

West Side Institutional Review

Vol. X, No. 9

Friday, November 8, 1946

Cheshvan 14, 5707

THE PHILOSOPHY OF JUDAISM FAITH AND REASON

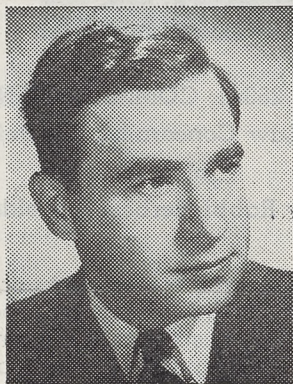
II

By Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein

It is most surprising to note that nowhere in the Bible, are we commanded to believe. Rabbi Judah Halevi makes this point in his outstanding philosophical work, the Kuzari. The Kuzari, the King of the Khazars (who lived in the Middle Ages), had a dream, that his way of thinking was agreeable to G-d, but not his way of acting, and was commanded in the same dream to seek the G-d pleasing work. "He then proceeds to seek the true religion. The King said to himself, "I will ask the Christians and the Moslems, since one of these persuasions is, no doubt, the G-d pleasing one. As regards the Jews, I am satisfied that they are of low station, **few in number** and generally despised." He then invited a Christian scholastic and put the questions to him concerning the theory and practice of his faith (see Kuzari Part I). The scholastic replied, — I believe that all things are created, whilst the Creator is Eternal. . . . In short, I believe in all that is written in the Tora and the records of the children of Israel, which are undisputed because they are generally known as lasting and have been revealed before a vast multitude. Subsequently the Divine Essence became embodied in an embryo in the womb of a virgin. . . . She bore him with the semblance of a human being. He is the Messiah, whom we call the Son of G-d, and He is the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. . . . Our laws and regulations are derived from . . . ordinations taken from the Tora, which we study." The King was dissatisfied with this explanation. He then turns to the Mohammedan, and questions him in regard to his doctrines and observances. The Moslem said, "We acknowledge the unity and eternity of G-d, and that all men are derived from Adam-Noah. . . . Our prophet is the Seal of the Prophets. Is not our Book full of the stories of Moses and the children of Israel? The King then realized that both the Christians and the Moslems based their teachings upon Judaism, and

(Continued on Page 2)

MEN'S CLUB MEETING MONDAY EVE., NOV. 11, 1946



Address by Bernard Gittelson

At the meeting of the Men's Club Nov. 11, 1946 at 8:30 o'clock, Mr. Bernard Gittelson will speak on the subject, "Law and Social Action."

Bernard Gittelson is Director of the Department of Organization and Finance of the American Jewish Congress. He was formerly Associate Coordinator of the Commission on Community Interrelations of the A.J.C. He came to the Commission from the New York State Commission Against Discrimination where he served as Director of Research.

The evening promises to be very interesting. Members are urged to attend and bring their friends. Refreshments will be served.

OUR LIBRARY

More books are needed for our library.

IN MEMORIAM

The Congregation has suffered a great loss in the passing of

Mrs. Annie Morris

an honorary president of the Women's League. Her name was almost synonymous with the W.S.I.S. Every phase of its activity was part of her very life regardless of the season of the year, Passover, Shevuos, Succos, Chanukah, Purim. Mrs. Morris was always on hand to see that the holiday requirements were properly taken care of both for the adults and for the children. Her life was rich and full of Service and Noble deeds.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE LUNCHEON



Mrs. Lester Udell, Co-Chairman

Mrs. Samuel W. Siegel, energetic Chairman of the forthcoming Women's League Luncheon reports that from present indications a "new high" will be reached this year.

Her predictions are based upon the splendid results already attained by her active co-chairman, Mrs. Lester Udell, her other co-chairman, Mrs. George L. Livingston, the Chairman of the Bond Subscription, Mrs. Allen Fox and many members of the Luncheon Committee particularly Mrs. Ben Levine, Mrs. Morris Levine and Mrs. Anna Dworkin.

Unusual Musicale Program

Mrs. Albert H. Cohen, capable Chairman of the Musical Program for our Luncheon promises us an even finer program than last year, if that is possible.

A genuine treat is in store for all who attend our Musicale and Luncheon on Tuesday, December 3rd at 11:30 o'clock in the Grand Ballroom Suite at Hotel Pierre.

Your Resolution

If you have not already done so, we suggest that you make your reservation at once by sending your check of \$15 made out to the Women's League of the WSIS, to Mrs. Moses Langer, Treasurer Luncheon c/o WSIS, 122 West 76th Street.

Sunday Evening

Promptly at 8:15 P.M.

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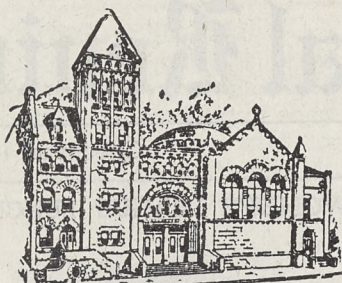
— and —

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WEST SIDE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

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Rabbi H. S. Goldstein Editor
Lester A. Lazarus.....Ass't. Editor
Morris Jablow Managing Editor

ARMISTICE DAY AND RELIGION

Armistice Day represents perhaps the greatest message of religion, namely that of Peace. In the closing Mishnah of the Talmud we read, "The Holy One Blessed be He, found no vessel that could hold Israel's blessing excepting peace."

The way to attain peace is to secure it at first in our personal dealings. When husband or wife have a chip on their shoulder, when one person loses his temper with another, when each and every one of us is anxious to tell our neighbor "where he gets off," we then make the ultimate goal of universal peace a far-off realization. We cannot have peace in the four corners of the world unless we maintain peace in our own corner.

The Prophet Jeremiah declared, "People speak of peace, peace, and there is no peace." Beginning with our diplomats who as the Psalmist put it, have "lofty thoughts in their throats but a double-edged sword in their hand" and culminating with the little boy who imitates his parent in "getting even," with some other member of Society. The Rabbis say that one of the appellations of G-d is Peace. When we weaken peace we profane His name.



263rd COMMANDMENT

The Law Concerning the Defilement of the Priests

By Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein

I

"Whatever comes near, or is presented, to G-d must be in good condition. Priests, therefore, must be free from physical defects or ceremonial impurity.

The ideal of holiness, as expounded in the previous chapters, was intended for the whole Community of Israel. But since the priests were closely and constantly associated with the ritual of the Sanctuary, special laws were instituted for them and a higher standard was demanded."

All priests may not come in contact with a dead body, however, an exception is made in regard to one's near relatives, then all but the High

"AS
R'CHASH
SEES
IT"

Priest may come in contact with the dead person as we read in Leviticus, Chapter 21, Verses 1, 2, 3 and 4. "The L-d said unto Moses speak unto the Priests, the sons of Aaron and say unto them, there shall none be defiled for the dead among his people. But for his kin that is near unto him (his wife), that is for his mother, and for his father, and for his son, and daughter, and for his brother, and his sister, a virgin that is nigh unto him which hath had no husband; for her may he be defiled."

Every idolatrous religion finds its origin in the veneration of a dead person. Pagan and other cults have a corpse as the center of their worship. Thus a grave is frequently found as the shrine for the worshipping pilgrim and nearly every house of worship is an annex of a graveyard. Judaism, as a living religion serves and worships only the living G-d. Judaism, as we have it here, in no doubtful terms, prohibited its priests not only from coming into contact with, but also from being within, four cubits of or in the house of a dead person. If the "the priests" violated this law they become defiled and were for a time disqualified from serving and ministering in the Tabernacle or Temple.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF JUDAISM

(Continued from Page 1)

said, "I see myself compelled to ask the Jews. He then invited a rabbi and asked him about his beliefs. The Rabbi, unlike the Christian and Mohammedan, began his argument with statements of historic facts and not with "an enunciation of speculative creeds, metaphysical doctrines and Theological doctrines. The Rabbi said, (Pool, Jehuda Halevi's Defense of His Faith, page 7).

"I believe in the G-d of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, who led the children of Israel out of Egypt, who confirmed His law by promises to the observant, and threats to the disobedient. Our belief is comprised in the Torah."

Now shouldst thou, O Jew, not have said that thou believest in the Creator of the world, its Governor and Guide, and in Him who created and keeps thee.

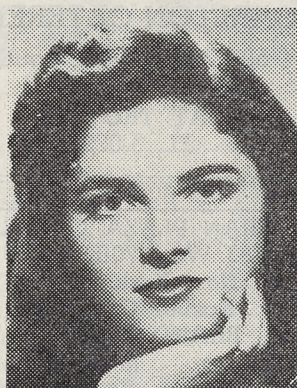
The Rabbi answered, that which thou dost express is religion based on speculation and system, the research of thought, but open to many doubts. Now ask the philosophers,

and thou wilt find that they do not agree on one action or one principle, since some doctrines can be established by arguments, which are only partially satisfactory, and still much less capable of being proved. The King then said, That which thou sayest now, O Jew, seems to be more to the point than the beginning, and I should like to hear more."

Finally having received a more detailed explanation by the rabbi of the Jewish religion, the King and the people of his province in Southern Russia as history has it, were converted to Judaism. I have reported this story at length to show that Judaism is fundamentally based upon history and law. The Rabbis speaking of the sceptics say in the name of G-d

"Would that they would leave Me alone, but that they should observe My Torah, the enlightenment one garners from the Torah brings one back again to a noble life." Yerushalmi Hagiga, Chapter I Halacha 7 and Pesichta of Lamentations Rabba.)

OUR JUNIOR WOMEN'S LEAGUE

**Mrs. Mac Cohen, Program Chairman**

Mrs. Edward Weinstein, president of our Junior Women's League invites all the young married women of the congregation to attend the very interesting meeting which has been planned for Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 12th, at 1:30 o'clock, at our building.

Mrs. Mac Cohen, Program Chairman has arranged for Mrs. Elizabeth K. Fink, of the Child Study Association to discuss the subject, "Do we really enjoy our little children?" Questions will be answered by the speaker.

A Social Hour will follow the meeting.

LAYMAN'S INSTITUTE

Classes of the Layman's Institute will begin shortly. Therefore, all are requested to complete their registration as soon as possible by mail or phone.

List of Courses

1. What is Judaism?
(Monday—8:30 P.M.)
2. Beginners Hebrew.
(Thursday—8:00 P.M.)
3. Intermediate Hebrew.
(Thursday—9:00 P.M.)
4. Advanced Hebrew.
(Thursday—8:00 P.M.)
5. The Ethical contribution of Jews and Judaism to the World.
(Wednesday—8:00 P.M.)
6. The Basic Foundations of Jew-

WEEKLY PRAYER SCHEDULE

Light Candles Friday Evening ... 4:25
Weekly Portion: Vayerah
Friday Evening Service 4:30
Saturday Morning Service 9:00
Junior Congregation 10:00
Rabbi Hurwitz's
Talmud Class 3:30
Mr. Isaac Allen's
Talmud Class 3:30
Mincha Service 4:30
Reader of Torah: Kurt Stern
Reader of Service: Jack Verschleiser
Speaker: Arnold Oshrin
The Sabbath Terminates 5:10
Sunday morning Service ... 6:45, 8:45
Daily Services:
Mornings 6:45, 8:00, 8:30
Mincha 3:35
Followed by the Explanation
of the Shulchan Aruch
by Rabbi Goldstein

CONDOLENCE

We extend our sympathies to the family of our esteemed member

Julius Hyman

who has been called to the great beyond.



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(Wednesday—9:00 P.M.)

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ADDITIONAL DONORS TO THE SHEMINI AZERES APPEAL

Our people are responding generously as a result of the appeal in our Synagogue on behalf of Vaad Hat-zala and Agudas Israel, Refugee and Immigration Division. The following have sent their donations since last week:

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Aronauer, Mrs. M. Bergman, Mrs. C. Bermann, Elias Bloomgarden, Albert Blumberg, Mrs. E. Buchalter, M. J. Davidson, Mrs. Fred H. Diamond, Abraham Dresner, Bernard Dressler, A. M. Druckman, Mr. and Mrs. B. Eig, Mortimer H. Epstein, Wm. Etra, Mrs. Rose Fisher, Gabriel Goldstein, A. Warren Gross, Samuel Heyman, Sam Horowitz, Harold Kaplan, Henry Kaufman, Bernard Lax, Mrs. Jules J. Leff, Mrs. Zelda Light, Mrs. Joseph Lillian, Mrs. Elias Merkin, Ben Meyers, B. Nemeroff, Louis Nieweg, Rudolph Ornstein, Mrs. Tillie Rosenthal, Isaac Saldinger, H. I. Schacter, Morris Segerman, Joseph Settel, Jacob H. Silverstein, Jack Wolf.

CHEVRA KADISHA

In view of the fact that the Congregation has a cemetery now, it is necessary to organize a Chevra Kadisha according to our traditions. Rabbi Goldstein is calling the first meeting which will take place in our building on Monday night, please G-d, Nov. 11th at 8 o'clock. All those interested kindly attend.

GETTING PERSONAL

Rabbi Hurwitz had better watch out. While he was away Herman Levine took charge of the daily services. He did a wonderful job, and we want to thank him. . . . Our dear member Joe Newman is ill, and we wish him a speedy recovery. . . . Morty Langer was missed from the Social Department this weekend due to his trip to Boston, but he's back with us now, and we're very happy about that. . . . This week our birthday greetings go to David A. Buchsbaum, Sylvia Livingston Bernstein, Harold Kaplan, Eugene Bergman, Mrs. Julius Rosan, Jerry Kamerman, Mrs. S. W. Siegel, Barbara Allen — daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hyman Feld, Jules Cohen, Buddy Frankel, Our director, Moe Langer, Ira Millstein, Nathan Kirsh, Henry Kaufman, Deborah Jane Goldstein, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Simeon H. F. Goldstein. . . . Our Wedding Anniversary greetings go to Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Weiss, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Weissberger, Mr. and Mrs. Sol Straussberg, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wohl, Mr. and Mrs. Lou Bernstein, and Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Rauch. . . . One of our young men shines in the limelight again. Gabriel Goldstein has had the honor of having his article, "The application of Plastics to Textiles", published in the magazine "Plastics." . . . We want to welcome back to the Congregation Mr. and Mrs. Edward Schraub who have just returned from their honeymoon. . . . Rabbi Hurwitz still being away from the Synagogue this past Shabbos, Jason Jacobowitz took his place. As a pinch hitter, on only a days notice, he deserves a lot of credit for the excellent manner in which he read the Sedrah. . . . A. L. Bayer has gone back to the land of oranges and sunshine, California. We were very sorry to see him go. . . . We are very proud of the fact that we have already received over \$6,000.00 of the \$10,000.00 that was pledged at our Shemini Azeres appeal for Food for Europe. For the last couple of weeks we have been printing the names of those good people who sent in their donations. Was your name there? . . . We just received a package of clothes from Mrs. A. Schwadron to be sent to those in Europe who are in need of them. We'd like to thank her very much, and we'd like to remind those of you who may have forgotten, that your clothes which you can spare, they can wear.

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