

October 16, 1963

Rabbi Walter Wurzbarger
840 St. Clair Avenue West
Toronto 10, Ontario, Canada

Dear Walter:

A couple of years ago I wrote a paper, for my own amusement, on "The Holiday of the Exiles" -- a defense of the Orthodox position on "Yom Tov Shen". It has been gathering dust in my files ever since.

Now someone has made available to me the enclosed report which, as I had suspected years ago, was both to appear and ultimately result in the Conservatives accepting the Reform position, and presenting us with a new issue for public controversy.

Unfortunately, with our extremely un-hierarchical structure, we have no central authority to mobilize our forces in advance to meet oncoming problems. I believe, therefore, that especially in this instance, Tradition is best equipped to deal with this matter in a substantive way. If we wait until the issue is broached publicly by the Conservatives, we will then be reduced once again to wild and undignified polemics instead of an intellectually respectable position.

I therefore would like to suggest to you that you arrange, as soon as possible, to set aside a special issue of Tradition treating this topic. I do not mean that no other articles be included; rather, that you have a concentration of material dealing with this theme. I would invite especially historians to analyze it carefully, and then articulate Halakhists to treat it from their point of view and, finally, some intellectual publicistic material to be included as well.

Let me know what you think about the proposal, and please please return the enclosed to me. Also, if you want to see the essay I once wrote, provided I can find it, I shall be glad to mail it on to you.

Sincerely,

RABBI NORMAN LAMM

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