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London E.9.

3.1.73.

My dear Reb Lamm,

Shalom! Greetings from London! I have been home for 3 weeks and back north to Sheffield on the seventh, for another 12 week stint. My first teaching practice was, according to my tutor, a baptism of fire! My school (10-11 yr) was in an Education Priority Area with 40% immigrants.... Many are the tales I could tell you: my experience of what the anthropologists call culture shock-Kar Chabad then Sheffield!! ~~Some~~ *Office* however, one incident which for me is one of the stories of my T.P.

Compromise is an inevitable reality that we, as human beings, living as we do in an as yet unredeemed world, are vulnerable to. Well being the sort of Tzaddik that I am(!) I decided that I would wear my kippa at school even though I was warned by well wishers, as well as members of staff, that I was looking for trouble; did I realize the class I was going to take ect ect... Anyway on the first day, before I took the register I told the class that I would explain why I wear this little black hat at all times. They all accepted it and then one Jamaican girl put up her hand and asked most innocently 'Does that mean Mr Tabor, you are not a catholic!?' I had plenty of other problems but none on this score. It was, in retrospect, more an education for me than them and really a wonderful exercise in coming down to earth, to metazam my thought and speech. I only hope that my next school stint of 8 weeks in an industrial steel area is o.k. I enclose a copy of a letter sent to me by one of the girls in my class. She was a real richtige..... I think it is worth more than a long tutor's recommendation.

Intellectually I have been very stimulated by the academic side of the course. It has given me an opportunity to read about what interests me. I am absolutely fascinated by Piaget's research into the growth of concepts within the child's mind and the vital importance of language both as a means of communication and a tool for intellectual growth. Often I want to shout out: yes, of course! but in this Maamar, this section of Tanya of Derech Mitzvot it explains it better, about Mashava and Peneymiyus Ha dibbur!!

Next September I have a job at Carmel College to teach in the junior school general (essentially English*) studies and help with music-I have taught myself the descant recorder and just about to graduate to Treble. It sounds an exciting challenge. I get on o.k. with the Headmaster-J. Roen-we understand each other... Slowly but surely he is bringing in frumm staff. He has to be careful because of the very nature of the school. Already there is a small Beis Hamedrash complete with 'stenders' where 15 boys go to learn in their free time. An old acquaintance from Gateshead - a big Talmid Chacham - has been appointed to be in charge of Limmud-wonders will never cease. Rav Epstein who is in charge of the J. Studies programme in the junior schools studied in Lakewood. He is very unusual and I am glad I will be working with him p.g. He has a passion for Baroque music, plays all manner of wind instruments constructed his own harpsicord and likes sports and mountaineering! Thus we have much in common. I feel that in this atmosphere I will be able to get down to some solid learning without fears of suffocation-if the Lord is good it should be a great start to the teaching profession!?

* My most successful lessons in teaching were poetry - the magic of words

One of my closest friends, Richard Rosten, is coming to the States very shortly and I wondered whether you would be so kind as to give him a little of your precious time, to talk to him and if possible be of assistance to him?

He is 27, is both a Hazzan and Mechanach. He is head and founder of a revolutionary but solid Talmud Torah which is regarded as a model by the Chief Rabbi. He is tremendously involved with a wide range of youth (12-22 yrs) giving shiurim and counselling ect.. He has made an enormous impact on the London suburb in which he lives.

One of the reasons he is coming to the U.S is to investigate the possibility of taking up a post, either as a Hazzan/Mechanach or two such separate posts. Although he is in contact with certain individuals and agencies he would very much appreciate any ideas and advice you may have to offer.

Another reason for coming is that he wishes to find a wife!! Once you have met him would you be prepared perhaps to suggest an introduction? Unlike in the States, there are far less Jews here, let alone datiyim. The polarization within the community reduces the number of neo orthodox (for want of a better word) to a meagre handful, both male and female. *Y.D. 1835 1135*

In short: I, as a friend of Richard, would be very pleased if you can meet him. He arrives 15.1.73 and he will contact you at the Jewish Centre. I hope that is o.k. He has a little gift from me to your family - I hope you like it.

Well that is all for now in this London epistle. I hope that you and your lovely family are well and that I will hear from you in the not too distant future?

The crazy Fiddler with catholic tastes!
Tison 216 6

P.S. By the way could you possibly get me a copy of your article reviewed recently in Tradition by A Metzger. It is in a volume of essays dedicated to some Rabbi. It deals with your interpretation as to the basic difference between the Alte Rebbe and Nephesh H aChayim. It sounds fascinating.

My Sheffield address until Purim:

4 Hillel House

16 Collegiate Crescent, Sheffield 10, Yorkshire.

Thanks!