

WEST SIDE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

Vol. VII No. 17

Friday, December 29, 1944

Teves 13, 5705

Loyalty Viewpoint

The Philosophy of Loyalty In the Kuzari

Gems of R. Judah Ha'Levi's Work
(Continued from last week)

By Dr. Sidney B. Hoenig

The following excerpts on various features of our faith demonstrate the modernity of the medieval philosopher.

IV. Fasting—"Thy contrition on a fast day does nothing the nearer to God than thy joy on the Sabbath and holy days, if it is the outcome of a devout heart. Just as prayers demand devotion, so also is a pious mind necessary to find pleasure in God's command and law.

V. Sabbath—"The observance of the Sabbath is itself an acknowledgment of His omnipotence and, at the same time, an acknowledgment of the creation by the Divine Word. He who observes the Sabbath because the Work of Creation was finished on it acknowledges the Creation itself. He who believes in the Creation believes in the Creator. He, however, who does not believe in it falls prey to doubts of God's eternity and to doubts of the existence of the World's Creator. The observance of the Sabbath is, therefore, nearer to God than monastic retirement and ascetism."

"The body repairs on the Sabbath the waste accumulated during the six days, and prepares itself for the work to come; whilst the soul remembers its own loss through the body's companionship. The Sabbath Observer cures himself so to speak, from a past illness and provides himself with a remedy to ward off any future sickness."

VI. Social and Economic Legislation in The Torah—"It never could come to such a pass that a tribe or family would be reduced to poverty, because the Almighty ordained the return of the whole property in the Year of Jubilee in the same status as it was in the first year of the distribution of the land. The details of these regulations would fill volumes. He who studies them carefully will see that they are not of human origin.

(Continued on page 2)

Season's Greeting to the Church

Rabbi Goldstein as President of the Synagogue Council of America addressed the following letter to Bishop E. Bromley Oxnam, President, Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America; Archbishop Edward Mooney, Chairman, National Catholic Welfare Conference, Washington, D. C.; and to Dr. F. R. Knubel, President, New York Synod United Lutheran, Archbishop Francis J. Spellman.

Rabbi Goldstein's letter follows:

On behalf of the Synagogue Council of America, I am happy to take this opportunity of extending to you in the name of the Synagogues of America our sincere greetings on the occasion of the celebration of this Holy season of the Church. It is heartening that we in this country can live together peacefully and with mutual respect for each other's faith. I am reminded of the words of the Psalmist, "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in harmony."

In our mutual endeavors to create good-will between Christians and Jews, we accomplish that best through our broad platform of Americanism which represents the contributions of all the peoples of all the faiths in the United States for the best interests of our beloved country.

(Continued on page 2)

Men's Club Notes

At the previous meeting of our Men's Club, Commissioner William B. Herlands submitted a program for Post-War activities to be initiated for the purpose of rendering real service to the veterans of this war. He told eloquently of the importance of taking steps now to bring our boys into the Synagogue, and to hold them. A good - sized audience listened attentively to his proposals and were very much impressed.

The Men's Club plans to hold its next meeting on Monday evening, Jan. 8th, 1945 at 8:15. All men are cordially invited to attend.

Laymen's Institute

Classes in the Laymen's Institute will resume on Wednesday evening, January 3, 1945.

DIRECTOR JULIUS BAYER CONCERT TICKET LEADER

For Our Metropolitan Opera House

Concert, January 28th, 1945

Our Director, Julius Bayer, made such tremendous strides during the past week in his all-out offensive for the sale of tickets for our Concert at the Metropolitan Opera House, that he now leads by a very safe margin. It seems apparent that he will maintain this lead above all other active directors who are working conscientiously for the success of our affair.



Julius Bayer

We print herewith a picture of Mr. Bayer, which we finally obtained with his reluctant consent. His modesty is only equaled by his deeds.

Next week we hope to give the complete detailed program of the wonderful entertainment prepared for our Concert.

Tickets range from \$1.50 to \$8.50. Call TR. 7-8281 for reservations.

Our Memorial Park

We stand ready to be of service to you in making selection of a choice Plot in our Memorial Park, located in Mt. Eden Cemetery, Mt. Pleasant, New York. Telephone our office, TR. 7-8281.

CONDOLENCE

We extend our sympathies to Mrs. Sarah Moss and the other members of the family upon the loss of their brother, PHILIP KAUFMAN.



WEST SIDE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

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

The Old Testament G-d-Justice

At this time we Jews felicitate our Christian neighbors during this, their Holiday season.

In view of the atrocities of the Nazis, we should not speak of "peace on earth and good-will to all men" but rather "peace on earth and good-will to all men of good-will." The Psalmist made it crystal-clear that "those who love the Lord hate wickedness." If we love God and His way, we should with equal passion hate evil and its monster.

This represents the Old Testament G-d, of Law and Order, as over against maudlin sentiment.

To Christians everywhere we say that we cannot love nor tolerate the wicked and his wickedness. We must hate and uproot the baneful in life—today the Nazi and Nazism. No amount of sentimentality can erase the brutality of a Nazi and his "Kultur."

May God bless the world with peace to all men of good-will.



"AS
R'CHASH
SEES
IT"

195th COMMANDMENT The Nakedness of Thy Daughter by Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein

The Rabbis point out that whilst this commandment is not stated in the Bible it is of course inferred. As we said previously, if union with a grand-daughter is forbidden then so much is it with a daughter. The punishment, for breaking this Commandment, is based upon a *נורה שוה* "an inference from a similarity of phrases in the Bible."

196th COMMANDMENT The Nakedness of the Daughter of His Father's Wife

We read in Leviticus, Chapter 18, Verse 11, "The nakedness of thy father's wife's daughter, begotten of thy father, she is as thy sister, thou shalt not uncover her nakedness." Upon this verse the late David Hoff-

man makes the following comment which appears in Chief-rabbi Hertz's Commentary on the Bible, "Descent from the same mother was long deemed a closer degree of relationship than descent from the same father (Gen. xx, 12). Consequently, v. 9 might have been misunderstood to apply to either 'thy sister (viz. of the same mother) who is the daughter of thy father', i.e. a half-sister from the same mother but different father. Union with a half-sister from the same father but different mother might thus have been thought permissible. Hence the need of a clear prohibition of the daughter from the same father by another mother, as is stated here."

This law refers to all times and to all places and one who premeditatedly violates it is guilty of excision.

197th COMMANDMENT The Nakedness of Thy Father's Sister and 198th COMMANDMENT The Nakedness of Thy Mother's Sister

It makes no difference whether the aunt is from the mother or the father's side as we read in Verses 12 and 13 of Chapter 18 of the Book of Leviticus, "Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of thy father's near kinsman," 13. "Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of thy mother's sister; she is as thy mother's kinswoman."

LOYALTY VIEWPOINT

(Continued from page 1)

VII. Palestine—"Palestine is especially distinguished by the Lord of Israel and no function can be perfect except there. Many of the Israelite laws do not concern those who do not live there. We only perfect heart and soul only in the place which is believed to be specially selected by God.

VII. Prayer or The Minyon—"Common and public prayer has many advantages. In the first instance a community will never pray for a thing which is hurtful for the individual, whilst the latter sometimes prays for something that is to his disadvantage.

"One of the conditions of prayer, craving to be heard, is that its object be profitable to the world, but not hurtful in any way. Another is that an individual rarely accomplishes his prayer without slips and errors. It has been laid down, therefore, that the individual recite the prayers of a community, and if possible in a community of not less than ten persons, so that one makes up for the forgetfulness or error of the other.

In this way a complete prayer is obtained and its blessing rests on everyone.

Conclusion

The above, random, choice of selections on the essence of our faith—its interpretation and loyalty, its observance and legislation, and its hope and prayer—demonstrates that there are on our shelves "old wine" that have a rare and inviting taste for us. If we are not wholly swayed by the new beverages and philosophies, we can find relaxation, peace and happiness in our faith as explained by our elders, too.

GREETINGS TO THE CHURCH (Continued from page 1)

It is our prayer that through your devotions during your sacred season that all mankind may be improved, that penance and atonement may ensue which will certainly bring about a healing and a Holy peace for all G-d's children.

With kindest personal regards and esteem, I am,

Faithfully yours,

Herbert S. Goldstein, Rabbi
President

In the Rabbi's Mailbag

In Germany

Dear Rabbi,

Got your welcomed letter and glad to know all is well. I have gotten one group of Reviews and read them from end to end. Everything around here is going along fine and the Germans are beginning to realize that we mean business as we go further in. You can notice that the towns are quite ruined just giving them a bit of their own medicine. At least though they realize that we don't do the things they did such as killing people for no good reason. Funny how the people left back none of them are Nazi or like Hitler still ran the country and ruined it from the way things look it will take them many years to build it up again hope it does, so they won't have any time to think of another war.

Will close now with all the best also my best wishes for a happy Chanukah to all. Keep well.

Sidney Harris

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WEEKLY PRAYER SCHEDULE

Light candles Friday Evening 5:19

Weekly Portion: Vayechi

Friday Evening Jr. Cong. 5:00

Friday Evening Service 5:25

Saturday Morning Service 9:00

Junior Congregation 10:00

Sabbath Afternoon Pleasure Hour

..... 3:15

Sabbath Afternoon Intermediate

Group 4:15

Rabbi Hurwitz's Talmud Class 4:30

Ein Jacob Class 4:30

Mincha Service 5:30

Reader of Service—Eric Korngold

Reader of Torah—Morty Cohen

Speaker—Joe Tilem

Maariv may be said 5:58

The Sabbath Terminates 6:08

Sunday morning Service 6:55, 8:45

Monday morning Service 6:55, 8:45

Daily Services

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

Mincha 5:25

Followed by the study of the Shul-
chan Aruch by Rabbi Goldstein.

Club Notes

Mr. Hyman Tanennbaum and Mi-
chael Sanders were recently ap-
pointed as club leaders of the Chav-
erim and Alumni clubs respectively.
We want to wish them success in
their leadership.

The Blue n' White club will hold a
social this Saturday evening, De-
cember 30th, at 8:30 P.M.

Scouting the Scout News

There is room for new members in
our Boy Scout Sea Scout and Air
Scout units of our Synagogue troops.
Meetings Tuesday night.

Our Girl Scouts will be glad to
welcome new applicants.

Cub Pack no. 23 is forming new
Dens. All youngsters from 9 to 12
who are interested in joining should
apply promptly by calling Cubmaster
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Chats About W.S.I.S.

by Morris Jablow

The record that our Institution made in the past War Bond Drives has been the cause of a lot of favorable comment among the people of this Community. Recently, one of our members said to me: "I am indeed proud of the very workman-like job this Organization has done in selling Bonds. It is a source of pride to me to be a member of an Organization so thoroughly American and note how earnestly and effectively efforts are being made in the cause of patriotism. I know that this not only reflects credit upon us as Jews, but it is instrumental in promoting good-will as well as combating racial prejudice."

I am sure all of us agree with these sentiments. I do hope that each one of you, our readers, will buy more Bonds through our Synagogue.

I feel that all of us are united in desiring to have our Synagogue occupy an outstanding position in American life. I know of no better way to achieve it than by buying War Bonds through this office and enabling us to make good.

Getting Personal

The Rabbi was invited by WOR to represent the Jewish people in prayer to be broadcast over a National hook-up on New Year's Day . . . Among our directors vacationing in the South are Harry Appel, Gus Rubenstein and David H. Ullman. We wish them a pleasant stay . . . Sincere congratulations to the Officers of the Congregation who were re-elected by our newly-chosen Board of Directors, for another year . . . They are so good, why change . . . We also congratulate the newly elected directors, Sol Bellsey, Harry A. Josephson, Bernard Lax and Harry Mirken, all of whom attend the first meeting of the new Board with the exception of one. Where were you Harry? . . . Congratulations upon their birthdays to Charles Cohen, our Director Adolph Meirowitz and his "Mechutan" to be David Kurtz, Reuben Richman and our distinguished matriarch, Mrs. Regina Margareten. Celebrating a happy birthday on New Year's Day will be Dr. Gerald Blankfort, Mrs. Samuel Greenman and Mrs. Annie Berkowitz, daughter of our active co-worker, Mrs. Annie Dvorkin. Many happy returns . . . Thanks to the Women's League for a donation of Prayer Books to the Synagogue . . . Ditto to our Director, Siegfried Bendheim who donated prayer books in memory of the late beloved "Buddy" Friedman who heroically died in action in France . . . We are glad to see Levi Hershfield looking so well after his lengthy visit to Scranton, Pa. . . . Happy to learn that the daughter of our Director and Mrs. George L. Livingston, WAC Harriet Livingston, is in New York on a furlough. She looked grand at our Sabbath services as did Pvt. Harold Udell and Lester Lazarus who are in town . . . Morris Steinberg visited us several times during the week . . . We pray for the speedy recovery of Hilna Perfit . . . Wedding Anniversary congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Herman Gross of the House of Gross and to Dr. and Mrs. Samuel Weiss . . . Mrs. Joseph Settel, wife of the hard-working Chairman of the Concert Committee, is so anxious to make this event more brilliant than ever before, that she has volunteered to aid in the planning of the musical program for our Concert. How is that for cooperation. . .

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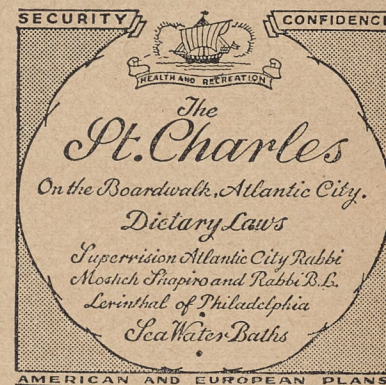
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