abide by the decision of the Beth Din. He knows that he is not the only one who looks upon forced violation of Jewish law as harder to live with and as a greater sacrifice than to choose death for the sanctification of G-d's name. but his congregation has furnished often already so much proof of their attachment and confidence in him, that he

is sure that they will grant him this privilege, inasmuch as he is actually entitled to it, since he had been designated as the first one to desecrate the Shabbos. If another had been designated by the count, the rabbi would have certainly left this honor to him.

What a deep impression did these simple words make on the assembled people. Thrilled by the magnificent personality of their spiritual leader, what had appeared to them as the greatest misfortune only a few minutes ago, had now been transformed into the most glorious and most desirable that a human being could ever attain!

Such a man was to fall victim in two days to an ignominious death and forever torn from their midst! Everyone knew that the count will carry out his threat but even more certain was it, that his harshness and cruelty had met their match in the steadfastness of Rabbi Sundel. Indeed, if there was anyone who still had the slightest doubts as to the firmness of the rabbi to lay down his life for his congregation and the law of G-d, the following concluding words dissipated them:

"I do not know if we shall be able to meet again before Shabbos. If the count would hear about a meeting of the congregation, he would probably forbid it. Therefore I shall now say good-by to you. Take my sincere thanks for all the love and kindness which you have always shown to me and my family. I am certain that you will not forsake my family even when I shall no longer be with you. All the favors and good deeds, however, that you did for me are small compared to this last one, that I shall have the privilege to sanctify G-d's name for your sake and after my death be able to intercede for you with prayers and entreaties before the throne of G-d. May my death be an atone-

ment for all my transgressions and for you and may G-d bring you a time wherein everyone can serve G-d's will fearlessly, amen."

With these words, the rabbi rose and left the room with a shiningly radiant expression on his face while the people unashamedly wept.

All this occurred on Thursday. Until Shabbos the members of the congregation fasted and prayed. The community did not go to bed Friday night. Being summer, work was scheduled to begin at 6 o'clock in the morning, therefore the services on that Shabbos began before 4 A. M., in the synagogue. In a tear-choked voice the cantor led with the prayers and weepingly the congregation responded. Everyone was in despair, only Rabbi Sundel was serene, even happy and gay. When he was called to the Torah for the last time, he pronounced the blessing, thanking G-d, Who has chosen us from all nations and given us His Torah and planted eternal life in our midst, saying it in such a joyous and happy voice, that the about-to-be martyred rabbi almost resembled a supernatural being.

At the end of the services, the rabbi ate breakfast with his family, briefly explained a portion of the Sidro and then, dressed in his best holiday garments, he walked to the market place accompanied by the entire congregation. There, the count's magistrate awaited him.

Sarcastically, he greeted him, saying: "Those are costly work-clothes that you are wearing. Such nice work-clothes I have never seen. You will surely ruin them at work and tonight you will not recognize them any more."

"I shall not ruin my garments at work. Today is Sabbath and I shall therefore not do any work."

(to be concluded)





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SUNDAY, DEC., 7th — 2 P. M.

GAMES for the Bigger Children

CARTOONS for the Smaller Children

GIFTS & REFRESHMENTS for all

Come and Bring Your Friends

Admission — 25c

PARENTS - ASSOCIATION

GAME-NIGHT

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 24th

8:15 P. M.

BRIDGE — CANASTA

BINGO — POKER — ETC.

Come and Bring Your Friends
for an enjoyable evening.

Admission — 50c



JOIN US
IN CELEBRATING
Our
TENTH ANNIVERSARY!



Die Gemeinde berichtet...

...dass folgende Breakfasts gestifter wurden, wofuer den Spendern gedankt wird: Mr. & Mrs. Gabriel S. Harwitt, Mr. & Mrs. Adolf Wilzig, Mr. & Mrs. Max Mayer, Mr. & Mrs. Manfred Schoen, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Blumhof, Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Altheimer...

...dass eine Anzahl von Gemeindeveranstaltungen (10th Anniversary, Bazaar, Chanuka-Feiern, etc.) in den naechsten Tagen und Wochen stattfinden werden, deren Einzelheiten auf verschiedenen Seiten dieser HAKOHOL-Nummer bekannt gegeben sind...

...dass Mitzvos und Alijos waehrend des Jahres kaeuflich erworben werden koennen, Aufrufen \$2.00, Ausheben und Haftoro \$3.00. Interessenten moechten sich mit Herrn Adolf Heimer in Verbindung setzen...

...dass am Schabbos, den 8. November eine Gedenkfeier in Erinnerung an die 20-jaehrige Wiederkehr der Zerstoeerung der Synagogen in Deutschland stattfand...

Happy Chanukah with a Beautiful & PRACTICAL GIFT FOR HIM — FOR HER — FOR BOYS & GIRLS — FOR EVERYBODY

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Parents-Association

The first meeting of this year took place on Tuesday, November 4th. After a short business meeting which culminated in the election of this year's officers, two interesting films were shown, entitled "Answering the Child's Why" and "Life With Junior" which deal with problems, questions and topics of vital interest to all parents.

Officers elected at the meeting are:

Mrs. Loeb, President; Mrs. Appel and Mrs. Bauman, Vice-Presidents; Mrs. Katz, Sec'y-Treas.; Ladies-Comm.: Mrs. Mannasse, Mrs. Mosbacher, Mrs. Neu, Mrs. Newman, Mrs. Stone.

The first of a series of regular game nights took place on Wednesday, November 9th.

Parents of our school children as well as other members and friends of the Congregation are invited to become members of our Parents-Association and are welcome to participate in our affairs.

Next game night: Wednesday, December 24th.

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 Mrs. Max Hirschhorn
 Mrs. Klara Aron
 Mr. Charles Baer
 Mrs. Erna Baer
 Mr. John Lamm
 Mrs. Bella Lamm
 Mr. Herbert Altheimer
 Mr. Fred Lorsch
 Mrs. Johanna Meyer
 Mr. Fredrick Katzenell
 Mr. Jack Solomon
 Mrs. Judith Solomon
 Mrs. Bertha Neuhaus
 Mrs. Erika Neu
 Mrs. Lilli Hirschheimer
 Mr. Siegfried Goldschmidt
 Mrs. Bella Goldschmidt
 Mr. Victor Klar
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SISTERHOOD NEWS

Von den Aktivitaeten unserer Sisterhood in den letzten Wochen sei besonders hervorgehoben und erwaeht der am Dienstag Abend, den 18. November stattgefundene Vortrag von Mrs. Kirsch ueber "Diaet im taeglichen Leben."

Mit Interesse folgten die zahlreichen Anwesenden den Worten der gewandten Rednerin und beteiligten sich nach Beendigung des Vortrags an einer regen Debatte.

Die Sisterhood konnte an diesem Abend eine Anzahl neuer Mitglieder verzeichnen und begruessen. Weitere interessante Veranstaltungen sind geplant und alle Damen unserer Gemeinde, die bis jetzt sich noch nicht an die Sisterhood angeschlossen haben, sind dazu recht herzlich eingeladen.

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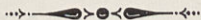
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