

A-94

"Ner Tamid - Eternal Light & Everlasting Powerhouse"

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- I - The Ner Tamid Award which we give today to our young men as a sign of distinction and symbol of appreciation, has great antecedents in Jewish Tradition.
- II - What it was - the eternal light, the ~~candle~~ light which was never allowed to be extinguished in the candelabrum in the Temple.
- III - What it symbolized - the Jewish soul: ^{personality} its warmth, ^(beauty, sustained) its light (enlightenment, culture, holiness), its instant pull upwards (man to G-d), and its eternity - the Jewish soul lives forever.
- IV - Every person has the Ner Tamid, this eternal soul to which we must tend w. love & devotion -
- V - & ∴ when we award a Ner Tamid Prize to a Boy Scout we do so because he has enhanced the qualities of his soul, radiated goodness and decency, and developed his religious personality.
- VI - But this particular award is more than a recognition of personal betterment. It is also an inspiration for community achievement. WHEN WE HONOR a young man for w. a פְּנֵי אֵשׁ, WE DO NOT ONLY COMPLEMENT HIM FOR HIS OWN, PERSONAL, ETERNAL LIGHT. WE ALSO CHALLENGE HIM TO BECOME AN EVERLASTING POWERHOUSE, AN UNENDING DYNAMO WHO WILL CHARGE OTHERS WITH THE LOVE FOR JUDAISM AND IGNITE THE פְּנֵי אֵשׁ WHICH LIES DORMANT IN OTHER SOULS.

VII - AND THE WAY TO DO THAT is to continue to work w. even more determination and devotion for your congregation and community.

VIII - chofetz chaim - when electricity first in Radin ~ 100 yrs. ago - when indiv. kerosene lamps, one extinguished doesn't affect others. But now if powerhouse fails, all in darkness. Once, every J. certain of own religious strength. Today all depends on synag. ~~Let~~

IX - This synagogue, Richard, is that Powerhouse. If, G-d forbid, we fail - then all is lost. But if we succeed, all well. Bring your own ~~synag.~~ into this Tabernacle, just as the old ~~synag.~~ was in the ~~place~~, make this your home & center.

X - You, Richard, have been blessed w. parents who have tirelessly prepared you for the noble personal development as symbolized in the Boy Scout movement, and for the lofty goals of religious behavior as symbolized by Kodesh. Take your Eternal Light, Richard, and help ignite the Everlasting Powerhouse which is Kodesh. Help your self & help others feel the warmth, see the light, and ~~also~~ look upwards with the Eternal Light. And charge, electricity and galvanize the entire community with new attitudes of reverence, tolerance, brotherhood and the Fear of G-d.

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