

Second Lecture:

Hasidism

I. Background:

- A. Spiritual Devastation of Polish Jewry by Sabbatian disaster
- B. Dr. Cooper's lecture on legends origin Besht (d.1760)

II. Reaction to S.Z.

- A. "Neutralized" Messians²m, restored to original position. Deemphasized the eschatological. Toned down Messiah aspect of "Ikkun - Sparks: Spark-uplifting is by human effort, Messiah by divine grace.
- B. Hasidism originates in PoPolia and Voholinia - scene of most tragic Sabb'n failure. Need for security, certainty, leaders.

- C. But Has'im much more than reaction to Sabb'n or dry Talmudism.

III. Immanentism

- A. Lurianic Doctrine of Sparks -- "Memale: kol Olmin" -- where SZ: by intending good; Besht: redirecting (Freud: sublimation)

- B. Besht-Kotzk: "Lo yihyeh bekha El zar"

- C. ¹¹⁶² "Adiaphora": classical Rabbinism: only Mitzvah and Issur; (SZ -- nothing); Has -- sanctify all life (Kook -- before Buber! -- the holy and the not-yet holy).

"Be'khol derakekha da'ehu" -- hence: eating, working, tying shoes; Enoch - cobbler -- awl: unify Name, raise Sparks

- D. R. Lebel Eger: Before I believed there's a God; now I know.

IV. Devekuth:

Ecstatic, emotional. Constant communion -- not by withdrawal, but by involvement.

Berditchever on "Xaffah Torah in derekh erez" (contrast R.H.Volozhiner)

Requires SIMHAH; external stimulus. (Story: Ropshitzer - why Has'on drink Schnapps - "she'ha-kol"); dance; song; banish "Ye'ush", worry.

V. Simplicity (Temimut)

cast lot on God - no worry.

not Shy before God

Koznitzer: "envy them: they're already simple, I'm trying"

Hence: deemphasis Luria; anti-philosophic.

Bratzlaver: greatest "Hokhmah" to know

there is more Before Him.

Hence: DEMOCRATIZATION: Dignity and status even to Am Haaretz. Story of prayer by whistle.

VI. Spontaneity

in Drush (R. Barukh Medzibozer: may I be struck dumb before I speak "beautifully")

in Prayer: Hatlahavut. (although often overdone. Tanya and Abr. Kalisker); gets emotional, factor essential; "Degel" name Besht: violin player, dancers, and deaf man. Besht: refused enter shul - "prayer without wings". *yet*

in all life. What most ^{essential} important in your Rebbe's service? -- "whatever he happens to be doing" (immanentism).

in Rebbe vs Rav

VII Beshtian Teaching

source of the Hasidic literature.

* READ from TEXT - BESHT'S "WILL"

VIII. Zaddikism

idea of a sacred community

a teacher by example. Spiritual kinship.

(Story: Salanter: Has-Mitn both wrong: need Rebbe; have one)

integral part Has'm -- otherwise would have remained esoteric coterie. "Kabbalah turned ethos"

Maggid (Dov Ber of Mezeritch). Some of his students.

IX. Has and Mitnagdim

slight tendency antinomianism -- as late prayers.

But Kept in check -- only a manifestation of Hatlahavut

Prayer over study of Torah.

Joy and Intention essential for act.

Bitter battles: Mitnagdim. Gaon. Avigdor. But: R.H.

Reconciler: R-SHNEUR ZALMAN. THE TANYA.

* READ TEXT -- TANYA ON TORAH

X. Love

Ahavat ha-Shem Ahavat Re'im (Story: smoke, cigarette; story: le'varekh...be'ahavah)

Domestic Love; Komarno -- Shekhinah and wife. Even lateⁿ.

Ahavat Yisrael. Berditchever and Kook.

berditchever:

- * wagonner oiling wagon in Talith and Tefillin
- * G-d: why not like Jew, drops Tefillin picks up. Your tefillin: Israel One
- * Rosh Hash: You command once, we blow 100 sounds. Now we one request: blow only once "be'shofar gadol le'herutenu"
- * pre-Kol Nidre: Mitzvah eat and drink then fast, yet looked, and haven't found one "Shikkur" in Shul. If had told that mitzvah to goyim -- no Minyan for K.N.! Why, then....?

XI Conclude -

Need those qualities: a broadening of Relig. to cover all life -- anti-secularism; a practice of Torah and Halakhah with joy, simplicity, less shyness, and more spontaneity, less pretense and more emotional warmth, above all: more love.

what was contribution of Has'm? - not mind as much as heart.

R. Pinhas of Koretz on why naem/Baal SHEM Tov: When person faints, revive by whispering his name in ear. So: Jewish people was prostate. And Besht whispered to J. heart: AWAKE -- You're a JEW!...