

Eulogy for Mrs. Florence Feinberg

B242

Florence Feinberg was a woman of rare strength. That was probably her most notable characteristic. Throughout her life she manifested an unusual moral heroism that evoked a passionate loyalty from her husband and the profound admiration of her family and friends. She was gifted with an astonishing fortitude of character: she attained vision when others merely possessed sight. She learned how to listen, with an inner ear, to the heart-beat of others, while others never progressed beyond mere hearing. Although beset, for so many years, by physical illness, she emerged with attitudes that were remarkably healthy. Optimistic, cheerful, and never complaining, she overcame her shortcomings by a display of power of spirit. It is this that prevented her from ever succumbing to bitterness and moroseness and that helped her on to achieve a disposition that was sweet, gentle, and noble. It took brave stamina for her to attend the Center's Tuesday Bible classes regularly, no matter what the circumstances. I shall miss her sorely; it will never be the same without her at my right hand.

It is altogether appropriate, therefore, that in tribute to this lady of strength of character and courage of spirit, we now recite selected verses from that immortal passage from King Solomon's Proverbs beginning with the words eshet hayil. This is an idiom which we normally translate as "a woman of valor." But in fact hayil means "Strength" -- and the valor of our eshet hayil, Florence Feinberg, lay in her hayil, her moral might and bravery.

B242



A woman of valor who can find?  
For her worth is far above rubies.  
The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her,  
And he hath no lack of happiness.  
She doeth him good and not evil,  
All the days of her life.  
She stretcheth out her hand to the poor;  
Yea, she reacheth forth her hand to the needy.  
Her husband is known in the gates,  
When he sitteth among the elders of the land.  
Strength and dignity are her clothing,  
And she laugheth at the time to come.  
She openeth her mouth with wisdom;  
And the law of kindness is on her tongue.  
She looketh well to the ways of her household,  
And eateth not the bread of idleness.

Her children rise up, and call her blessed;  
Her husband also, and he praiseth her;

"Many daughters have done valiantly,  
But thou excellest them all."

Grace is deceitful, and beauty is vain;  
But a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.

Give her of the fruit of her hands;  
And let her works praise her in the gates.