

WEST SIDE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

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LOYALTY VIEWPOINT

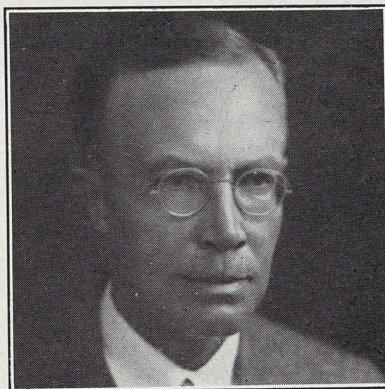
THE STURGEON

By Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein

Is sturgeon a kosher fish? For many years this question has been puzzling a large number of people. I have since the years 1920 through 1935 made various studies and investigations concerning the kashruth of the sturgeon. First and foremost I have consulted the authorities to which Israel always looks for guidance, namely, the Bible, the Talmud, the Shulchan Aruch with its acknowledged commentaries. (See Lev. Chapter 11, Deut. Chapter 14, the Babylonian Talmud Chulin, 62 to 66, Avodah Zorah, 39, and 40, Nidah 51, Tur and Shulchan Aruch Yore Deah, 83 with the Shach and Taz). According to these authorities a kosher fish is to be recognized from a forbidden one in the following ways: (1) The scales in order to be qualified to come under the heading of the scales as prescribed in Jewish law, must lend themselves to be easily scraped off by hand or by an instrument. The scraping of the scales must not leave the skin disjointed from the body of the fish. (2) According to some authorities if the fish has a broad head with a backbone it is an indication that it has scales. (3) If the roe of the fish is elliptical then the fish is surely trefa. If it is oval, as the Talmud puts it, one end round and the other pointed, then it may be either of the kosher or of the non-kosher fish. (4) If the color of the roe is red, provided it maintains its redness after being salted, it is always a fish that has scales. IF THE COLOR IS OR TURNS BLACK THEN THE FISH HAS NO PROPER SCALES AND IS CERTAINLY TREFA. Equipped with this information a letter was addressed to the Director of the New York Aquarium inquiring whether the sturgeon has fins and scales, whether its roe is oval shape or elliptical and whether its roe remains red or becomes black after

GOVERNMENT ADVISER AND DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR SPEAKS AT FORUM MONDAY NIGHT

Jews looking to Palestine to solve the problem of their homelessness are confronted with another problem that too must be solved. Amity between Arab and Jew is the "Palestine Problem".



DR. JOHN VAN ESS

We are fortunate to have an eminent specialist and authority, Dr. John Van Ess to present "A Christian's View Towards a Solution of the Palestine Problem" at our Forum on Monday night.

John Van Ess went to Arabia in

1902 after having specialized in Semitic languages at Princeton. He spent seven years living among the Bedouin of the desert and the river Arabs of Mesopotamia. He has lived under five regimes: The Old Turk, The Young Turk, World War I, the Mandate, and Independence.

For over thirty years he has been a missionary educator to the Mohammedans. He founded and has been in charge of the American High School at Basrah, Iraq. One of his pupils, Rahmin Sion, graduated from Yeshiva College in 1941. During the Iraq rebellion in 1941 Dr. Van Ess was instrumental in setting up a provisional government in Basrah City, and thus saved the lives of five thousand Jews. He has frequently been consulted by the British and Arab governments as well as by our own. He is the author of two standard Arabic grammars.

In the May issue of "Asia", Dr. Van Ess has given his solution to the Palestine problem. It has received wide attention.

Rabbi Goldstein's Bible Class begins promptly at 8:30.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE NOTES

LUNCHEON AT WALDORF DECEMBER 1st

Mrs. David H. Ullman, Chairman of the forthcoming Annual Luncheon of our Women's League taking place at the Waldorf-Astoria on December 1st, announces that enthusiasm for this function is steadily rising among members and their friends.

Just think! If you go to our Luncheon on December 1st you may carry off one of the many prizes. There are orders for, a beautiful coat or suit, two high-priced "unmentionables", and a pair of shoes to be made up for the lucky one, also two extravagantly elegant bags from elite Fifth Avenue stores, an assort-

ment of table linens, a sterling silver initialed wallet, and silver articles. Our remarkable list of astonishing prizes is almost inexhaustible and far too long to enumerate here. We want only to mention one more—the \$50 War Bond.

If you have not already made your reservations for the Luncheon do so at once by mailing your check to our Treasurer, Mrs. Lawrence Mirken c/o the W. S. I. S., or by telephoning TR 7-8281.

The next regular meeting and session of Rabbi Goldstein's Bible Class will be held on Monday afternoon, November 23, at 2:30 o'clock. Mrs. Ullman will preside.

Mrs. Max Sanders will be the hostess at the social hour following the meeting, in honor of the recent visit to New York of her little grandson Jeffrey Sanders Blankfort.



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Vol. VI, No. 11 November 20, 1942

Rabbi H. S. Goldstein *Editor*
Rabbi E. L. Lifschitz *Ass't Editor*
Morris Jablow *Managing Editor*

JEWISH BOOK WEEK

This is Jewish Book Week. Certainly the People of THE BOOK, the Bible, should not be ignorant of their own contribution to civilization.

There are too many admirers, and too few users of the Bible. We speak too much about and know too little of the Bible. If we read the Pentateuch, for instance, we will find the original six hundred and thirteen precepts which we are enjoined to observe, beginning with "Be fruitful and multiply",—an injunction against the prevailing notion of birth-control, and closing with the command to help in the publication of the Pentateuch.

The Bible is par excellence a book calling for increased duties, as well as for the enjoyment of privileges. It is paradoxical but nevertheless true, that the curse of the present generation is the multitude of books in our libraries. "The making of many books has no end." (Ecclesiastes)

What should we read first,—the latest novel or magazine? My answer is that there is nothing wrong per se, with the novel or magazine. These would be described by our Sages as "extra books", but not those of prime importance.

"AS
R'CHASH
SEES
IT"



119th COMMANDMENT SALT IN THE SACRIFICES

by Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein

The 119th Commandment is a positive one bidding us to offer salt with every sacrifice whether it be of meat or of the meal offering for it is said in Leviticus, Chapter 2, Verse 13, "With all thine offerings thou shalt offer salt".

As we have said before, the purpose of a sacrifice was to improve the soul of the one who brought it. The bringing of the salt completed the offering because any food without salt is incomplete. Thus, symbolically, every good act that we perform should be completed as our Rabbis declare in the Talmud, "We say unto the one who begins a mitzvah, complete it". This does away with mere impulse; it gives us perseverance in carrying out a good deed.

Salt preserves and therefore it keeps the offering intact without decaying or giving forth a bad odor, or losing its taste. We too, are not to make sacrifices that have no value; such are foolish sacrifices made as a rule by people who have a martyr complex. Many a person offers sacrifices for things that are not worth-while. People will not economize. They will find one place however for economy, and that is charity. Every offering or sacrifice must have a טעם, "a taste" or a reason. Let us have some "raison d'être" for the sacrifices we are willing to make.

The laws of the commandment are as follows: All the offerings were to be salted before they were to be brought to the altar. The only exception to this rule is the Libation (wine) offering. If one transgressed this commandment and brought an offering without salt, it is acceptable but the Priest has sinned. However, if it was a meal offering then another one had to be brought in exchange, for it is explicitly stated in regard to the meal-offering,—"Thou shalt not allow the salt of the covenant of thy G-d to be lacking from thy meal-offering". Of course this commandment pertained only to Temple times. The Priest who violated it transgressed a positive commandment.

LOYALTY VIEWPOINT (Continued from Page 1)

salting. Herewith is the reply which is of deep interest:

"Replying to your inquiries regarding the sturgeon,
As to Fins and Scales:

This fish has seven fins,—one dorsal, two pectoral, two pelvic, one ventral or anal, and one caudal.

As to scales, the sturgeon is a ganoid fish, i. e., a fish having plates. These are in dorsal, ventral and lateral rows and are called scutes. **The fish has not the common type of loose scale,** but is provided with what are known as rhomboid or ganoid scales on the upper lobe of the tail, and (quoting from the Cambridge Natural History) the scales are 'elsewhere represented by the five longitudinal rows of large bony scutes and by intervening small

scattered ossifications'. The character of the scales of the sturgeon is such that THE FISH IS SKINNED IN PREPARING IT FOR THE TABLE, SINCE ITS SCALES CANNOT BE SCRAPPED OFF.

As to the Roe:

The roe of the sturgeon is not to be found in markets like the roe of the haddock and other fishes, for the reason that it is made into caviar and extracted for that purpose before the fish is sent to the markets.

The roe of the haddock, commonly seen on platters in fish markets, is about ten inches in length. The roe of a full grown sturgeon would measure nearer two feet in length.

The process of making caviar out of fishes' roe TURNS THE ROE BLACK."

(to be continued next week)



The week of November 22-29 is being observed as Jewish Book Week throughout the country.

The roster of the National Committee which sponsors Jewish Book Week reads like a section of "Who's Who in American Jewry" and includes the name of our own Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein.

We, who have been called "The People of the Book" should read many books, the better to understand THAT BOOK. An abundantly rich storehouse of Jewish literature is ours. By acquainting ourselves with its treasures we come into possession of a priceless heritage.

"Rationing" has not curtailed the number of books one may possess, and there is no dearth of fine Jewish literature.

As Chanukah, the Feast of Light, approaches, remember to present as gifts BOOKS that will kindle light—that will fire us with pride in our glorious past and inspire us with great courage for the future.

There should be a Jewish bookshelf in every Jewish home. We suggest the following be included:

THE BIBLE
BIBLE COMMENTS FOR HOME READING

—Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein
HISTORY OF THE JEWS —H. Graetz
ETHICS OF THE FATHERS

—H. S. Goldstein
DAILY PRAYER BOOK WITH COMMENTARIES —Dr. J. H. Hertz
STUDIES IN JUDAISM

—Dr. Solomon Schechter
JUDAISM —George Foote Moore
SELECTED ESSAYS —Ahad Ha'Am
GHETTO COMEDIES —Israel Zangwill
GOLDEN TREASURY OF JEWISH LITERATURE —Leo W. Schwarz
THE JEWISH CONTRIBUTION TO CIVILIZATION — Cecil Roth

SPECIAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Special Thanksgiving Services will be held in the Synagogue Thursday afternoon at 5:15 o'clock.

Observe Thanksgiving Day by bringing cheer into the heart of a boy in the service.

YOUNG FOLK'S LEAGUE

An additional batch of Chanukah gift boxes have been sent to the men in service by the Young Folk's League. These packages contained among other utilities a pair of army slippers—thanks to the generosity of Edna Wildman's mother who provided several dozen pairs.

All young folks are reminded of the Young Folk's League **Chanukah Dance**, December 5th — Saturday night.

THE MADAJEBS

The Madajebbs, a group of young ladies between the ages of 15 and 16, meet every Saturday evening from 8 to 10 o'clock in the Synagogue House. Arnyce Livingston is president of the club.

The group is planning a "Victory Dance" to be held on Tuesday evening December 29th, for boys and girls of high school and college freshmen level. They are looking forward to a large attendance and a very successful affair. The proceeds are to be given to the Russian War Relief.

WEEKLY PRAYER SCHEDULE

Light Candles Friday Evening 5:17

Weekly Portion: VAYEZE

Thursday: *Special*—

Thanksgiving Service 5:15

Friday Evening Service 5:25

Saturday Morning Service 9:00

Junior Congregation 10:00

Rabbi Hurwitz's Talmud Class 4:15

Mincha Service 5:15

Sunday morning Service

..... 6:55, 7:45, 8:45

Daily Services:

Mornings 6:55, 7:45, 8:55

Mincha 5:20

Followed by the Interpretation of the Mishnah by Rabbi Goldstein

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BAR MITZVAH



BERNARD STEIN HOWARD FEIRSTEIN

We wish to extend our sincere good wishes to Howard Feirstein and to Bernard Stein on the occasion of their Bar Mitzvahs to be celebrated in our Synagogue tomorrow. We extend to the proud families a very hearty "Mazel Tov"!

YOUNG FOLKS SERVICE SABBATH AFTERNOON

At tomorrow's Sabbath Afternoon Service which is conducted by the young folks of the Synagogue, Hillel Meyers will read the Torah and Selig Katz the Service. The speaker for the afternoon will be Laurence Rossan.

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GETTING PERSONAL

Last Sabbath afternoon Mincha Service looked like a Young People's reunion—it made us feel like "Old Times" again. . . Among those we were pleased to see, were Bernard Levmore who is about to join the armed forces, Robert Breitbart, resplendant in his very becoming uniform, Betty Bernstein, Sylvia Goldman and her fiance, Ira Bernstein, who read from the Torah in his own inimitable way, Vivian Kinzler, Louis Landowne, Mortie Cohen, who is fast becoming a rival of Cantor Yavneh and Seymour Bernstein. . . We know that the many friends and affectionate admirers of Melvin H. ("Buddy") Friedman will be happy to learn that his family hears from him regularly and that he is overseas. His fine Jewish spirit and splendid character are evidenced by all the reports we get concerning him. . . We welcome to our neighborhood the "Pin King" Myers family, particularly Dorothy and Hillel Myers, who are always with us, regardless of distance. . . We were glad to have Mrs. Jessie Slater, daughter of our beloved Mr. and Mrs. Gustave Roth in our midst again. . . She must have come to celebrate her Dad's 81st birthday. . . and speaking of birthdays, we felicitate Helene Applebaum, Sylvia Livingston Bernstein, Ira Bernstein, Bernice Breitbart, Lois Jane Ullman upon their birthdays. . . Whew! what a month November is. . . Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Louis H. Markowitz and to Mr. & Mrs. Harry Mirken upon their wedding anniversary. . . Sandy Josephson, Private Harold Levine and Yeoman

Brett Davidson paid us flying visits last week. . . Did you know that at the National Junior Mizrahi Women's Convention held at the Waldorf, Renee Langer and Josephine Goldstein were the official delegates from their chapter? Just chips off the old blocks. . . We were glad to see Fred Margareten, as well as his daughter Muriel Margareten Nussbaum of Rochester at Danny Weiss' "Aufruf" last Shabbos. . . Welcome home to Mrs. Jack Levine who is back in town after a visit with her son Josh, our director stationed at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma. . . She also brings regards from Lt. and Mrs. Gerald Blankfort stationed at St. Louis Mo. . . We are happy to note that Nannette Udell daughter of our president attends services despite the weather. It appears as though nothing can keep her away. . . Many thanks to Reuben Richman for donating table cloths to the Synagogue. We hear that his son Freddie has been inducted. . . Happy to have Lt. Morton Edelman and Lt. Bobby Heilpern with us at services. Both received honors at the Torah. . . Nat Jaffe and Abe Shabot are in Officers' Training School. . . Staff Sgt. Merwin J. Dattlebaum, son-in-law of Mrs. Isidore Friedman, has been transferred to Aberdeen, Md. for Officers' Training too. . . Did you see Norman Friedman, our youngest boy in the Navy? Handsome is the word. . . Last but not least, honeymooning Lt. Emanuel Blumenthal and his wife Vera, daughter of our own Mr. and Mrs. Max Frank, were in for a short visit from Columbus, Ind.

OUR BOYS IN THE ARMED FORCES WRITE. . .

" . . I receive the W.S.I. Review regularly and read it through thoroughly. I find your column, and Getting Personal, the most informative.

"I have heard from your nephew Harold since he was made one of Uncle Sam's nephews. He writes he is fine, and likes the army very much.

"The J.W.B. has been very good to the boys in Bermuda. They sent us Rabbi Goodman for the High Holy Days, and we are now expecting a field worker to come to Bermuda and become assistant U. S. O. Director. Last year the J.W.B. also took care of our Seder Services for Passover. I hope they are so inclined again this year."

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