

March 9, 1970

Dear Lily,

Many thanks for your letter on the Lamm MS. I am not quite certain what gives me, the midwife, so much personal pride in your reaction to the baby, but I was delighted at your response. As I see it the problems now are relatively simple.

1. As to the rearranged table of contents: it makes a good deal of sense to me. I did check with Norman's original order for the materials, and yours is closer to it than the one I suggested and he was nice enough to accept.

May I suggest some minor modifications in your own suggestion, and explain my reasoning. I like the widening circles of the three major divisions you have set out. But I think they could be a little more logical in progression, though that is not a necessity. Thus, I think starting with the Agnon is enough to grab anyone's interest and keep him in the book for the rest of the way. But it seems to me item 3, Imitating God, belongs in the last section with Men to God: The Big Questions. And since it is somewhat difficult that is a good place for it. But Conflict Among Jews (Why not simply Conflict Among Neighbors? since its content is quite universal) could well come in the early section since it deals with the sort of animosities that corrupt face to face relations.

Another not so important idea would be to rearrange Part II, where it seems to me that business comes before community leadership, i. e. your chapt. 6 should precede chap. 5. Business is not as broad as community organization and might well come before it. And that would allow us to go from community leadership to the dialogue chapter, which is a sort of inter-community issue.

2. I can see the desirability of brief introductions to the three parts of the book. Wolf did not do this but Kling did. I only hasten to add that Kling's were very brief and I think we should keep anything of this sort to the briefest space necessary to stake out the specific theme of the following chapters.

3. But I don't particularly get moved by adding another chapter to the book at the very end. In the first place the book is already quite full by our previous standard. Second, the messianic material is, if we want to take consecutive materials, quite brief in the prophets. Third, I think the Peace material is quite good.

My suggestion, since the messianic material is quite familiar

is that, instead of treating it as we would another chapter, we rather treat it as a sort of epilogue, brief, evocative and self-explaining, largely. That is, we call it something like: The Persisting Vision, give a few paragraphs of introduction on messianism in Judaism, and then give one of Norman's favorite messianic biblical passages. That would be much briefer than any of the other chapters of the book, but it would not be untrue to the material, which is never very extensive, and it would not force us to stretch to fit a pre-existing pattern of presentation. Yet, we would get a fitting conclusion and end the book quite Jewishly, with a vision of redemption.

At any rate, those are my suggestions. I know they are quite subjective and I will happily abide with whatever you and Norman, to whom I am sending a copy of this letter, feel is best. And mazal tov to all of us.

Ague