

December 12, 1963

Rabbi H. Krantz  
20 Gaynor Place  
Glen Rock, New Jersey

Dear Rabbi Krantz:

First let me tell you that it was a pleasure to meet you and your charming wife again, and to lecture before the group consisting of your and Rabbi Koenig's congregation.

Now, insofar as proposing a series of lectures on Jewish Philosophy:

One idea might be, as I had suggested briefly to you, a series revolving about a number of personalities famous in the history of Jewish Philosophy. This would consist of one lecture on biography and either one or two of Philosophy. The figures concerned would be Maimonides, Halevi, Saadia, and Rav Kook. Perhaps we can make it a series of lectures on Jewish Philosophy based on the Prayer Book. I have tried this, and it is a rather novel approach. I want to emphasize that this is not a course on the Prayer Book as such, but rather one which will elucidate certain fundamental philosophical and theological principles as they are derived from the Siddur. This can be divided into four lectures on the Shema, and four on the Amidah. The advantage of this approach is that you have a ready-made text, namely the Prayer Book, and that not only will they be learning the Siddur, but their praying may become more meaningful once they have observed that the words contain quite profound implications.

After pondering this, will you be kind enough to call me as soon as possible to let me know whether or not you are interested, and if so we can establish the dates and other details.

Fondest regards to your wife and to Rabbi Koenig.

Sincerely,

RABBI NORMAN LAMM

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