

RABBI NORMAN LAMM  
THE JEWISH CENTER  
131 WEST 86TH STREET  
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10024  
SCHUYLER 4-3511

TO:



FROM: Rabbi Norman Lamm

DATE: June 5, 1969

I have considered the problem you presented to me concerning the disinterment and reinterment of one of your parents. The question is rather complicated, and required careful attention, and the following are my conclusions:

Essentially, they are not too far from each other at present, and therefore the greatest preference is for them to remain where they are without any moving.

If, however, you feel very strongly about it, as I gather you do, Jewish law will, in this instance, permit a reinterment. Here again, there are questions of preference and certain conditions which must be observed.

The strongest priority should go to the reinterment of your mother to a grave near your father. If this is to be done, and I repeat, that it is far preferable to the other alternative, please bear the following in mind:

- (1) It should be done after the first anniversary of death, according to the Hebrew calendar.
- (2) Since a monument should be erected before the first anniversary, please arrange with Mr. Lipstadt to put a temporary marker on the present site and arrange for a permanent monument to be erected upon the reinterment.

I repeat that if there is to be any disinterment, this is the procedure I prefer. However, if it should be de-



cided to disinter your father, then please consult with Mr. Lipstadt about the possibility of moving the stone which now stands to the new site. You may consult me about it further.

In either case, try to arrange for the reinterment to take place in the early part of the day. That entire day should be observed by the two of you as if you were in your shiva period, that is, no shaving or washing, sitting indoors on a low bench, and without leather shoes. It is also preferable that that day be observed as a fast day. In addition, the ritual of rending the garment is also observed on that day.

I most strongly urge that you arrange for Mr. Lipstadt to be present and supervise the entire procedure so that it be carried out in accordance with Jewish law and with the greatest amount of respect to the memory of a beloved parent.

Please do not hesitate to consult me if any further problems arise.

NL/eg

cc: Mr. Erwin Lipstadt