

ADDRESS TO LONG ISLAND CHAPTER, WOMEN'S BRANCH, U.O.J.C.A.  
ATLANTIC BEACH, N.Y.

1. Throughout ages Jewish life has revolved about 2 poles: Torah -- the element that is constant, unchanging, divine; and Chokhmah -- culture or worldly wisdom, that which fluctuates, evolves, develops with time. Great minds of Judaism tried to blend both without doing violence to either, thus: Philo, Maimonides, Hirsch, etc. Today: science
2. But in addition to the meeting of Judaism and the high culture of the day, a confrontation always took place on a lower but more significant level, that of the popular mass-culture. This participated in not only by the intellects but ordinary Jews, Jewesses.
3. At beginning this century, for first half of it, in U.S. question of whether can be Jews and Americans, whether can retain Torah identity whilst trying to "Americanize." ...That was primarily an urban culture: can you live like a Jew in tenement houses etc. Many failed -- assimilated. We triumphed -- otherwise wouldn't be here
4. Today: another, more serious problem of Torah vis-avis Chokhmah on popular level: that of Torah in Suburbia. Suburbia represents change of pace, new style living, etc..... Does Tefillin go with tennis? -- Talmud with a big green lawn? -- Mitzvos with PTA?... Some go to either extreme: wither answer is no, hence no suburbia, or answer is No, hence chop off & modify Judaism: temples as show-places instead of worship, services as exhibitions instead of experience etc.
5. YOU as W.B.U.O.J.C.A. specifically LONG ISLAND chapter, represent an affirmation that Torah is not essentially incompatible with this new kind of suburban American experience.
6. The change to suburbia is only one aspect of the whole mid-century change in style which causes so much tension, strain...hard on us. But women able to take it better than men. So Ashley Montagu. So: Isaac and Rebecca -- Rabbis: earth & stone, bone. You too can help your families, communities, make smooth change without loss of elemental Torah values...
7. I know you're fatigued...so many requests & demands on time, attention, talents... feel you just can't fill bill of being pioneers of Torah in Suburbia. Not so. Moses also complained:   
 וַיִּשְׁכַּח מֹשֶׁה אֶת־הַדְּבָרִים אֲשֶׁר־אָמַר יְהוָה אֵלָיו וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־יְהוָה אֵלֵינוּ וְנִשְׁכַּח אֶת־הַדְּבָרִים אֲשֶׁר־אָמַר יְהוָה אֵלָיו  
 But G-d answered:   
 וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה וְלֹא־יִשְׁכַּח אֶת־הַדְּבָרִים אֲשֶׁר־אָמַר יְהוָה אֵלָיו  
 Chizkuni asks, why not of G-d's own spirit, why of Moses' & from that to 70 elders? Answers: G-d wanted to show Moses: Think you're depleted, no more spirit, inspiration, courage, strength...? NO -- still have enough for 70 more people! So you too: you don't know how much power resides in small corners your hearts & souls.....

Go to it, & give it all you've got.....

*crit: tips - can end with zushya story.*

*file: mission ... ability... (Rosh Hashanah - canva) ... spirit ... (also good for Rabbi Installation*