

RIETS DINNER in HONOR 25TH ANNIVERSARY-6/11/01

Thank for th praise/encomia/exaggerations...Grateful t all who came; y mk it diffclt f m t avoid sin גאווה. I confss: I wondrd if premature צאתכם לכולם/belated שפטרני; ברוך שפטרני; spkrs reassurd

Thank too f lovely gift. **ST:** R. Steinberg: "Boyyes, das hab ich gurnisht expected."

Flattrd/humbl'd by decision name Yadin-Yadin Kollel f m...father ע"ה... n sch progrm; Nw, if I don't hv דיין, hv כולל דיין. Gratefl>words. Fathr would hv been proud—of y...

Mny frnds expressd concrn at my announcmt ret't, pleadd w m t reconsdr: so: *I do not intend t step down fr th Presiy of Yeshiva! I intend t step up t th Chancellorshp...* I am not abandong Yshiva. I never will! I will be availble t help/guide for as long...

My remarks will concern past, present, and future. Let me begin w **past**.

I conclude ths yr not only 25 yrs as Pres of YU-RIETS, but 50 yrs of עבודת הקודש, of sacred servic t J commy, esp Tor commy. First ¼ centry--rabbint, 2nd- acad lp Yshva

Bec I blv t live=t learn, I wish t summrz certn lessns fr my combind exprnces. Prhps of relevnc t othrs, evn oldr/wiser>I. So share w y sm hard-earnd lessns pst 50 yrs

I learnd: *all idols--clay feet; evry hum being, no matt'r how low on laddr success--sparks of greatnss. *some of mightiest hv fatal wknesses; weakest—hiddn sources of surprisg strngth. *almst evry closet contains skeleton; evn hardst of hearts--grain of goodnss, molecule compssn. *th smart--nt alwys wise; wise nt alwys smart; *rich often weak; poor oftn strong; pious cn b temptd; sinner--tempered. *I lrnd of the secret follies of the sophisticated and flashes insight ordinary folk.

Wht did all this knowldg bring m? Taught m: *judge ppl w undrstdng/compssn; *foolishnss/weaknss/ignornc/spite/envy=at bottm, part our hum endowmt/condition, and tht we mst all struggle t overcome thm; * sm=mr succssfl in struggle>othrs, bt no one=evr complt/permannt victor. And: evry hum bng~capacity f decency /goodnss/compssn /frndshp/mrl excllnc -- &... mst b tolrnt/respectfl/civil. In a word: דרכי נועם וכל נתיבותיה שלום.

In my wrk f YU--benefitd greatly fr decency/genrosty of sprt of countlss indivs. Also suffrd בצינונות—insults, unfair/derogtry critcsm—on behlf y, schools/commy I love/champion—fr Right/Lft: equal opprtnty target!. Bt th tolrnc—דרכי נועם-- I learnd thse 50 yrs→t forgv those who would nvr forgv m. I would suffr slings/arrws again, gladly, rdy t מקבל יסורים באהבה—bec one nvr tires of defendg home—באהבה.

I turn now t present. I cannt impress upon y imp'ce of wht RIETS doing. Evn if y think y know—even if I think I know—we should know mr. Let me share with you a few reports by outside observers:

1st: fr lttr t m by YU Alum/Is rcvd fr non-alum, distinguished lawyer in Jer:
A co-workr of mine happend t b speakg with Rav ____, the ראש ישיבה of ישיבת שבי חבורן, who told him: Whenvr on airplane/sees someone carryg briefcase w laptop computr/Gemara, h knows this=YU grad. Rav__ said he watchs these mn w envy: spent part of trip workg on computers, part of trip readg business reports, and part of trip learnng Gemara. Rav__ said he=envious tht neithr hs yeshiv/any othr in Isrl cn produce ths type indiv

2nd: handwrittn--2 scraps paper, by Rabbi I not know lengthy stay NY
Methodist Hosp--physicians YU backgrnd astoundd at hum touch/sensvtvy,
readinss engage in דברי תורה. Thanks YU; "Methdist Hosp= $\frac{3}{4}$ of a מ"ביה"...

Finl item--fr series articles Daily Telegrph Lndn/April 10,'01. Writr= imprssiv
thoughtfl journalist who visited here a few months ago. He writes:

(**see separate item!!**)

So, cherish ths grt, historc instn. Y w ill nd it f your childn/gr-chn/their gr-
chn. There's nothing quite like it anyplace else in the world. Give it your
love. Give it your support. It is worthy of your best efforts.

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Let me now turn t the **future**--first an impt detail; then--in general:

Legally, YU/RIETS=seprt corport bodies. Said--"RIETS=heart Yshv." Hrt=
organ can b separtd fr body; can surviv operation wherby heart treated
outside body. Bt who wnts spend rest of mortal existnc in such precarious
state? So, mk evry effrt t enhanc good relps: th HEART integrtd w body

Yshiv/RIETS, soon choosg ftr lp combinnd instit'n. I→address approprt bodies
ths matt'r in detail. Bt I feel is impt f me to say this now t Yesh fam at larg.

Whn Moses prepar'd t step down fr lp, prayd, אֵלֶי הָרוּחוֹת לְכָל בִּשָּׁר אִישׁ עַל
:הַעֲדָה *Man f all seasons*--diverse talents--הַרוּחוֹת--plural...Gd's ans nt necy hv *all*
"sprts". בוּ רֹחַ קֶחַ לֵךְ אֵת יְהוֹשֻׁעַ בֶּן נֹון אִישׁ אֲשֶׁר רֹחַ בּוּ. sprt/ courg
/dtrmntn...Nt evryone cn b a Moses. **NOTE:** Nthr Moss nor Gd ask f division labr:
Generl & RY. Each: only 1 person--אִישׁ. And רוחות >רוח...

I firmly blv 1 persn=both presidencs. Dual presy=guarant smooth functioning
entire instit'n. Cannot separt Y/U w-o harmg YU. *Divide, &→institutized a
fundamntl division betw RIETS/YU and, evn mr significt, betw Tor/Madda.*
Yesh will nt b able overcome this schizoid existnce & still remn true its missn

Moreover, dual presy=**symbol** ult synergy TuM. At begg, finanl crisis,
dome main bldg (DZ HALL) leakg/grave dangr/cost=prohibtv. I advisd:
prudent gt rid of dome; couldn't affrd. Logcal! Yet I resistd: blding nt only
landmrk bt vital our mentl image Yshv; dome=symb. W-o it symb fails

Well, if tht true f mute pc architectr, hw much mr s f living lp of this, our grt
home. Pres should b academ/למדן, should symbolize TuM. NYU rcntly-Pres
John Sextn. Wouldn't it b nice if we upstagd thm: NT SEXTON BUT RABBI?

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Finlly, let m leave y w plea t preserv our unique vision. Orthy tod=2 camps.
We need both; who cn tell Ing run...?.. respct, cooprate...Haredi: mr inwrd,
n sec stds excpt f vocation (פרנסה); skeptcl מד"י, etc. *Our vision, rootd Tor,*
difft: TuM/max oppnss all Js/St Isr/univrsl concnrs. Root=psychl>philo

וראיתם את הארץ מה הוא ואת העם הישב עליה החזק הוא הרפה המעט הוא אם רב:
ומה הארץ אשר הוא יושב בה הטובה הוא אם רעה ומה הערים אשר הוא יושב
בהנה הבמחנים אם במבצרים....

אפס כי עז העם הישב בארץ והערים בצורות גדולת מאד...
ויהס כלב את העם אל משה ויאמר עלה נעלה וירשנו אתה כי יכול נוכל לה:
והאנשים אשר עלו עמו אמרו לא נוכל לעלות אל העם כי חזק הוא ממנו:

2 Qs: 1st--Spies were tellg truth! The inhabitnts were powrfl/cities fortified!

2nd -- wht ws debate betw Josh-Caleb/10 othrs: Jst stratgy? Opinions? Or...
ANS: Profnd diffrenc interpn/approachs. Majy: fortress= impentrb/ open=
 conqrb/...Moss/Caleb/Josh—reverse! רש"י --סימן מסר להם אם בפרזים יושבין
 חזקים הם שסומכין על גבורתם ואם בערים בצורות הם יושבין חלשים הם

We of YU/RIETS agree w minrtly NOT majy opinion. We hold w רש"י
 intrprtn: openness~courg/confdnc; fortrss~fear/frailty. I: No complaints vs
 those who prefr forttrss/fortrss psych; & no symphy s open tht leave us
 dfnsless vs onslaught matrlistc/hedonstc/vulgar socy. **BUT** we: **fortr**ss=
 confn diffdnc/fear. **Open**=confdnc. Our Yshv: pioneerd TuM/cultr/inclusvss

I plead: don't b discourgd by pessmsts...not demoralzd by jeremiads. If
 othrs: עלה נעלה אֵתָהּ בִּי יְכוֹל נוֹכַל לָהּ, we say: לֹא נוֹכַל לְעֹלֹת בִּי הֶזֶק הוּא מִמֶּנּוּ
 We bold enough/self-assurd t say TuM=>vocation; cultr—risk—all Js
RAV...not Berlin f פרנסה acctng/marktg. Not draft-dodgng. *We=n less hum*
f devotn Tor; n less J f committ t חכמות העולם. *THAT*=wht we all about. B
 proud of it/encrg/publicz/love it...עלה נעלה אֵתָהּ בִּי יְכוֹל נוֹכַל לָהּ

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I Pres/Ry f 25 yrs—came as stdt 56 yrs ago. Now, as I near my own
 change of status, I offr מומור לתודה/thank all those who md my lf fuller—if
 not alwys easier—bt richer/mr mnngful/mr helpful/mr focussd/mr rewardg.

I learnd much fr colleagues-ראשי ישיבה, whose committt/erudition nvr fail
 t astound m, and מתלמידי יותר מכולם-- our students who=magnifict, who
 =promise of our vry future. I hv confidne in thm; they will rise-- עלה נעלה
לָהּ—They & ALUM will help usher in renaissnc J life/learnng
 in their genn. I thank y, our Bd membrs/supporters, f unstintg generosity
 which md possibl f RIETS→most powerf/enlightend center הרבצת התורה f
 well> centry. & I thnk my colleagues in admin—VPs, deans, directrs, staff,
 all—f professl competnc/sacrifice of tm & peace of mnd/genuine frndship.
*I thank you for doing what is often a **thankless** job.*

All of y given m oppority serve עם ישראל /הקב"ה in ways and extent I nvr
 imagind in my youth. Y hv allowd m t dedicate whatvr meagr talents I
 posssss t noblest of all causes: advancemt of Tor, w-o which our ppl has no
 future; and *w-o Js, world→grim place indeed--mr dangrous/less interestg*

Needless t say, I deeply indebtd t my belovd fam—YUSH; 4 ch-8 schools/bro & 2
sisters (4 schools)/gr-ch (1 in now, 2 mr nxt smstr). They=dearr t m than lf itself.
 Thy hv benftd fr Yshv, & Yshv—fr thm. I=proud of thm, >they of me.

תכלית חכמה תשובה ומעשים טובים (ברכות דף יז). Sages: Knwldg Tor→charctr.

So, I conclude w brief descriptn of ideal of J char. A מידות ought b one who=modst/retiring w-o false humilty; who aspires t enlightnmnt w-o seekg lmeight; who=אוהב שלום ורודף שלום; who=utterly loyal, נאמן; whose char=elegnt/charmng; abv all, who—as רמב"ן ~fulfillmt commndmnt t lv neighbr as self: שיאהב חבירו בכל ענין כאשר יאהב את נפשו בכל הטוב - יהיה אוהבו בכל, יחפוץ שיזכה רעהו האהוב לו בעושר ובנכסים וכבוד ובדעת ובחכמה, ולא שישוה אליו אבל יהיה חפץ בלבו לעולם שיהיה הוא יותר ממנו בכל טובה

I=exquisite blessg of learnng fr such friend, benefitg fr her>47 yrs in love/devotion, the wonderfl/gracious/giving mother my childn/grandmothr of our fabulous grandchildren. שלי ושלכם שלה הוא. Thank you, Mindella.

And thanks you to all of you. May the רב"ע grant you...