

H-19
INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AT CHANUKAH BANQUET 1955

1. My task this evening is to install the new administration of our Kodimoh.

Looking over the list, I discover that there are a total of seven units that must be officially charged and installed. And I do not regard this as amere fortuitous coincidence. The number seven is a "magic number" in Jewish life. It is above all the number of days of the week, the symbol of the Creation of the world, and therefore the symbol of creativity as such. It is my hope and my prayer that this administration will fulfill that function of creativity on the pattern set down before it. For the work of the officers of a synagogue is much like the study of Torah - IM YOM TAAZVENU YOMAYIM YAAZVEKA, neglect it for a day and it neglects you for twice that time. You cannot keep the status quo in a shul - it's either ahead or backwards, either creative or, CHALILAH, destructive. Our installation, this evening, of each and evry one of the new administration is based on that proposition, the proposition that you must determine to be creative, else you harm this holy work which you have undertaken. Let us proceed then, with the intallation, on the pattern of the first seven days in which G-d created this Universe.

2. On the first day, G-d created Heaven and Earth - and He also created Light and Darkness.

The ability to distinguish between Light and Darkness, the duty of spreading light and subduing the forces of darkness, is a sacred one. In the first of the famous Dead Sea Scrolls discovered recently, an ancient Megillah whose authorship has not yet been determined beyon doubt, tells of the battle between the BNEI OR and BNEI CHOSHECH, the Children of Light and the Children of Darkness. The members of the Board must consider themselves the true BNEI OR, Children of Light. Upon you we will rely to bring great light into the congregation whom you are priveleged to serve. Upon you depends the future of the administration, and hence the future of Kodimoh. Apathy, indifference, pettiness and lack of vision serve only to enshroud a community in the darkness of eclipse. Loyalty, energy, breadth of vision illuminate it and its future. As I call upon you, the BNEI OR, Children of Light, I ask you to rise in your individual places.

*****Call Names Board Members*****

When the Prophet Isaiah prophesied the coming of a new age, he said: HA'AM HA'HOLCHIM

Go to your tasks with fervor and enthusiasm, and may G-d grant you and your families the awards of blessing: YA'ER HA'SHEM PANA V EILECHA, May He cause His face to shine upon you, even as you cause Kodimoh to bask on the splendid light of new hights and new acheivemnets

On the second day, G-d divided between the waters - some water above Heaven, some below it. G-d, on that second day, had the unenviable job of a sort of Divine Celestial Gabbai. He had to recognize that all the waters were deserving of a place in Heaven, and yet His honord were limited- some above some below. Gabbaim of Kodimoh too have the same problem. Every member of Kodimoh deserves the best Aliyah every single Shabbos - yet you must divide - some above, some below; some get only a Pesichah or Gelilah or Revli, others get the super-heavenly portion - such as Maftir or Shlishi or Shishi.. Whatever the Gabbai does is not good enough - and he is threatened to be swamped by raging protests, drowned in indignant ~~protests~~ objections. *on our part, we shall do the best to facilitate your work. Personally, I now officially insure all*

on our part, we shall do the best to facilitate your work. Personally I now officially insurance all claims on a \$10,000, although I have not been given this power yet.

Gentlemen, to you has been assigned the sacred task of seeing that the order of the service functions properly and with dignity. The both of you are new in this post, but you succeed men who have left the position with honor and respect. Continue that work. As ambassadors of the Almighty to the Congregation and of the Cong. to its membership, perform your duties with the dignity and honor we expect of you. And may G-d give His reward to you

and to your families even as you become co-workers with G-d in teaching Torah to Israel so that, again in the words of Isaiah, UMALAH HAARETZDEIAH ES HA'SHEM KAMAYIM LAYAM MECHASSIM' that the world be filled with the knowledge of the L—d even as the waters fill the sea.

4.(Treasurer)

Unique in the creations of the third day was the creation of plants with the ability to reproduce themselves, the ability to bear fruit which would eventually become trees, living organisms in the image of the parent tree. It is therefore a unique privilege for me to install the next officer, our new treasurer. The very fact that this is the first year he has shown great interest destiny Kodimoh is in itself significant: significant because he demonstrates the creativity of a father who was EITZ PRI OSEH PRI LEMINEIHU, who has now born fruit IN KIND. It is an occasion of Nachass for all of us that that gallant gentlemen, Mr. Louis Katz, who served so long and so ably, and who has just this year stepped down from his office, should now witness his son following in his footsteps as a guide and servant of this cong.

Call Name

Mr. Milton Katz, in accepting this post at this important period in our congregational history, you represent to us the fact that Kodimoh is not an isolated phenomenon, not a shul born out of no place. You do represent the fact that we are a cong with a past and a present, that we are heirs to a proud tradition and that this tradition continues unhampered and undiminished. It is our hope and our prayer that you will, in your post, reflect honorably on this tradition. It is our fond expectation that you will give to this past and present a third dimension - a future. May G-d be with you and with your family in that extremely creative ^{+productive} work. As Treasurer you guard not only the finances but, in the broadest sense of the word, the TREASURES of our synagogue. That treasure is our future, and particularly the ability of all of us to act as EITZ...LEMINEIHU, the ability to continue into posterity. That treasure is now placed in your keeping. Do it justice, and may your work itself be your great reward.

5. (SECRETARY)

On the fourth day, our Torah tells us, G-d created the sun and the moon and the all the planets and stars - in other words, the heavenly bodies. What more appropriate day to use in installing our next secy. A Heavenly Body indeed! He has my vote for the handsomest man in the entire administration. However, that is not why I regard the fourth day appropriate for him. I do so because he is acquiring experience in almost every important office Kodimoh has to offer. His travelling star has been occupying many really important positions in the constellation of Kodimoh's administration.

I want personally to express my gratitude to and admiration for him for the dignified, unselfish and honorable way he has shown his loyalty to Kodimoh and his concern for its welfare above all else. As I am about to install him in his office, I want to express my wish that Sol White's star shine this year as never before, and that he reflect the faith ~~and confede~~ and the hopes we have for him.

*****N ame*****

Mr. White, you are now installed as Kodimoh's new secy., a job more clearly defined and of equal importance to your last one. You are the secy of a religious institution, a House of G-d where the teaching of Torah is supreme. The minutes you take will preserve for decades to come the record that you and your fellow-officers make in carrying out the program of Torah in Kodimoh. Just as the Prophet Jeremiah had his scribe, Baruch ben Neriyahu, so does Kodimoh now appoint you its Scribe. You are the Scribe of this sacred cong, and though you may never write down the words of prophecy, you most certainly shall be called upon to record deeds of prophecy. You know and we all know what is expected of this particular administration. Now become the scribe of the most glorious chapter in the history of this shul. When Rabban Gamaliel of old was asked why Jews never paid too much attention to the writing of history, he responded that "we are too busy making it".
be not only the Tz J/A 21st but also the Terdimoh;
Let me therefore modify my charge - not only the Scribe but also the Prophet; not only the writer of History, but the Maker of it. May G-d give your family the health and you the strength and success to be able to create as well as write the record of heroic achievements, may you be a pillar of strength in this House of G-d, and a truly bright star in the firmament of Kodimoh.

6. (VP)

Fish and fowl were created on the fifth day. For my own present purposes, I would have been much happier had the Bible recorded, in addition to fowl and fish, the creation of chocolate bars, strawberries, aspirin and psychosomatic disturbances. Then it would have been obvious that from the very beginning of creation it was destined that corresponding to the fifth day Kodimoh would instal as 2nd VP a medical doctor who specializes in allergies. At any rate, it would have caused a rash of enthusiasm.

*****Dr. Tillman*****

Doctor, your very presence in our administration has been a credit to us. Your personal bearing, your dignity and poise and the reputation you have earned have served to enhance our prestige in this community. This year we are going to call upon even deeper resources which we know you own in abundance. We will impose upon your time and energies. We will expect you to give injections of vitality to your synagogue as well as your patients. We will expect you to dispel the ~~pa~~ apathy that usually infects people with spiritual anti-histamines and to spur all of us to heightened activity with administrative adreneline. We know that in you we have a man of great worth and ability, and we therefore cherish your presence, your opinion and your labors. On that same fifth day of creation we read that G-d blessed that which He had created saying, Be fruitful and multiply. Dr. Tilman, may Almighty G-d give you the strength and the ambition to make of Kodimoh a fruitful cong, may you help nourish it so that it bears fruit in its sacred undertakings. And may He multiply blessing, helath, and all that is good to you and your dear family.

7. (VP)

As the days go on, it gets more and more difficult. We must instal our 1st VP with some clue from the creation of the sixth day. That was the day, you will recall, that Man was created. I thought long and hard about this one. There are so many things our Rabbis said about Adam that I cannot possibly use for Joe Swirsky. I kept turning the pages of the Midrash, and found such statements as "Adam was created bisexual". "Adam had a tail". "Adam spoke Aramiac". Unless Mr. Swirsky speaks Aramiac without my being aware of it, nothing of this sort applies to him.

But do not despair my friends. No need to look for obscure Rabbinic passages, when the Bible itself provides the appropriate charge. G-d said, NAASEH ADAM BETZALMEINU KIDMUSEINU let US make a man in our image and in our form. The plural is important - US. Tradition has it that G-d consulted with His angels before creating Man. And that holds great truths for our incoming 1st VP.

*****MR. Swirsky*****

Upon you we rely to be the right hand of our President. You and the President must speak in the plural - WE, US. And especially NASEH - let US MAKE. You are the co-worker of the head of Kodimoh, and together you must do, make, be creative and accomplish. You were selected for this task because your co-members recognize in you the ability to serve in this high office working in harmony and cooperative effort with the Pres. You must be with him not only for consultation, but also cooperation. NAASEH ADAM - that kind of cooperative labor is ADAM - it is manly, it is human, it will contribute to the spiritual elevation of this cong. of human beings. Remember at all times that your efforts are not merely for some kind of content-less organization for some kind of hollow club. Your efforts are to be extended in productive labors on behalf of BETZALMEINU KIDMUSEINU, of educating a membership to live on in the Image of G-d, your work will have as its goal making possible the evocation of all that is good and noble and holy in us. As second in command of efforts a SYNAGOGUE, not just another organization, your/cannot and will not be in vain. We ask you to spare no effort in Kodimoh's behalf. We ask you to find time even where there is none. We know that you will find untapped sources of time and energy because are made yourself you have the Image of G-d, because you come from a family which has always cherished that which is holy and sacred to Israel and Torah. In wishing well to you and Mrs. Swirsky I borrow from the words of Jacob as he blessed his son, the first JOSEPH: "The blessings of thy fathers....unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills, they shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him who is the a prince amongst his brethren".

8. (PRES)

VA'YECHULU HA'SHAMAYIM....TZVAAM, Completed and installed were the board and the Gabbaim and the secy and the treas and the VPs and all their hosts, and lo and behold it was evening and it was morning - the Sabbath Day. We extend our SHOLOM ALEICHEM not only to MALACHEI HASHAREISS, to the ministering angels, but to he who, in our sheme, represents the Sabbath.

And lo and behold, all over again, the seventh day too is represented by - a doctor!! We have an administration abounding in doctors. I plead with you not to draw the conclusion that the Rabbi is getting sick of things....The only conceivably correct deduction is that the Rabbi is to be criticized for being - overweight.

I recall an incident now famous with graduates of the Yeshiva University, of which our next president is also an alumnus, which is most appropriate here. Yeshiva moved lower East Side, Montgomery St, to new bldg Wash Hts, fr Yeshiva alone to Yesh College. Rabbi Levine walk down corridor, Good Morning, Dr. Belkin,...Dr.Revel....Mirsky.... Churgin.... Voss is doss - a yeshiva tsu a hospital?.....

Same here: vossiz doss a shul oder a hospital?.....

***Jewish mystics used to say that all the days of the week draw their sustenance, their very existence and sanctity, from the SHEFA, the abundant, overflowing and emanating holiness of the Shabbos. That holds true for an administration such as ours too. It is the personality, the dedication, the leadership of the President as the lay-head of the synagogue which gives the SHEFA SHEL KEDUSHAH, the inspiration of sacred service, to all the other members of the administration and hence the entire cong. It is our good fortune, and a source of pride for our Kodimoh, that we are now about to instal as President a man who represents the significance of Shabbos in his own personal life as well. Not many synagogues, Orthodox or otherwise, can boast of a Pres who, despite his involvement in all aspects of real modern life and after achieving an enviable reputation in his own profession, can yet remain a Shomer Shabbos and serve as an inspired leader in a school dedicated to the peretuation of all that is sacred in Torah life.

*****call up Dr. Izenstien*****

**inevitable that you should some day hold this honored office

1. you comr fr family always truly Orthod, finest Jewish baalebatim
2. your wife fr one most prominent Rabbin families, famous throughout world
3. yourself educated in Torah since earliest youth, through Yesh Univers
4. you & Mrs. Iz raise family Jewishly, manner commands respect & admirtn entire city
5. intereset of you & wife in all commty J causes, leadership in schools J ed
6. natural, therefore, if you t become Pres Spfld's foremost Orth synag

**since "natural", my task that much easier

**your mission will be t represent t commty example what we stand for - relevance

Torah mod world. As a Ben Torah who acheived enviable reputation great profession & always sensitive call of his people, you have ability to peform KIDDUSH - hallow Kod's purposes and prestige by personally demonstarting this triple-combntn of Torah, modernity and commty service. May your leadership be an inspiration to all others, teaching them that Jsm is not attempt to escape civiliz & mod world, but the attempt to hallow it, give it dignity, meaning, grace, beauty - & holiness.

**In addition - special urgency t yr election ths year. We have not chosen Dr. Izenstien to perform, Chalilah, an autopsy on the Synagogue, nor even to diagnose & prescribe for an ailing Kod. We have chosen you to do something, metaphorically speaking, outside narrow limits yr own specialty - to act as one who helps us procreate spritually and develop organizationally and - above all - build physically. Guide us, Doctor, to greater constractv efforts, to create & build, to renewal and growth.

**your task diff, burdensm, oftn frstrtng. Demands ptnc, tolrcnc, frbrnc. But w knw tht y possss th crg, comptnc & zeal ncssry scssfl exctn yr dties.

Remeber, Dr, that as hard and backbrkng as cmmtty service is, it is doubly rewarding:

**Rewrdng t Trh - bec y lvng exmpl of wht w aim t prodc in J lofe

** " t Spfld - yr intrsts trnscnd nrrw orgnztln ones, incl in perspcctv entr cmmtty

** " Kod - its fortunes, ftr, now lie delctly in balance; & if y cn drw abt y

men of lylyty, comptnc, effncy & willingness, Kod will become cynosure all eyes & impregnable fortress Torah

***Rewarding to yr family, bec altho see even less of you now, thy'll hv grtfcctn knwng tht y are cntrbtng immrsbly scss wht thy knw is a holy undrtkng; and that in this way they too contrinbute to this undrtkng.

***Finally, rwrng t y; bec y cnnt hlp bng wht y are. And y are an indvdl w J cnsnc & innate snstvtv t dstnies Trh & feeling f welfare our J cmnty Spfld. The success of yr admnstrtn is smthng whch is part yr idlgcl convictions, hence its success is yr sprtl reward.

**May Gd grant that these rewards come to you from the Throne Almghty Gd, and that y, yr dear fmly, Kod all Israel then enjoy the spiritual peace fulness that xomes fr a task well-done, fr a sort of MENUCHAS SHABBOS, the kind Memucaha that comes after a week of great and noble crestivity.

** I conclude, and officially instal you, with two last remarks, toyou and to the cong.

*****To you, I say about your felklow officers, paraphrasing the words of the Bible in describing the reaction of G-d as He beheld the work of the first six days, VAYAR ELOKIM VHINEI TOV MEOD. I say too, Dr. Izenstien, I behold the caliber of your administration, the men we installed tonight - VHINEI...it is good- very good!

*****And to the cong here gathered I say, LECHA DODI LIKRAS KALLAH, PNEI SHABBAS NKABLAH, come, my dear friends, let us ride in welcome to our new Pres., let us greet him who to us represebts the Sabbath Day.

cut:

(1/2) - 3/1/70 2/1/70 2/1/70
3/1/70 3/1/70 2/1/70