

"A JEWISH RESPONSE TO THE NEW MORALITY"

- I. Israel: am, goy. But at beginning: mishpahah. Stability Jewish family (despite silly jokes). Now: divorce, alcoholism, delinquency, and inter-marriage.
Story: Who needs a home?

Now have to add: New morality. Two versions or components:
 a) Hugh Heffner- Playboy - "bunnies"
 b) Sex community- personalistic and anti-tradition

- II. Heffner: bachelor morality - "cool," impersonal, woman inferior: depersonalized to "thing"

III. Heffner's New Morality in Perspective:

Two extreme views sex - both based on common source:
Gnosticism -duality worlds, contempt this world. Hence against strongest involvement, which is sexual love. So: anti-sexual.

This antagonism expressed 2 opposite ways: abuse or non-use, libertinism or asceticism, pagan-orgiastic or Christian-monastic.

Modern variants: pagan-Hafner; ascetic-religious celibacy.
 Both: anti-marriage.

IV. Our View:

Judaism: opposed paganism. Giluy arayot. Yehareg v'al yaavor. Reading on Yom Kippur. Perishah me'arayot.
Also opposed: Christian - "Better marry than burn." Jesus and Paul bachelors.

Pro-marriage: Kiddushin- Humans sanctify, can desecrate. Jewish Morality based on home, family, marriage.

Talmud -every successful marriage a triangle-Shechinah ish and ishah -- esh and Name of God.
Kidushin - holy and Nisuin - elevated.

Purposes Marriage: 2 accounts of creation: perpetuation, companionship.

- a) Peru u'revu -Hillel * Shammai. Need for J. pop. explosion.
 b) Lo tov heyot ha-adam levado. Raavad: Sex and sexuality..

Y.Z.Meklenburg -tov. Also: animals created with mates, man must yearn for one, earn her love. This=anti-Heffner, innate worth woman.

(Talmud-always realistic and unprudish-yet delicate, sensitive. HAKOL YODIN KALLAH LAMAH NIKHNESAM LE' CHUPPAH)

Judaism's Sex Theory: no contradiction betw. morality and sexuality.

Be'tzellem Elokim bara oto, zakhar u'nekevah bara otam
The seven Blessings.

Two loves (of God, woman) reenforce each other:
Akiva & Rachel.

Hence: Judaism unequivocally opposed to Heffner's "New Morality."
Remarkably, J. opposition to Playboy not only because
latter exploitative--but: latter too anti-sexual!

- V. Second version: sex community. Agrees Heffner: discard trad. moral restraints. But diametrically opposed on depersonalization. Emphasis on enhancement of persona as sole moral good.

Judaism- approves this noble aspect New Morality.

Not that we need N. Morality to teach this; but any reminder in this cold world helps.

View of woman: not just function-bearer-- sex toy or baby-maker, but person.

Isaac Arama on Rachel: havah-li banim v'im ayin metah anokhi.

Jacob's harsh response: Ishah and Havvah.

Halakhah: unlike mod. legal codes, law of ONAH: sex as duty of husband, right of wife...

Iggeret Hakodesh and Vandervelde.

- VI. Yet: Personalism alone insufficient.

NEW MORALITY idea of excusing lawlessness by endowing it with special significance (esteem, love) = secularized, humanistic version ancient paganism. Kedeshah; obscene cults. Judaism rejects both cultic, personalistic apology for immorality.

Objections to New Morality.

- A. Psychological. rationalization. Sanh.63: Yodin hayu yisrael be'akkum she'ein bah mammash, ve'lo avdu akkum ela le'hatir le'hem arayot be'farhesya. An O-U for treif acts.
- B. Logical. If "meaningful relationships" all - then adultery, incest acceptable, every perversion. But then - no family. And rejection family is sophomoric, not sophisticated.
- C. Religious. Antinomian - Sabbatian "holy sin". Christianity fundamentally antinomian. So: British Council Churches (Oct. 66)- in effect permitting Lady Chatterly's Lover.

So: Episcopalian priests NYC (Nov. '68) - homosexuality
"morally neutral" if "love." (Recent case Jewish
Chaplain Columbia Univ. on premarital sex -- OK if
"meaningful")

- D. Moral: N. Morality neither new nor moral. Difference
between ETHICAL (vs. man, derivatively vs. God) & MORAL
(directly vs. God, thru fellow man).
(Lev. 18:3 - "maaseh eretz mitzrayim...kenaan")
Sifre: mitzrayim-hitivu maasehem; kanaan-kilkelu
So: Egypt=ethical but immoral; Canaan=unethical).

Thus: New Morality, like old Egypt, may be ethical - but
not moral.

End verse: u-ve'hukkotehem lo telekhu --
R. Jos. S. Nathanson: senseless sin...

VII. N. Morality founders on hedonism.

Judaism not against pleasure; but must conform to
kedushah.

Unlike Christianity - no abyss between antipodes body-
soul, law-love, letter-spirit--and holiness-
happiness.

Resolution these polarities: FAMILY PURITY.