

The International Center
for University Teaching of Jewish Civilization
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המרכז הבינלאומי
להוראת תרבות ישראל באוניברסיטאות
בהסות נשיא המדינה

TO: FAX No. (001) 212. 269.5420

Mr. Lawrence A. Kobrin
80 Pine Street
New York, N.Y. 10005.

18th August, 1992.

Dear Arie,

ר. ל. א. קוברין

Fe:
review
2/2/92

I am truly beholden to you for the gift copy brought by Mervin of Reverence, Righteousness, and Rahamanut, edited by Jacob J. Schacter. Please tell your good Rabbi that he has produced an excellent piece of work. You are quite right. It is an important volume of Jewish Americana, to which I shall have need to refer from time to time.

Actually, the first study to which I turned, was Judith Baumel and Jacob Schacter's "The Ninety-three Bais Yaakov Girls of Cracow : History or Typology?" It is a thoroughly researched study by two people who themselves have an extraordinary relationship ensuing from their family history during the Shoah. I know Judith and appreciate her learning. Although I do not know Rabbi Schacter, I know of his many accomplishments. In this one case, however, I raised the question with Judith: Why was it so necessary for them to do this essay? In a sense they answer the question in the last paragraph, leaving us off with the thought that the story could, or could not have happened. From my own historical stance, I differentiate between legend as reality in history, and legend as historical reality. From my Jewish emotional consciousness, I have lived in this instance over the years, with Hillel Bavli's elegy which is now incorporated in so many anthologies, and which I regularly recite on Yom Kippur, in the אנכי אלהים prayers. I enclose a copy in case it is not readily available to you. Indeed,

אנכי אלהים נקני נפש אדם

From the wisdom one acquires from Rabbi Jung, I think Norman Lamm's recall of the advice given him probably leads the rest, when he transmitted his life to the young Rabbi Lamm: "Never expect gratitude and you will never be unhappy". I do not know whether Norman received gratitude from others during his remarkable ministry. Certainly Norman, today, is the beneficiary of his great contributions to Jewish life, including, of course, the manner in which he leads Modern Orthodoxy in America. Please, then, when you see your respective Rabbis, give them my hearty Yasher Koach.

As I write this long letter, I realize how much I am now deprived by the fact that travel - at least for the immediate future - is prohibited to me. Yet, at the very same time, I am boundlessly grateful to the Almighty for the אני חתום to communicate with my friends in this manner, until we can meet in ירושלים

וירושלים

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