

B 10

# IT'S A PITY...

A real pity that Jews have to wait for a crisis to remind them that they are Jews.

But it's better than nothing. Because maybe all of life is a crisis. And during all of life we need our Jewish identity, our Jewish commitments to God, to Israel, to Torah.

The Arabs, with the connivance of the Russians, struck on Yom Kippur. They thought they caught us unaware. Militarily, maybe. But in other ways, no. Yom Kippur teaches us that we can survive without eating and drinking. Without bathing. Without shoes. Without sex. But not without God. Not without a word of prayer. Not without a thought of Torah. Not without each other.

Israel is going to win, if only because it can't afford to lose. Of course, we are all going to help to the limits of our ability. But we have got to win the other war too, the one that will continue long afterwards: the war against our self-expression as Jews. The attack against the dignity that allows us to observe our Judaism without embarrassment. The battle against our pride - not arrogance - in our tefillin, kippah, kashrut, Shabbat. The war of attrition by a phoney liberalism-humanism-internationalism that tells us that the only way to save the world is for the Jews to give up being Jewish. It's phoney because only by being themselves can Jews be of service to others. Because only by loving Israel can Jews learn to love mankind. Because only by being truly Jewish do we become genuinely humanitarian. Because only by serving the God of Israel do we come to know the God who created and loves all men and all nations.

What can you do? Go to Israel as a civilian volunteer. Contribute to U.J.A.. Buy a bond. Attend a demonstration for Israel or Soviet Jewry. Wear a kippah proudly as a symbol of your Jewishness. Attend services - and walk, don't ride. Seek out an observant Jew and ask him to help you put on the tefillin. Even just once. Or ask him to invite you to his home for a Shabbat meal. Above all - read, study, learn. The shooting may be over soon. The crisis - your crisis - will continue for a long time. Forever.

It's a pity. It takes a catastrophe for us Jews to wake up. But it is a greater pity if even a war fails to do this.

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