

3rd February 1961.

*India Files*

Rabbi Norman Lamm,  
Taj Mahal Hotel,  
Bombay-1.

Respected Sir,

Please permit me to extend to you on behalf of all the members of Beth Talmud Torah and myself my gratitude and thanks for your kind visit to our institution on Saturday the 28th January 1961.

I would like to relate to you the activities of this institution.

It was founded 16 years ago by a group of enthusiastic young men, as the elderly who were more advanced in the knowledge of TORAH had their own institution known as the "YESHIVA".

A room was sub-rented for the purpose of carrying out our activities. A committee was formed and it was decided to name it "BETH TALMUD TORAH". A monthly membership of Rs.1.00 or Rs.2.00 has been collected from those who could afford it, while the poor class were admitted free of charge. With this small income we have struggled all these years barely able to save much after meeting rental and electrical charges and other petty expenses incurred during the month. Since November 1960 we have formed a new committee and we made frantic efforts to enroll new members. Undoubtedly we have succeeded in our efforts and today we are receiving Rs.90.00 as subscription every month, which is almost 100% success.

We conduct Parasha classes for small children every Saturday morning and we conduct MOSAFY SHABATH prayers on Saturday evenings regularly. This service is conducted by turn from amongst the crowd who are regular visitors.

We also have a master teaching Modern Hebrew once a week. Besides this we conduct Hebrew classes 4 times a week for beginners and juniors. A nominal fee of Rs.5.00 per month for each child is charged and 90% of the proceeds are paid to the Master as compensation. At the moment we have 20 youngsters attending these classes.

We celebrate 2 important festivals during the year.

1. LEILANOTH (New Year of Trees)
2. LAG LA OMER.

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Both these festivals are celebrated with the help of small individual donations collected during the period and invitations are extended to all Jews irrespective whether they are members or not.

On the night of Leilanoth, all kinds of fruits, fresh dried and tinned and a variety of boiled vegetables are obtained for the celebration. Our HAZAN is specially invited for this occasion to conduct the ceremony.

On the night of Lag La Omer a special Dinner is prepared in honour of the Prophet Rabbi Simeon Bar YoHai. Lights are kindled for various prophets, which is auctioned and the highest bidder kindles the light. A portion of the Zohar is read and then the crowd sings the song of BAR YO HAI.

You will now be convinced Sir, that we spare no pains to do everything possible and within our means, to improve this institution. We admit that we could do a lot more but unfortunately we are short of funds. We have a very earnest desire of acquiring some Hebrew literatures, Hebrew legends and other educational books for our poor library. One of our committee members has already spoken to you about it and we hope that you will help us. These books will definitely help us a lot to educate the younger generations and those who had no opportunity to educate themselves in Torah because they have studied in English schools.

I therefore leave it to you Sir, to consider the great importance of building up our library and sincerely hope that you will give us a helping hand by sending us some of the surplus educational books that you can spare for this institution. Your memory will remain with us for many many years to come and your act of generosity will never be forgotten.

Shalome,

Sincerely yours,

*M. H. Jacob*

Jt. Hony. Secretary.

BETH TALMUD TORAH  
BOMBAY.

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