

West Side Institutional Review

Vol. X, No. 11

Friday, November 22, 1946

Cheshvan 28, 5707

P'R'D'S

Rabbi Solomon Wind

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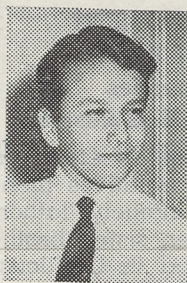
The Pentateuch is the Book of Revealed law and does not contain any mysticism. "The Torah is not in heaven. . . . The secret things belong unto the L--d, our G-d, but the things that are revealed belong unto us and to our children forever" (Deut. 29:28).

However, a deeper perusal of the Pentateuch leads to a reasonable assumption of the existence of a great Unknown. For example, G-d revealing Himself to Moses by the name, I AM THAT I AM, or His statement, "and thou shalt see My back, but My face shall not be seen" are not clear to the plain sense. So are some of the punishments prescribed for violation of certain laws not clear to simple logic. If the Sabbath was ordained for reasons of rest (Deut. 5:16) or for remembrance of the Sabbath of creation (Ev. 20:11) why should work on the Sabbath be punished by death? Or if the reason for Matzoh on Passover is to remember our hasty departure from Egypt why should the eating of Chometz be punishable by Koras (extinction)?

Evidently we touch here upon the boundary of the Unknown. Ezra, who is regarded by our sages next to Moses, resorted to exposition. "They read in the Law, distinctly and then gave the sense" (Neh. 8:8). In the period succeeding Ezra, many facets of the Law were hinted at "Open Thou Mine eyes that I may behold the wondrous things out of Thy law" (Ps. 119:18). According to a Midrash, there are 70 facets to the Torah corresponding to the alleged 70 languages prevailing in the world. The search for hidden meanings finally boiled down to four designed by the word P'R'D'S (an orchard) the initial letters of which stand for Peshat — the plain and simple meaning, Remez — the symbolic and allegoric meaning, D'rash — exegetical and expository, and Sohd — the mystic meaning.

These four methods, originally four separate methods emanating from and leading to the same source of truth, were adopted in the course

DOUBLE BAR MITZVAH THIS WEEK



Lionel M. Lober Richard Goldstein

We extend our heartiest congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Goldstein upon the Bar Mitzvah of their son Richard, and to Mr. and Mrs. Louis Lober upon the Bar Mitzvah of their son Lionel, which will be held this Shabbus in our Synagogue.

JUNIOR CONGREGATION MEETS

Once again the Junior Congregation is attracting the young boys and girls of the W.S.I.S. Under the guidance of Morty Cohen, the services are conducted by the members, who read the prayers and tell the story of the Sedrah each week. Leo Lax, the President of J.C., has announced that refreshments will be served to all those who attend Saturday mornings at 10 sharp.

IN MEMORIAM

The Congregation has suffered a severe loss in the passing of our beloved director,

WILLIAM ETRA

His simplicity and his humility endeared him to all who knew him. He practised to the full the Commandment to honor one's parents.

He loved to do good without telling the world about it. He was a man who craved to give large sums of money without seeking immediate returns in glory. He had implicit faith in our Heavenly Father and was contented with the thought that he would receive his reward from G-d and not from man. His exemplary life should serve as an inspiration to all of us.

We extend our heartfelt sympathies to the members of his family. May the Holy One, Blessed Be He, send them the balm of His healing comfort.

ADDITIONAL DONORS TO THE SHEMINI ATZERES APPEAL

Many more responses to the appeal for the European Jews.

We are happy to report the receipt of \$1000.00 additional moneys for the appeal on behalf of Vaad Hatzala and Immigration Division of Agudas Israel made in our Synagogue on Shemini Atzeres.

We received donations from the following: Maurice L. Barnett, William Basser, Sol Bellsey, S. Dinn, Emanuel Fine, Mrs. Esther Friedman, S. Fuchs, Leon Herman, Morris Jablow, S. Joseph, Joseph Rosenberg, Solomon Silk.

If you have not yet contributed, please send in your donations without delay. Make checks payable to West Side Institutional Synagogue Relief Fund, and forward to us.

MEN'S CLUB

Meeting to be held Monday night, November 25, 1946, at 8:30 P. M. Matters of great interest to be presented at the meeting. Refreshments will be served.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE ANNUAL MUSICALE AND LUNCHEON

Only two weeks more and the Women's League Annual Musicale and Luncheon will be held in the grand ballroom suite of Pierre's on Tuesday, December 3rd at 11:30 o'clock.

Meeting and Bible Class

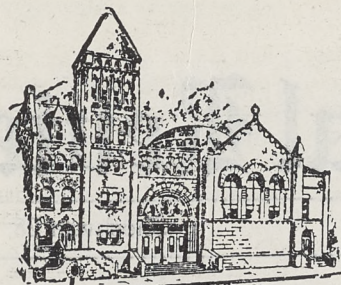
A regular meeting of our Women's League and Session of Rabbi Goldstein's Bible Class will be held on Monday afternoon, November 25th at two o'clock at our building. At the social hour, following the meeting, the hostesses will be Mrs. Leopold Hirsch and Mrs. Morris Levinson.

All the women of the congregation and their friends are cordially invited to attend.

BLUE N' WHITE PRESENTS its

ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL

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8:30 P.M. (Sat. Nite) Social Hall
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WEST SIDE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

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Vol. X, No. 11 November 22, 1946

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

— THANKSGIVING — GIVE IT A THOUGHT

This Thursday all Americans should celebrate Thanksgiving Day. To give thanks should be a natural endowment of our nature. Gratitude is not a virtue; it is a debt that we owe to the one who has served us for good in any way. Gratitude unfortunately is generally found **only** in the dictionary. People think they have discharged their debt by saying, "Thank you." "He who receives a good turn should **never** forget it; he who does one, should never remember it."

On Thanksgiving Day let us get into the habit of sitting down and writing a letter of thanks to some people to whom we are indebted. Let all of us also take time out on Thanksgiving Day and be prompted to come closer to G-d for the many blessings He has bestowed upon us. We can count the number of our woes on the fingers of one hand but His blessings are manifold. Many of us are constantly grouchy, griping and fault-finding. It would be well that we get off **Grumbling Street**, and walk on **Thanksgiving Avenue**.



264th COMMANDMENT Defilement of Priests To Their Families

By Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein

The Priests must defile themselves unto the seven near relatives mentioned in the Torah, namely, father, mother, son, daughter, sister, brother or wife. We read in Leviticus, Chapter 21, Verse 3, "For her **may** he defile himself." It would appear superficially that this is an optional matter. However, the Rabbis in the Sifra, the Tannitic Commentary of the Book of Leviticus added the word מצורה "It is a command," and not an optional matter. Here again we see that without the Talmud, we do not understand the Bible. As a matter of fact, if a Priest would not want to defile himself un-

"AS
R'CHASH
SEES
IT"

to one of his dead relatives, he would be forced to do so. Maimonides points out that from this Biblical law, we derive the commandment concerning mourning, namely, that every Israelite is obliged to be in mourning for his seven near relatives. On Holidays, the laws of Shiva are suspended because the joy of all Israel annuls the commandment for the mourning of the individual. Rosh Hashonah and Yom Kippur are considered the same as Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles, in regard to mourning.

The purpose of the commandment concerning mourning is to impress upon the individual the lessons of life. Man is moved by practices more than by abstractions. The ceremonies leave their indelible imprint and have tremendous value for finer spiritual living. All the ceremonies during the period of mourning cause us to search our ways and improve our moral and religious living. It has been our experience that men and women during the period of mourning do return to the Synagogue, increase their interests in communal efforts and add to their charitable contributions, all in all, elevating themselves to better and holier living.

PR'D'S

(Continued from Page 1)

of history by four conflicting parties.

The Sadducees adopted the Peshat method. They read the law literally and dismissed the Oral Law and whatever mystic notions that may be appended to the written word. The Pharisees adopted the method of "Drash" exegesis. They have supplemented and complemented the written law by the great body of the Oral Law which was given to Moses on Sinai, and in their method of exegesis they employed definite rules of exegesis, like the 7 rules of Hillel or the 13 principles of R' Ishmael.

The Pharisees and Sadducees were in violent conflict until the former prevailed and the Oral Law became the law of the people. The Pharisees, though expanding the Revealed Law by definite methods of exegesis, did not delve into mysteries and discouraged the research in that direction.

The methods of "Remez" and "Sohd" — "allegorism" and "eso-

tericism" — became the province of Alexandrian Jewry and the Essenes in Palestine, respectively. The Alexandrian Jews spoke Greek and were nursed in Greek philosophy, and allegory was the means of harmonizing The Torah with it. The Torah became a garb, clothing Platonic concepts. Abraham and Sarah were symbols of matter and mind. The twelve tribes of Israel were symbols of the 12 signs of the Zodiac. The four kings who fought with the five kings (Gen. 14) were symbols of the four elements out of which the universe was fashioned and the five senses in the human body et cetera. It stands to reason that if Biblical law is only a symbol of a philosophic concept its observance is not essential once the concept is comprehended. There prevailed therefore at Alexandria a laxity of observance of the law.

The Essenes in Palestine were mystics. They searched for the esoteric content of the Law and delved much into the mysteries of the Divine Name. They were a small minority who escaped the turmoil of the world and lived a life of piety and rigorous asceticism.

(Concluded next week)

THIS WEEK IN THE SOCIAL DEPARTMENT

SATURDAY

"Detinu" — 8:30 P. M. — Council Room: A Social Group for boys and girls between the ages of 13 and 16.

"Fall Dance" — 8:30 P. M. — Social Hall: Come! Have a wonderful time at the FALL FROLIC of the Blue N' White Club.

SUNDAY

"Blue N' White" — 2:30 P. M. — Council Room: Young men and women between the ages of 17 and 21. Recouperating from their dance of Saturday they will hold a quiet meeting this week.

"613" — 2:30 P. M. — Young men and women over the ages of 21. This week features a roller and ice skating party, with dinner together afterwards. Meet in front of the Synagogue at 2:00 P. M.

"Open House" — 8:15 P. M. — Social Hall: This week features movie night (see Page Four).

MONDAY

"Monday Night Forums" — 8:00 P. M. — Daily Synagogue: The whole congregation is invited to participate in Rabbi Goldstein's Bible Class.

LAYMAN'S INSTITUTE

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

List of Courses

1. What is Orthodox Judaism? (Monday, 8:30 P. M.)
2. The Ethical Contribution of the Jews, and Judaism to the World (Wednesday, 8:00 P. M.)
3. The Basic Foundations of Jewish Life as Revealed in the Mishnah. (Wednesday, 9:00 P. M.)
4. Beginners Hebrew. (Thursday, 8:30 P. M.)
5. Intermediate Hebrew. (Thursday, 8:30 P. M.)
6. Advanced Hebrew (Thursday, 8:30 P. M.)

WEEKLY PRAYER SCHEDULE

Light Candles Fri. Eve.....4:14 P. M.

Weekly Portion: Toledos

BLESSINGS FOR THE NEW MOON

Friday Evening Service4:25 P. M.

Junior Congregation10:00 A. M.

Rabbi Hurwitz's

Talmud Class3:20 P. M.

Mr. Isaac Allen's

Talmud Class3:20 P. M.

Mincha Service4:20 P. M.

Reader of Torah: Jean Paul Weil

Reader of Service: Jason Jacobowitz

Speaker: Ralph Kestenbaum

The Sabbath Terminates.....5:00 P. M.

Sunday morning Service

(Rosh Chodesh)6:45, 8:30 A. M.

DAILY SERVICES:

Mornings6:45, 8:00, 8:30 A. M.

Thanksgiving Day 6:45, 8:30 A. M.

Mincha4:25 P. M.

Followed by the Explanation
of the Shulchan Aruch
by Rabbi Goldstein

OUR LIBRARY

More books are needed for our library.

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CHATS ABOUT W. S. I. S.

By Morris Jablow

I earnestly recommend that you, our readers, read and carefully digest the following conversation faithfully reproduced.

"The Laymen's Institute courses at the WSIS. is doing a swell job in more ways than one. These courses afford one the opportunity to learn Hebrew, elementary, intermediate, or advanced, and in addition one can grasp the deeper significance of our religion by listening to the courses upon the Ethical contributions of Jews and Judaism to world progress, and the Basic Foundations of Jewish Life as revealed in Rabbinic Works."

"There is still another reason for taking up these studies. I find that by acquiring an intelligent comprehension and a wider knowledge of our religion and history, my morale is uplifted. Because of my broader understanding, I feel more prepared to combat the wave of anti-semitism now sweeping this country. I feel proud of my heritage and of my people. I wish every Jew would take advantage of these courses."

Perhaps after reading these utterances you will find a responsive chord within you to take advantage of our courses. If you do, telephone our office for full details.



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GETTING PERSONAL

First of all, this week, we would like to extend a hearty welcome to the new Women's League Treasurer, Mrs. Walter Freeman. . . . At the same time we would like to give a special vote of thanks and appreciation to Mrs. Meyer L. Pargement who is retiring as Treasurer of our Women's League after many years of faithful and devoted service. . . . Flash! The Stork is here again. Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Tulle Gische upon the birth of a son. Congratulations go also to the proud grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Gische. . . . Last week at the Synagogue we had a very splendid meeting of the parents of the children attending the Talmud Torahs and Yeshiva of our neighborhood. The excellence of the meeting was in a large part due to the efforts of Mr. Jacob Kaplan, and we would like to thank him. The members of our Women's League acted as hostesses, Mrs. Saul Bergman, Mrs. Herbert S. Goldstein, Mrs. Maurice Greenstein, Mrs. Harold Kaplan, Mrs. Jacob Kaplan and Mrs. Jules Shaftan. Also to be thanked for their efforts in making the meeting a success are Mr. Saul Bergman and Mr. Jules Shaftan. . . . Another one of the young men of the Congregation leaves the ranks of bachelorhood. Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Schweitzer, upon the engagement of their son Nathan, Jr. to Ava Joseph. . . . This week our birthday greetings go to Joseph Buchsbaum, William Label grandson of Gustave Roth, Morris Levine, Jacob Kaplan, Mrs. M. Bergman, and Samuel Cohen who was 76 this week. . . . Our Wedding Anniversary Greetings go to our own Mollie and Dave Gertz and Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Rauch who celebrated their 52nd Anniversary this week. . . . Have you registered for the Layman's Institute as yet? . . . Congratulations to Al H. Cohen who is doing a fine job supervising the Scouts sponsored by the W.S.I.S.

**Sunday Evening —
Promptly at 8:15 P.M.**

THE PRISONER OF ZENDA

with Ronald Colman,
Madeleine Carroll, Mary Astor,
Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., David Niven
and Raymond Massey

—and—

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