

INTRODUCING DR. NORMAN LAMM

Dr. Norman Lamm, at age 48 the newly elected President of Yeshiva University, brings to office the vigor of Jewish tradition nurtured in American soil, a profound scholarship in Torah, philosophy, arts, humanities and sciences — as a chemist turned rabbi — combined with an eminent ability to relate his erudition pertinently to problems of contemporary life. Rabbi, philosopher, teacher, and author, his appointment is the culmination of an 8-month endeavor of the 50-member Presidential Search Committee (YU faculty, administration, alumni, students, community and academic leaders) to find a successor worthy of the revered Dr. Samuel Belkin of blessed memory and his distinguished predecessor Dr. Bernard Revel.

In books such as *The Royal Reach: Discourses on Jewish Tradition, Faith and Doubt*, and *A Hedge of Roses: Jewish Insights into Marriage and Married Life*, Dr. Lamm has earned international distinction in bringing the viewpoint of traditional Judaism to a variety of themes, including ecology, laboratory-created life, possibility of life on other planets, space exploration, law and order, violence, privacy in law and theology, parent-child relationships, and the effect of social changes on marital relationships. He has been quoted twice in decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court, once by former Chief Justice Warren, and once by Justice Douglas, and he has testified as an authority on Jewish law before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee. His writings and lectures on medical ethics and issues have been widely reported.

Dr. Lamm has traveled widely, lecturing in 9 countries on 5 continents, including Israel, South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand. Among his many organizational affiliations, he is a member of the Halakah (Jewish law) Commission of the Rabbinical Council of America, a charter member of the Association of Orthodox Jewish Scientists, and a member of numerous communal boards representing a broad range of interests.

Dr. Lamm received his bachelor's degree, summa cum laude, from Yeshiva College in 1949, did graduate work in chemistry at Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, was ordained at YU-affiliated Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary in 1951, and earned a Ph.D. in Jewish philosophy from Bernard Revel Graduate School in 1966. He has taught Jewish philosophy at YU and has served as Rabbi of the Jewish Center in New York City.

Dr. Lamm is married and has 4 children.

New Head of Yeshiva U.

Dr. Norman Lamm

By IRVING SPIEGEL

Dr. Norman Lamm—a philosopher, author, teacher and chemist who became a rabbi—is not one to quail before an academic or a religious controversy. Although an

Man
in the
News

articulate spokesman for Orthodox Judaism, he was in the foreground in his demand that Orthodox synagogue groups cooperate with bodies of Reform and Conservative Judaism in problems confronting the American Jewish community.

As a result, the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, at its convention two years ago, remained in the Synagogue Council of America. "A withdrawal," Dr. Lamm remarked at the time, "is a symbol of the splitting of Orthodoxy from the rest of the American Jewish community."

This independent quality, his colleagues and students say, is likely to be reflected in his presidency of Yeshiva University, which was announced yesterday.

'Vigor of Mind'

Max J. Etra, the chairman of Yeshiva's board of trustees, which elected Dr. Lamm to his new post, said:

"Yeshiva University, with its 7,000 students, needs the vigor of mind and spirit of Dr. Lamm, who is undaunted in speaking out on the problems confronting our society today. He will provide us with intellectual and spiritual leadership."

The 48-year-old Dr. Lamm, a professor of Jewish philosophy at Yeshiva, in Washington, is the first American-born head of the 91-year-old institution. He assumes the post immediately. As its third president, he succeeds Dr. Samuel Belkin, who died this year and had played a major role in the development of the university during his 33-year tenure as president.

Dr. Lamm is particularly known for his writings and discourses interpreting Jewish law in relation to science, technology and philosophy in today's society.

Author of Books

In his book "The Royal Reach," Dr. Lamm condemned "doing your own thing," calling it "self-indulgence, self-concern, self-enhancement and self-pity."

"When we do that," he wrote, "we can make no creative contribution to society."

In his book "Faith and Doubt," Dr. Lamm, writing on how Judaism confronts the possibility of an "extra-terrestrial life," said: "God makes Himself available to His creatures where ever they are. He is not a social snob who will not be seen in the cosmic slums and alleys."

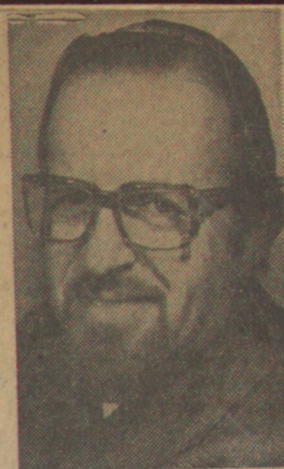
day Jewish schools, Dr. Lamm said, "Religious education is a matter not of priority or preference but of sheer survival."

Dr. Lamm has been described as a "scholar rooted in Jewish tradition and open to the broad currents of Western thought." Because of his knowledge of Talmudic law, his opinions have been quoted in decisions of the United States Supreme Court, once by Chief Justice Earl Warren and again by Justice William O. Douglas.

Ready Wit

Known for a quick wit and ready laughter among students and colleagues at Yeshiva, Dr. Lamm is blue-eyed, has a small brown beard and, as one colleague noted, "moves like a sprinter and is unfailing in quick answer."

Dr. Lamm was born in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn and earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Yeshiva in 1949, graduating summa cum laude as a chemistry major. During Israel's war of independence in 1948, he worked on a munitions research project under the direction of Dr. Ernst D. Bergmann, who later became the



Orthodox but independent

head of the Israel Atomic Energy Commission.

Dr. Lamm did graduate study in chemistry at the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn. He was ordained at Yeshiva University's affiliated theological seminary in 1951. In 1966, he was awarded his doctorate in Jewish philosophy from Yeshiva, where he joined the faculty in 1959.

Dr. Lamm is married to the former Mindella Mehler, and they have four children — Chaye, 21; Joshua, 20; Shalom, 17, and Sara, 15. They live at 27 West 86th Street, hard by the Jewish Center at 131 West 86th Street, where Dr. Lamm was the spiritual leader for 18 years.

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