

February 27, 1961

Mr. Carmel  
38 Craven Walk  
London N. 16, England

My dear Mr. Carmel:

I thank you very much for having returned to me in India the copy of Rabbi Uziel's responsa.

Concerning the substance of the Teshuvah, it was not easy to do any extensive research in Bombay on the question of Hindu custom and law relating to remarriage of a divorcee and permissible degrees of consanguinity in marriage. I was able to learn the regulations which are currently in effect, legislated after Indian independence.

However, these obviously are not the material needed in order to form an authentic opinion regarding the Bene Israel. I was told in Bombay that the research could be performed as well in New York or in London by referring to old issues of the "Bombay Gazetteer." The impression I received from those I spoke to was that amongst the Hindus there was no remarriage of the divorcee but that amongst the Moslems there was, and that the practice of the Bene Israels followed the religious environment in which they lived, either one or the other.

Please be kind enough to convey this information to Rabbi Sasson. I might add that I discussed the problem with the leading rabbinical authorities in Israel, and I may have something to report in the near future.

I hope you recall our conversation regarding TRADITION. I will consent to have you reprint any material from TRADITION in your journal, "Yeshurun," provided you give me prior notice and give the credit to TRADITION when material is reprinted.

I am also interested in pursuing further our discussion regarding the distribution of TRADITION in England. Please let me know what you think is the proper subscription fee which would make TRADITION accessible to Anglo-Jewish readers and yet be sufficiently high to allow us to at least cover our expenses.

Regards to Rabbi Sassoon and Rabbi Feuchtwanger.

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi Norman Lamm