

KINGSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
OF
THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
IN MID-BROOKLYN
317 CLERMONT AVENUE
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11205

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

September 22, 1966

Rabbi Norman Lamm
Jewish Center in Manhattan
131 West 86 Street
New York, New York


Dear Rabbi Lamm:

I have read with great interest the series of articles on the State of Jewish Belief: A Symposium that appeared in last month's Commentary. I found your article to be particularly challenging and incisive. I would, however, like to have some further information regarding a point that you expressed quite cogently on page 111. You wrote "These two functions, the tension between which is inherent in the concept of chosenness, are not antonyms, mutually exclusive, but supplementary ideas. In a study of how this doctrine was treated in Tannaitic times, a contemporary scholar has discovered that the greater the emphasis by an individual sage on chosenness and its inescapable particularism, the greater the breadth of his universalism." I would very much be interested in knowing who the contemporary scholar is that discovered this interesting pattern. Has this study been published? If so, under what title and which publication? Can I possibly receive a copy of this most fascinating work of scholarship?

I am presently engaged in preparing an article that deals with American values and Jewish values and the yardstick by which one judges the other. A study which attempts to reveal a breadth of universalism as emanating out of an individual sage's chosenness and particularism is therefore particularly revealing and interesting to me.

Thank you for your kind cooperation.

Sincerely,


Seymour P. Lachman, Director
Kingsborough Community College
in Mid-Brooklyn

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