

WEST SIDE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

Vol. VII, No. 16

Friday, December 22, 1944

Teves 6, 5705

Loyalty Viewpoint

*The Philosophy of Loyalty
as Expressed by the Kuzari*

by Dr. Sidney B. Hoenig

A perusal of ancient and medieval works often reveals that we are not as **modern** as we pretend to be. Many of our problems of **today** have been answered **yesterday**. Interestingly we discover that our ancestors anticipated many of our questions of faith and loyalty. An examination of the pious and famous work, the Kuzari, written by the poetic rabbi and national scholar, R. Judah ha-Levi, brings forth for instance many such points of interest which serve as guides for us today.

The story of the Kuzari is well known: The king of the Kazars in Crimen, one named Bulan, sought to leave his idols and searched for the true faith. He inquired of the daughter religions but these could not satisfy him. Only Judaism as explained by the rabbi inspired him and led to the conversion of himself and his people. For two centuries this Jewish kingdom thrived until broken up by the princes of Keiv and Cossacks about the year 970 C.E. Happily its existence was revealed to the great Spanish patron of learning Hasdai. Ibn Shaprot and later R. Judah ha-Levi elaborated upon the story of the conversion by producing his novel philosophic work. "The Kuzari or Book of Argument and Demonstration in Aid of the Despised faith." Well did the poet demonstrate that though Judaism was held to be a "despised faith" among the nations, its lessons were eternal and its faith powerful. Some of the outstanding lessons that we may gain from the book today follow.

I. What is Judaism—The philosopher reveals that Judaism by its very nature is opposed to philosophic pursuits. Such inquiry arises only because of clashes with the environment. Israel can approach God by fulfilling His Commandments and not by mere humility or degradation, as practised by other faiths, As the King
(Continued on page 2)

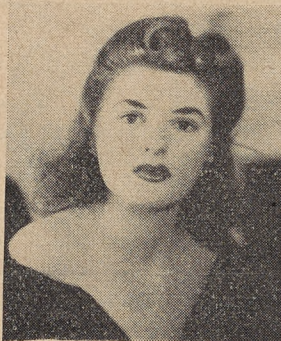
UNUSUAL PROGRAM FOR OUR CONCERT AT THE METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE

SUNDAY EVENING, JANUARY 28th, 1945



Morris Levine

*Congratulations to
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Anderson*



Naomi Anderson

We are very happy to felicitate our Director and Mrs. Joseph Anderson upon the engagement of their daughter Naomi to Rabbi Eli Black of Woodmere. Two fine Jewish families will be united. We rejoice with Joe and Dorothy in their Simcha.

Important

No doubt you are making a Will to provide for the disposition of your estate. If you consider making a bequest for our Institution be sure to insert the name properly. It should read, "I give, devise and bequeath to the WEST SIDE INSTITUTIONAL SYNAGOGUE, a religious corporation, at 120-138 West 76th Street, New York City, the sum of....."



Lester Udell

The enviable reputation which our annual concert at the Metropolitan Opera House has gained for itself in the past, makes us certain that this year's program will equal if not surpass all expectations.

Our President Lester Udell and our Director Morris Levine are among the leaders in the sale of tickets, but another Director is rapidly forging ahead.

Mr. Joseph Settel, Chairman of the Concert Committee urges all our friends to help by disposing of the moderate priced tickets.

Preparedness

Wise men constantly preach the advisability of being prepared for future happenings. It is peculiarly applicable and appropriate in making provisions for the inevitable.

Why not consult us about the purchase of a plot in our Memorial Park located at Mt. Eden Cemetery, Mt. Pleasant, New York. Telephone TRafalgar 7-8281 for details.

Laymen's Institute

There will be no classes in the Laymen's Institute until Wednesday, January 3, 1945 when sessions will resume.



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Rabbi H. S. Goldstein Editor
Rabbi Zev Zahavy Ass't Editor
Morris Jablow Managing Editor

Christmas and the Jews

The best of us show a sign of inferiority complex. Some orthodox Jews will even glory in giving their children names as "John" or "James," rather than "Jacob" or "Jonathan." Some of our people will substitute the Christmas tree for the Chanukah lamp. We want to imitate the Goyim, "the nations". Even when it comes to so sacred a matter as Palestine. We want to be a nation like the nations. We want a State, a Commonwealth, a Democracy, a Commune, but not a Torahcracy. We even want to imitate the nations in terrorism and assume the role of "the hands of Esau" and losing "the voice of Jacob."

When the people clamored for a king so that they might be like the rest of the nations. God then said to Samuel, "They have not rejected Thee (Samuel) but they have rejected Me that I should not be King over them." Hitler makes us his "chosen people" for destruction, when we refuse to be "the chosen people" of G-d, and fail to obey Him.



192nd COMMANDMENT

The Nakedness of Thy Sister

by Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein

We read in Leviticus, Chapter 18, Verse 9, "The Nakedness of thy sister, the daughter of thy father or the daughter of thy mother . . . thou shalt not uncover." This commandment does not refer to a step-sister, (a child of the father's wife born from another marriage). Such a marriage is perfectly permissible.

These laws prevail at all times and at all places. One who transgresses them premeditatedly deserves excision.

This law refers not only to the children of Israel but to all mankind. We have defined "sister" to mean not only a full sister but a half-sister as well. Others have defined "sister" as one born from the same mother.

"AS
R'CHASH
SEES
IT"

193rd COMMANDMENT

The Nakedness of Thy Son's Daughter

In Leviticus, Chapter 18, Verse 10, we read, "The nakedness of thy son's daughter . . . thou shalt not uncover". This commandment prevails at all times and at all places and one who transgresses it premeditatedly was guilty of being burned.

As marriage with a step-granddaughter in Verse 17 of our Chapter is forbidden, this verse seems superfluous. "The Rabbis understood this verse as referring to the daughter even of an illegitimate son or daughter.

Marriage with a daughter is not expressly forbidden; because, in view of the prohibition of the granddaughter (see verse 17) it is self-evident." (Hertz).

194th COMMANDMENT

The Nakedness of Thy Father's Daughter

In Leviticus, Chapter 18, Verse 10 we read, ("The Nakedness") of thy father's daughter . . . thou shalt not uncover for it is as thine own nakedness.

All the laws pertaining to this commandment are similar to the previous ones.

The verse, "thine own nakedness" Moffatt explains to mean "they are part of yourself."

LOYALTY VIEWPOINT

(Continued from page 1)

of the Kazars was told: "**Your way of thinking is agreeable to God but not your way of acting,**" i.e. his intellect and heart may be Jewish but what is most important to the Jewish faith and loyalty is one's **way of acting.**

II. Philosophy, Religion and Science: "Those who judge according to their own taste and reasoning may arrive in these matters at an opposite conclusion. Follow not, therefore, thy own taste and opinion in religious questions, lest they throw thee into doubts which lead to heresy. Nor wilt thou be in harmony with one of thy friends on any point. Every individual has his own taste and opinion. It is only necessary to examine the roots of the traditional and written laws with the inferences codified for practice in order to trace the branches back to the roots. Where they lead thee, there put thy faith, though thy mind and feeling shrink from it."

"When the rational soul turns its attention towards science, its activity is called **theoretical reason.** If, how-

ever, it undertakes to subdue animal instincts, its activity is called guidance, and it assumes the name of **practical reason.**

III. Miracles, Revelation and Prophecy "We say that He created the two tables and engraved a text on them, in the same way as He created the heaven and the stars, i.e. by His will alone. God desired it, and they became concrete as He wished it, engraved with the text of the Ten Words.

"We also say that He divided the Red sea and formed it into two walls, which He caused the waters to stand on the right and on the left of the people, for whom He made easy wide roads and a smooth ground for them to walk on without fear and trouble.

"This rendering, constructing and arranging are attributed to God, who required no tool or intermediary as would be necessary for human toil. As the water stood at His command, and shaped itself at His will, so the air which touched the prophet's ear, assumed the form of sounds. These conveyed the matters to be communicated by God to the prophet and the people.

From Our Social Department

Two new groups for boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 11, and 11 and 12 are being formed. For further information contact Mr. Kono-vitch, our Social Director.

The following clubs in the Junior Division meet every Saturday evening at 8 P.M. in our building:

Chaverim — This is a Jewish cultural and social club for boys and girls between the ages of 14 and 17.

Blue N' White — A group for boys and girls between 14 and 17 years.

International — Another Jewish cultural and social group for boys and girls 14 to 17.

Alumni — An interesting club for boys from the ages of 12½ to 15, especially for post Bar-Mitzvah boys. Their main interests are Jewish cultural and athletic events.

* * *

The following clubs in the Senior Division meet on Sunday:

Achduth — This group is a Zionist group and an affiliate of Masada for boys and girls above the age of 16. Meetings at 3 P.M.

Beth Hillel — A Jewish Cultural and social group for young men and women above the age of 18. Meetings 3 P.M.

Bachad — An affiliate of the Hapoel Hamizrachi, a group for young men and women above the age of 18. Meetings at 8 P.M. This Sunday night, the Bachad will hold their fifth Annual post-Chanukah celebration. The program includes entertainment, dancing, song, a well known humorist and Peter Pan the Magic Man.

Tikvat Israel — This group, an affiliate of Masada, meets at 8 P.M. Men and women above 18 invited.

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WEEKLY PRAYER SCHEDULE

Light candles Friday Evening 5:15

Weekly Portion: Yayigash

Friday Evening Jr. Cong. 5:00

Friday Evening Service 5:20

Saturday Morning Service 9:00

Junior Congregation 10:00

Sabbath Afternoon Peasure Hour

..... 3:15

Sabbath Afternoon Intermediate

Group 4:15

Rabbi Hurwitz's Talmud Class 4:20

Ein Jacob Class 4:20

Mincha Service 5:20

Reader of Service, Hillel Meyers

Reader of Torah, P. Kadushin

Maariv may be said 5:54

The Sabbath Terminates 6:04

Sunday morning Services

..... 6:45, 8:45

Tuesday Morning Service

..... 6:45, 7:50, 8:20

Tuesday Mincha 5:10

Daily Services:

Mornings 6:55, 8:00, 8:30

Mincha 5:25

Followed by the study of the Shulchan Aruch by Rabbi Goldstein.

Our Scout Troops

Our Synagogue Scout Troops include groups for boys and girls from the age of nine years and upward.

Our Girl Scout Troop is now reorganized into a lively group under the direction of its new leader. *

Agudah Meeting Sunday Evening

The next meeting and informal get-together of the Midtown Agudah Group will take place in our building this Sunday evening at 8 P.M. Rabbi Zahavy will speak on "The Future of Orthodox Judaism in America." All religiously minded young men and women are invited.

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Chats About W.S.I.S.

by Morris Jablow

The important fund-raising event nearing approach is our Gala Concert at the Metropolitan Opera House to be held Sunday evening, January 28th, 1945. It requires a great deal of work, and is occupying the time and thoughts of our Chairman of the Concert Committee, Mr. Joseph Settel.

Recently, he suggested to me that I advise you, our readers, that while prospects for the success of this event are bright, yet, we still have on hand a few hundred tickets at \$1.50, \$2.20 and \$3.30, and he therefore proposes that each one of us try hard to dispose of one or two pairs of these moderately-priced tickets. In that way every one of us will contribute to the success of this undertaking without putting a severe strain upon any one person.

Would it not be a wonderful demonstration of our *esprit de corps*, if in the next few days our office would receive mail and telephone calls for several hundred pairs of tickets? Do you think you can show Mr. Settel our devotion to the WSIS, by this last minute effort?

Getting Personal . . .

Congratulations and good wishes to our own Aaron Waron Gross upon his marriage this coming Sunday to Miss Muriel Elayne Streit. In honor of this event the "aufruf" will take place in our Synagogue this Saturday, and at the conclusion of the services the congregation is invited to a Kiddush . . . Thanks to Miss Roslyn Fuchs for volunteering to become the leader of the Girl Scouts. . . . We are extremely sorry to learn that Mrs. A. Freyburgh, of our Women's League has been home ill for several weeks. Our sincere wishes for a speedy recovery . . . Good luck to Mr. and Mrs. Abe Glaser in their new location . . . Among our Servicemen in attendance at Sabbath Services were Kurt Shreiber, Lieut. (Sr. Grade) Bret Davidson, Pharmacist Mate 3/c Mitchel Davidson . . . It is also quite thrilling to see our boys at the Sunday morning Minyan. Pvts. Andre Langer and Edward Fishman were with us last week. G-d bless you . . . Many thanks to Harry Verschleiser for his donation of books and Talasim for the Junior Congregation . . . Abe Goodman has been cited by a Pittsburgh paper as an excellent illustration of how a hobby can benefit others. Abe is an amateur photographer who spends a great deal of his spare time taking pictures of our boys in the Halloran Hospital and sending them home to their parents and sweethearts. We're proud of you Abe . . . Wedding Anniversary Congratulations to Director and Mrs. Maurice Greenstein, Director and Mrs. Joseph Landowne, Director and Mrs. George L. Livingston, and to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Cohen . . . Congratulations to Sgt. Sid Reiss at Santa Ana, Calif., who is writing for the camp newspaper, "The Crossroads." . . . Special Congratulations on their "firsts" go to Pfc. and Mrs. Paul Shapiro who celebrate their first Wedding Anniversary and to little Alene Strausberg, charming daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sol M. Strausberg who lights her first Birthday Candle. Congrats to Pfc. Simeon H. F. Goldstein upon his birthday . . . Our own Robert S. Breitbart has been promoted to 1st Lieut. Congrats "Bobby" and here's looking forward to attaining the "double bars" soon . . .

FOR INFORMATION

about one grave or a plot in our Memorial Park at Mt Eden Cemetery telephone our office TR. 7-8281.

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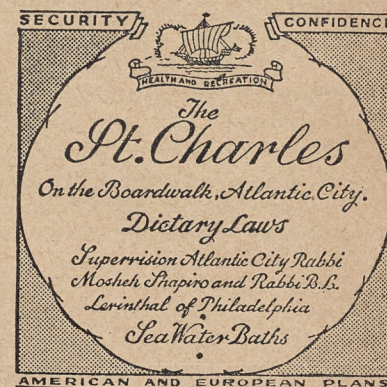
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