

4- yet, when we read the Torah's account of the Jewish rebellion
vs Eg. or the Haggadah's narrative, we hear nothing of these
things. Not one word about Pharo's tactical wisdom or Eg's
science, medicine or engineering accomplishments. Not one, single
background word of admiration for any of the great achievements
of Eg. And even when their military machine is mentioned, it
is only as prelude to the climax - its ignominious and disgraceful
defeat. That is gloating, not admiration.

5- But if there is no admiration for Eg. or love to Pharo,
neither is there a word or a hint of hatred. You cannot find
any trace of hatred for the Eg. enemy in all of the Torah
or Talmud or Haggadah. It seems that to have hated
the Egyptians would have meant giving them too much credit.

6- What then is the attitude of the Torah to Eg.? - one
of complete + total CONTEMPT. There is a total absence
of admiration for the Egs - instead, pure ridicule, disdain
+ scorn. The religion of Eg is treated w. frivolous irreverence.
it is referred to as ^{עֲרֵלָה וְעִוְלָה} - the abomination,
the filth, the vulgarity of Eg. The punishment meted out
by G-d to the Egs is recalled only by the utter +
disgracing destruction of the idols it held sacred -
the ^{עֲרֵלָה וְעִוְלָה} ^{עֲרֵלָה וְעִוְלָה}, the pregnant G-d adored in
the gods of Eg. The ten plagues are important
because they all struck irreverent blows at

The sacra + sancta of Eg. religion - the holy Nile turned to blood, the holy ~~cows~~ cattle were slaughtered, the frog - a goddess in Eg. myth-religion - became a pest. Scorn upon scorn, ten times over. And the Eg. military machine? - just read the Hagadah's elaborate description of its shameful defeat. You will rarely find, in ^{any} other rel. work, so much sarcastic humor as you do in the Hagadah.

7. And this utter contempt for the advanced & progressive Eg. civilization did not die with that generation - 707 years later, when Eg. was still a great world power vying with Babylon for supremacy. Jeremiah scornfully remarked (Jer. 46): *Ill p'sh p'n 1712* - "The King of Eg is nothing but a lot of noise!"
8. So, that is the judgment of the leaders of this Israeli people in the greatness of its former wastes - *Ill -* just a mere noise, that is all. Its elaborate religion w. all its mysticisms & poetic mythology is a *1712, an* abomination, & all its scientific & technological & military ^{with all its accumulated wealth} *1712* ^{is} just so much empty sound!
9. Of course, there is in here a moral of magnificent proportions. What the Torah is telling us & what the Hagadah is preaching to us is not to be impressed w. material

achievements, & not to stare with open-mouthed admiration at any wealth or might or so-called progress which is morally rotten. It tells us that when all these grand achievements are divorced from G-d, & separated from ethical content, when they are immoral, then they deserve nothing but our contempt. What Passover means to teach us is not to respect any of the beliefs & needs of a religion of man for their own sake; because there is good religion & there is religion which is ~~not~~ evil. And not to be overwhelmed by scientific progress for its own sake; for there is sound & progress which is worthy of our admiration, & there is the kind that is ~~fill~~ - a mere ~~sound~~ noise, a bluff, valueless & unworthy, deserving our contempt.

10. Here is a message, friends, directed to us as to no other generation before us. It is a challenge which is not only a reproach, but also an encouragement. For we Western Jews, & particularly Am. Jews, have made a major mistake: we have imagined that patriotism demands uncritical imitation of what all Americans do & think, & that gratitude to our country requires of us to be cowed ~~in~~ by its culture & to stand in awesome admiration before every aspect of Am. life, no matter how cheap & degrading it sometimes ~~that~~ becomes. We have lost the art of healthy contempt to that which deserves contempt

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14 & we have frightened ourselves into admiring acceptance of whatever must ^{or} people happen to be thinking & doing at the time.

11. Of course there is very much to admire in modern life in America - but the trouble is that we have swallowed it whole & the result has been a even case of religious indigestion & cultural cramps. Instead of choosing the noble, the idealistic, the honorable contributions of Am. civilization, we have chosen by & large ^{the kind of to achieve the first triumph!} to assimilate at the lowest level, most Am. Jews have chosen to admire & respect & absorb not Harvard, but Hollywood - not Wm. James but Harry James, not fine literature but the lionizing trash that often makes the best-seller lists. We have too often failed to call a spade a spade. We have failed to exercise our critical faculties & contempt for the cheap & the vulgar.

You know very well that a good deal of what happens at many of our weddings & funerals - to combine the happy & the tragic - is nothing more than plain mimicry of what most ^{prosperous} Protestants ~~sets~~ practice. We should have had enough ^{courage} to hold such nonsense in contempt. Instead we have to admire ^{emulate} it. Only recently I engaged a Protestant clergyman in conversation & he told me that his colleagues are becoming disgusted with these practices. They are planning to do away with the ridiculous funeral rituals originated by enterprising undertakers.

They are fed up with weddings which emphasize 'processions' ~~instead of~~ and silly, sentimental & secular warbling by an underbred female soprano instead of the vital religious ~~significance~~ significance of the wedding. Probably, in a decade or so, our own Jews, in order to be up-to-date & modern, will follow suit. Why then, have we not had enough self-respect to regard as ~~all these~~ all these horrible parodies & caricatures up to now? We Jews introduced the ideas of ~~modesty~~ modesty - to the world. When was our spiritual motto when J. weddings turned into 'immodest orgies'? Why were we not courageous enough to state publicly that this is a religious ceremony & people were to come dressed properly, just as if they were in shul? Why did we not label it as contemptuous & beneath disdain? Why did we not live up to the tradition of the Hagadah? Why were we not worthy heirs of Jeremiah who was able to call out (1162 2126 / 111750 - this is all an undignified & worthless mix?

If Passover is to be meaningful to us today it must teach us to be fearless in our advocacy of Torah & Tradition - to know what to admire & what to disdain. That I submit, is what separates Orthodoxy from the other groups. We refuse & shall always refuse to raise place the contemptible in

The pedestal of piety merely because it happens to be fashionable. We refuse to surrender our intelligence. We are going to call a spade an abomination even if it is popular. And all the might & splendor of the world remains to us a ^{pile} ~~pile~~, just a lot of noise, if it is not used to further the will of God and enoble the human heart & elevate the spirit of man.

12.

It was when the might of Eg was descending upon the Israelites that we read ^{3 Ki 18: 17-18 11:5111}. The usual translation is: and the children of Isr. were afraid & so they cried unto the Lord. That is: they were afraid of the Eg, so they prayed to God for help. But ~~the great Kotiker~~ ~~gave a deeper interpretation when he explained that~~ ~~means not only fear but also reverence~~ ~~that~~ ^{there is an even deeper meaning to that verse when we recall that} ^{67 B in 11:5111} means not only fear but reverence & respect [this interp. is] my interp of Kotiker as recorded in - they respected the might of Eg. they trembled in reverence & ~~also~~ admiration for this countryman - from 17:11 - They prayed to God & implored His forgiveness for daring to admire & reverence that which should be disdained & scorned! We commit a grievous sin when we admire that which is vulgar & contemptible. We too must not be

frightened by the $\Delta 2814$ in our contemporary life. (8
but we clearly label it as such. (1112 2.13.24 / 14.11.12.
all the wealth & wisdom in the world cannot dignity the
King J. eg. If he acts like a pharisee, then he is just
so much empty wise.

13 - And if even we needed proof of the positive value of intelligent
conduct of the affairs of life, & the proper evaluation
of the 1112, of the hollowness of ~~the~~ the hypocrisies of
existing, that proof came to us these last few months.
Isr. gave up terrific polit. advantages won by brilliant
military operations. This was done because - in addition to
pressures of all kinds - the govt. of Israel placed its
trust & confidence in the words of ~~two~~ a diplomat. In a
larger sense, the decision to evacuate the Sinai & Gaza
agaba gulf was ^{an expression} ~~an expression~~ of ~~an expression~~ the civilization's culture of
the was turned. As we now know, that was almost
completely misplaced. It was a ghastly mistake.

Does this mean that the entire Sinai operation
must forever be written off as a tragic mistake & total loss?
No! - ... will be seen all future generations Jews
never again ~~to be duped~~ to be duped by contemptible immorality
of pagan world... those who made these promises should
have known of sanctity of a woman's word - they are

church leaders whose Testament points to what Pharisees -
 our sacred ancestors - & calls them hypocrites! These
 are people who put religious acts & talk of religion
 and involve God's name as support for their policies -
 for generations to come Jews will hold this up as
 a shining example of what happens when you put
 your trust in that which deserves contempt.
 For centuries Jewish children will learn in
 the traditional chavrus: for the day told this was
 a king & state who gave his word to our ancestors,
 & a president who publicly proclaimed their right
 to the big canal ... and it came to pass
 that they denied their promises & changed in
 their oaths, and this was the 12th
 of the western world and the promises
 were only a great noise & we were even
 as Jew. They prophet proclaimed "Ph. King
 of Eq. is only a noise"; and these leaders
 were untrue to the democracy which they headed,
 for they suspended their cruel immigration laws
 to permit the entry of Hungarian refugees,

but when they saw Thy children driven out of the
 land of Egypt by a new Pharo called Nasser, &
 Thy children knuckled at the doors of this
 country, these leaders shut their ears & their
 hearts, and they said to the impoverished
 remnant of Israel, "No, you shall not enter our land,
 for you are the children of Abr. Isaac & Jacob,
 & ∴ we do not want you or need you". and
 so they became a ^{1281x} and they made of
 their principles a ¹¹¹², teaching the
 children of Israel from generation to generation
 the words of David ^{p 316 p 32 p 217 p 118 p 16}
^{1281x} 1112 - "Do not place your trust
 in princes, in men mortal men who are themselves
 desperately in need of salvation & moral
 cleansing"!

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14- Certainly, $\therefore$ we should learn to acknowledge the moral tempo
of this western, christian world as it is. We must
learn to remain unmoved by pious talk and
great technical progress if the inner substance remains
morally eroded. We must learn to distinguish
between the abominable & the honorable, between
the soul of ~~the~~ America & its empty noise. We must
learn to be critical, which means to exercise our
functions as intelligent, mature & self-respecting
individuals.

[illegible]

(separate sheet)

Main idea - in bare form - of contempt -
orally

heard ~~on~~ from Wohlberg privately

(see "call to sanity" - sermon
1st day R.H. 1957)