

Karl D. Darmstadter

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4-16-69

Bodner's new forest hotel

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Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm

The Jewish Center

131-135 W 86th St.

New York, N.Y. 10024

My dear Dr. Lamm:

Having spent no. in Lakewood, I write to you from Philadelphia, before returning to Wash. after n'is pae ja.

You were kind enough, in the midst of the pressure of your pre-no. increased, activities, to send me a greatly appreciated, most informative reply. Si!

Having mentioned, and written about, my friend, Professor Nathan A. Scott, Jr. and having seen your interest in this outstanding scholar, the enclosure which I copied from a recent letter from N.S. with, I believe, bc of more than passing interest to you.

His approach gives food for thought. There are points where one may not quite agree with him. Obviously, there is not less but more anti-Semitism among white America - due to sheer numbers!

I have the suspicion that Arab propaganda among (allegedly "seelenverwandte") Negroes is much greater than Jewish individuals and organisations generally recognize. But that is another (ugly) part of the story.

As to Dr. Nathan A. Scott's genuine attitude and explanatory conclusions - as he sees it - I anticipate that it will interest you indeed. That is why I send it to you, adding my best wishes for an n'is, a'is pae, and my best regards,

Cordially yours,
Karl Darmstadter

"...I'm filled with anguish - more so than I can say - by the ugly anti-Semitism that's occasionally drifting out of black ghettos in the urban North today. It's unspeakably blasphemous, and all Negroes who have any basic commitment to humane values will reject it with the contempt it deserves. But just as mischievous is the anti-anti-Semitism represented by Mr. Shanker of the United Federation of Teachers in New York - who, in recent months, with his colleagues, has given enormous circulation (through leaflets and circulars and newspaper advertisements) to every little outburst of this or that utterly obscure little black paranoiac; and I fear that the Jewish community, in so far as it offers any great response to the sort of hue and cry that's so undid by the 'professional' baiters of anti-Semites (like Shanker), may be responding to a phantom.

It is true, of course, that a certain kind of black racism has a very definitely anti-Semitic twist - but all the most careful researches indicate that, proportionately, there still remains far less anti-Jewish prejudice in the Negro community than in any other segment of the American populace. And thus I can't help but feel that some of my friends in the Anti-Defamation League are simply being neurotic in many of their current fulminations against black anti-Semitism. But though the size of the phenomenon is something infinitely less menacing than they imply, it must, of course, whatever its size, be unequivocally repudiated by all decent men."

(from a letter sent to me by: Dr. Nathan A. Scott, Jr.,
Professor of Theology and Literature, The Divinity School,
The University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill. 60637).

KJ.D.