

B 258

EULOGY FOR MONTH OF NISAN

(GIVEN AT FUNERAL OF MRS. BEATRICE GREENBAUM, MAY 4, 1967
CAN BE USED IN THE HOUSE OF THE MOURNER)

The Hassidic author of Benei Yissachor tells us that the name Nisan, comes from the word nes, meaning miracle, because this is the month in which great miracles occurred. What is the greatest of all miracles? This we can determine from the word nes itself. The word is composed of two letters, nun and samekh, which are, respectively, the initial letters of two Hebrew words: nofel, and somekh.

This indeed is the greatest miracle of all Jewish history. We have experienced the worst vicissitudes that have ever befallen any people; time and again we have been in the category of nofel, fallen to the lowest depths of misery and suffering. Yet our redeeming feature has been that always we have been somekh, we have found support in the source of our faith, we have been able to rise again to ever greater heights.

This holds true not only for our people as a collective group, but also for individuals. Even if we experience nofel - we must have the faith and the confidence that someday, somehow, by some means,

we shall achieve somekh.

At a time of this sort, I cannot eulogize, because we are now in the afterglow of the holiday of Passover, nor am I permitted by Jewish law to offer the usual consolation at a time that the body of a loved one lies before us. However, I have only this prayer: that even as you are now ~~in~~ nofel, try to have the faith and the confidence that in time you will achieve somekh, that the God Who has given you the blessing of the past will give you the strength to survive this tragedy and this grief and this bereavement and, in His good time, you will find consolation as well. Of course, in your present condition you think that it is impossible, and that ever again to be a somekh would be a sheer miracle.

But
I agree. It is a miracle. /That is what a nes is: the fact that after being a nofel, you too will be an somekh.