"Maimonides: The Book of Knowledge"

1st Lecture — 10/29/68

Theory of ~~the~~ Golden Mean

הל' דעות - פ״א

I. Brief Biographical Introduction
(① attached)

II. The [illegible] (= [illegible])
The [illegible] (= communication)

III. הל' דעות

a) [illegible] list of 11 דעות for Hegemon

b) [illegible] - based on [illegible]
(imaginative imitation)
but in order imitate character of G-d - need to know it.
So: דעות = knowledge ≅ character [disposition]

IV. [illegible] - Aristotelian Ethics - & J. ethics coincide.

V. [illegible] - Orally: source of דעות
a) every דעות has 2 extremes & middle way
b) These דעות have 5 origins.
1. naturally pre-exist
2. " pre-disposed
3. environmentally acquired } man as determined
4. self-motivated to acquire
5. learned from [illegible] } man as free

VI - ה"ג - usually: extremes are not good; if find self inclined thereto - must consciously turn to golden mean [i.e. - #4+5 above]

VII. פ"ג. Rend. M. Thm:

1. Natural [illegible] (first 3 of פ"ב) - almost never in exact middle (just like no straight lines in nature)
So if find exact middle - sign of חכם, שלם -
hence: ונקרא בו חכם בכל המדות

2. RB: extremes = necessity; middle = freedom

3. Thus, M's philos. of character is a celebration of [illegible] accords w. M on [illegible]
So: JB on [illegible] - [illegible]

VIII. פ"ד - Rend from Hyamson

idea of [illegible] no [illegible]

1. So: before = חכמה; now: חסידות
2. Which extreme? - ego-limiting / expanding
3. חסיד does NOT include חכם. First, must make conscious intell'l decision as to exact middle - & then deliberately incline towards proper extreme.

[4 - [illegible] - R. Zadok HaKohen - [illegible]
So: חכם ~ [illegible]; חסיד - [illegible]]

IX. ה"ו - [illegible] from that.

A. Questions:

1. where does [illegible] come in to imitation?
2. where find here 2 middle ways - ה"א ו[illegible]?
3. M combine 2 diff't texts: [illegible] / [illegible]
4. last line contradictory: [illegible] ... [illegible]

B. 1. [illegible] = way of [illegible]
2. [illegible] ≃ self-transformation ~ [illegible]
3. Thus M combines both - & the 2 together give us the "ways of G-d"
4. so; last line: [illegible] ~ [illegible]
[illegible]