

West Side Institutional Review

Vol. XI, No. 3

Friday, September 26, 1947

Tishri, 12, 5708

FAITH AND REASON

"The Thirteen Principles of Faith"
By Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein

V

"I believe with Perfect Faith that the Creator, Blessed be His Name, it is right to pray,—and that it is not right to pray to any being besides Him."

C

The conviction of all believers in prayer is that they are speaking to One who hears and cares for them. This is one of the strongest evidences that the quest for G-d is real. When one prays to G-d, it is, as the Rabbis put it, "Like a man who talks into the ear of his friend."

The seeming incongruity of the two principles, G-d's immutability and man's hope for mercy and pardon from G-d, has to some extent occupied the attention of our Sages. "If our condition for a whole year is determined in advance, what is the good of daily supplication for G-d's help in times of trouble?" Such is the question asked in the Talmud, Rosh Ha-shanah (16a), and the answer is given,

יפה צעקה קודם גזירה ואחר גזירה

"Prayer is of good effect both before the decree and afterwards". It is always in the power and in the will of the Almighty to accede to our petition and to fulfill our wishes.

Whilst, however, insisting on the belief in the efficacy of prayer, our Sages teach us that it would be wrong to expect that every petition uttered before G-d must be granted. We pray to the Almighty, being convinced that it is in His power to grant what we pray for; but we must trust in the wisdom and mercy of G-d, that the rejection of our petition is also for good.

"At times we get discouraged and seem to think that G-d is angry, and does not answer our prayers. We have asked for money, for success, for strength, and yet we have not been blessed with any of these things. G-d may show His kindness to us, my friends, in denying us some of the things for which we prayed and longed. But just as the parent does not and should not fulfill every wish of the child, so does the Omniscient, the All-wise G-d, deny us for our own good,

(Cont. on page 2)

THE SUCCAH



TABERNACLES

MONDAY AND TUESDAY

With the advent of Succos begins a festive period for the Jews which complements the solemn period of the High Holy Days. Succos is the last of the three "Regawlim," "pilgrimage" festivals to Jerusalem. It took place during the final harvest of the year and was celebrated in a thanksgiving spirit. Thus Succos is called Chag-Ha'asif, Feast of In-gathering. It has been known as the most joyous of all the religious holidays on our calendar.

The Succah

The Succah recalls the "Clouds of Glory" that shielded the Israelites during their forty years journey in the Wilderness, on their way to the Promised Land.

It is symbolic of our personal and national existence — indicating that with G-d's protection we are safe in the course of our sojourn in this world.

When abiding in the Succah, we should have in mind G-d's commandment: "So that your generations may know that I made the children of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them forth from the land of Egypt". Thus our principal abode should be the Succah during the Feast of Tabernacles. The Succah should be adorned by fineries and decorated in a holiday spirit.

The Lulav and Ethrog

There are many symbolic meanings attributed to the waving of the Lulav, Ethrog, Hadassim, and Aravos, the "four species," which convey the ideals of Judaism, such as faith in G-d, gratitude, and unity.

Besides making the blessing over the Lulav, everyone who is able to, should purchase his own, in order to participate in its waving, during the Hallel and Hakafoth procession in the Synagogue.

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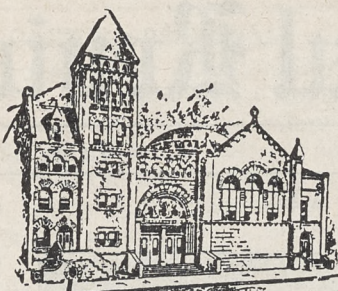
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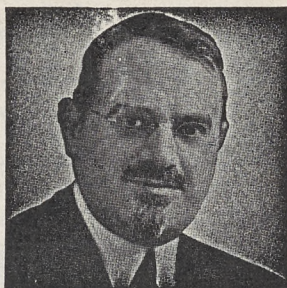
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Rabbi H. S. GoldsteinEditor
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UNITED NATION'S WEEK

The United Nations is mankind's hope for peace and security. The United Nations problem is to bring together the leaders of the nations and to have them jointly help to preserve, order and amity in the world. The fundamental defect of the United Nations is that it is overwhelmingly a political organization not undergirded by spiritual motives. The United Nations, if it is to succeed, must adopt a spiritual platform recognizing the catholicity of mankind through the universal Fatherhood of G-d and the common Brotherhood of Man. We should remember the words of the prophet Malachi, "Have we not all one Father? Hath not G-d created us all? Why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother?" (Malachi 2:10)

Whether man be by color, black or white, yellow or brown or by Nation, — Arab or Jewish, English or Russian, must not be the measuring-rod of Justice. The spiritual outlook upon the world, on the part of mankind's representatives will either make or break the United Nations.



295th COMMANDMENT We Should Restrain Ourselves From Profaning G-d's Name By Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein

II

Maimonides divides his commandment into three parts. The first two parts are general, the third is "ad hominem". The first refers to the person who is prevailed upon in times of trouble or persecution to transgress a commandment or one who in normal times, is asked to transgress the following three commandments, "not to worship idols, not to commit moral incest, not to commit murder". He is obliged to give up his life if need be and not to transgress. If he does not, his sin is very great but he is not punished with stripes. The punishment may be excision, a heavenly punishment, but not one inflicted by man, because his sin came perforce. We never inflict physical punishment unless the person commit-

(Cont. from page 1)

some of our petitions. The poet put it, "Not what we wish, but what we need. Oh, let Thy grace supply, the good unasked, in mercy grant; the ill, though asked, deny."

Do not make thy prayer a fixed claim or demand, which must be fulfilled, but a supplication for mercy, which may or may not be granted".

The history of King Ahab shows that the evil decreed against any sinner takes no effect if the sinner repents and is turned into another man. It is as the secular philosopher put it, that Philip who was drunk is now sober. In other words, Philip sober is a different person than the man Philip drunk. For the new being Philip sober there is no evil decree.

The change that takes place in man himself is the direct effect of prayer; it prepares and qualifies him for receiving benefits and protection from evil. (See Rabbi Joseph Albo in his Philosophical Book "Ikkarim" 4:16).

"AS
R'CHASH
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ted the wrong purposefully, willingly, in the presence of witnesses, and was warned not to break the commandment lest he be punished.

The second aspect of this commandment is that when one breaks the law and derives no pleasure or use therefrom, he does it simply "to taunt" the L—d.

A beautiful story is told about Rabbi Israel Salanter who on Tisha B'Av said to one who was eating, "A Guten appetit". They asked the Rabbi, "Why did you tell the man to enjoy his food while he was transgressing the commandment?" The Rabbi answered, "If he broke the commandment for his own pleasure, it was only a nominal sin namely, not to eat on Tisha B'Av. It is not of the same magnitude as the one who breaks the commandment spitefully, — "to taunt" the L—d." In this story we must be struck with the great love of our rabbis for Israel, even when it sins.

The third aspect is where the individual per se is involved, because of his high standing. Take for instance, one who is known for his charity and good deeds, but does something which appears to be wrong to the people although it is legally correct. It may be correct, but it is not right. Such a man would be guilty of transgressing our commandment, namely, of profaning G-d's name.

YIZKOR SERVICES

On Sh'mini Atzeres, Monday, October 6th, Yizkor services will be recited at our Synagogue in memory of our departed ones. Please fill out the form below and mail to us.

I hereby request you to offer the Memorial Prayer

for my

whose name is

and I herewith donate

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WOMEN'S LEAGUE SUCCOS TEA

Outstanding Guest Speaker

On Wednesday afternoon, October 1st, at two o'clock, our Women's League will give a Tea, to all the women of the Congregation and their friends, in our beautiful Succah.

The program of the afternoon will include a review of a very recent novel of modern Palestine, entitled, "My Father's House", written by Meyer Levin.

That dynamic and outstanding lecturer and analyst, Gertrude Lyttle Friedman, will not only discuss this very interesting and timely book but she will also high-light other current outstanding fiction. Some treat!

Our own Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein will bring us a Succah message and our President, Mrs. Maurice Greenstein will preside.

In accordance with their annual custom, Mrs. Annie Eisenberg and Mrs. Meyer Pargament will be the hostesses at the Social Hour which will follow the program.

REMINDERS TO PARENTS

Our Talmud Torah is accepting new pupils every day. Please come afternoons from 4 to 6 or phone our principal, Rabbi Reichel, TR 7-8281, if you wish any advice regarding your child's religious school problem.

Apropos the forthcoming Succos Holidays, we urgently call on parents to discourage their children from attending public school on our Festivals.

In keeping with the spirit and the law of our Festivals, our young people should be encouraged to participate in Congregational Services and to spend their days in a Yom Tov atmosphere.

Last week for registration for our daily afternoon kindergarten.

PRAYER SCHEDULE

Light Candles Friday Evening .6:33
 Weekly Portion—Ha'azinu
 Friday Mincha6:30
 Saturday Morning9:00
 Rabbi Hurwitz's Talmud Class .5:45
 Mr. Isaac Allen's Talmud Class .5:45
 Mincha Service6:45
 The Sabbath Terminates7:21
 Sunday Morning Services .6:45, 8:45
 Sunday: Erev Succos
 Sunday Evening Mincha5:30
 Monday Morning9:00
 Monday Evening Mincha5:30
 Tuesday Morning9:00
 Rabbi Hurwitz's Talmud Class .4:35
 Mr. Isaac Allen's Talmud Class .4:35
 Tuesday Evening Mincha5:35
CHOL HAMOED SUCCOS
 Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
 mornings, 6:30, 7:30, 8:00
 Mincha5:30

CONDOLENCES

Our heartfelt sympathy to our member Dr. David Beilock upon the loss of his mother

MRS. SARAH BEILOCK

to the Grossman family on the passing of

ELIAS GROSSMAN

and to our member, Mrs. Joseph Siegel upon the loss of her husband

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WELCOME TO OUR SUCCAH

No effort is being spared by our very capable and conscientious Succah Committee to make our Succah, this year, the most attractive one we have ever had and to make our hospitality the warmest our congregation has ever enjoyed.

We are particularly indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Ben Wiener who are the leading spirits of the Succah Committee. It is largely through their generosity and their wholehearted attention to this project that the rest of us will be able to point, with justifiable pride, to OUR W.S.I.S. Succah.

Mrs. Harry Ward (following in the footsteps of her noble mother, of blessed memory), is Chairman of the Committee, Mrs. Ben K. Eisenberg and Mrs. Ben Wiener are her co-Chairmen.

Contributions for the Succah Fund may be left at the Synagogue office.

Have you made your reservations for Succos meals yet?

Our Social Department has resumed its activities on Sunday, Sept. 21, under the leadership of Mr. Samuel Weiss. His office is open evenings, from 7:30 to 9:30, and Sundays from 2 to 5 P.M.

GETTING PERSONAL

Our blessings attend Maurice Spanbock, as he enters Harvard Law School. We are sure, he will shed luster upon his religious Alma Mater, the W. S. I. S. The same holds good for Ralph Kestenbaum who has left for Trinity College and for Allen Mirken who has gone to Colby. Heartiest Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Herman Herring and to our Director and Mrs. Jacob Kaplan upon their wedding anniversaries. May they have many simchas in their respective families. By the way, Mr. Jacob Kaplan is doing exemplary, pioneering work at the helm of the Committee on Orthodox Jewish Education of the West Side. He would like some volunteers, from our Synagogue, interested in Jewish education, to join him. Our best wishes for a speedy recovery to Joe Kraeler. . . Good luck to Gus Rubenstein who left for overseas after Rosh Hashonah. . . Did you notice, as we did, how Harry Appel's usual beaming smile radiates cheerfulness? . . . We are happy to learn that Mrs. Herbert Gossett shows signs of improvement. . . we heartily welcome as new members: —

Sol Brandes, Miss Diane Fishman, Jacob Fruchter, Samson Gordon, Harry Rich, Ira J. Shapiro, Leon Shapiro, Nathan Stern, Herman Tauber, Moritz Werblowsky, Abraham Wiznitzer. . . Have our young people been over to see Mr. Samuel Weiss, our new social director? He has plans to meet every interest.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Millstein upon the engagement of their son, Ira. . . Glad to see Max E. Sanders back in our midst. . . There can be no doubt as to his devotion to the W. S. I. S. On the first day after his recent vacation, he spent a few hours in his office downtown and then came directly up to the Synagogue to see how things were getting along there. . . . Have you heard that Marvin R. Livingston, son of our Director and Mrs. George L. Livingston has joined the firm of Francis I. du Pont and Co? . . . Happy Birthday greetings to our beloved president, Lester Udell, Gabriel F. Goldstein, Judith Neustadter, Ira Bruce Tumpowsky, and Judith Bernstein. . . not forgetting Fella I. Dym. . . Our own Tillie Lewton is really becoming prominent on the campus. She has been elected President of the Intercollegiate Zionist Federation and Secretary of its Regional Chapter.

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