

"The Brisker Dynasty"

Lecture at Camp Morasha, July 19, 1965

- I. 1. An example of the finest Jewish aristocracy -- that of Torah & scholarship -- the "ז"ה נ"ז"
2. Lithuania ^{before} ~~after~~ RHV (R. Hayyim Volozhin) -- a desert.
After him -- an oasis. VY (Volozhimer Yeshiva) has been termed "not a town, or school, but a concept..."
3. The "Dynasty": RHV; his son R. Eliezer Israel, who was young, had very brief tenure. Then controversy over succession between R. Israel's 2nd son-in-law, ^{ר' י.ב.}, & R. Joseph Baer Solovitchuk (^{ר' י.ב. סולובייך}). A famous & distinguished ז"ה נ"ז (including נ"ל ג"ס) decided in favor of ^{ר' י.ב.}. (Later, N[athan] and RJB recruited; latter's son married former's granddaughters).
- In last days of ^{ר' י.ב.}, the Russian Govt closed down yeshiva. During these last days, RHB (R. Hayyim Brisker) was his unofficial asst. RHB was succeeded in VY, then succeeded his father as Rabbi of Brisk.
- RHB's sons: R. Simcha, R. Mosheh, R. Velvel;
- RHB's son - our RSB life
4. JB's typological essay: "ט"ה נ"ז" -- its profound influence on whole generation of Am. Orth. Rabbis. Few realize, however, it's only the story. Not: "ט"ה נ"ז" (ms).

II. General characteristics (of ז"ה נ"ז):

1. Total Dedication Torah. RHV's stress on Torah: פ"נ גז,
that v=it: 1.1. ✓
2. Contrary of Hal. RHV on ^{א"נ נ"ז ב"ג ב"ג נ"ז} { or: RHV
R. Velvel on: נ"ז for purpose of giving up נ"ז נ"ז. } or: נ"ז
or: נ"ז
or: נ"ז
or: נ"ז

(actually - preceded by Ibn Ezra on, 11th c., folv. 15, 16, 17)

--> History subordinate to Halakhah.

- ✓ 3. Principle of $\text{פנ}'$; $\text{פנ}' > \text{תורה}$. Gaon as a model.
- ✓ Story: RAV asked what was at תורה , res: "eat + sleep" -- i.e., besides that - only study!

III. - RHV - gen-data - rates, gaon...

1. "תורה" of Voloshin: fierce independence (learned from gaon - used in not following him re: Hasidim); (suspects own פנ'ח) פנ'ח ; so: attitude to תורה . In study: RAV - תורה \rightarrow תורה .

Also - not only תורה , also רמב"ם . Thus: RAV + N (but not RAB - who too sharp, thought would have to disagree too much w. precedent).

- ✓ 2. Manner of תורה : usually one of 2 kinds: תורה , i.e. study page after page + Rabbi says פג'ז when he has them; and פג'ז -- students by themselves, + Rabbi only says פג'ז. As Vol. Y: פג'ז \rightarrow פג'ז (with only own creativity, and no תורה but תורה פג'ז)
- Also - were all of RAV's trend, not only פג'ז (per se)

- ✓ 3. RAV dealt w. major features + personal problems Yeshevah: תורה פג'ז; תורה פג'ז (not introduced, although already recommended Talmud; RAV: p. 3 פג'ז \rightarrow p. 11 פג'ז פג'ז - תורה פג'ז (ליכטנשטיין); תורה פג'ז;

IV. Netziv: 2 main -- 3 periods: RAV, N, RAB. (N's work with: תורה פג'ז, פג'ז)

- ✓ N - mobility. First... ORDA: broadening horizons - not only O"e, also Germany - תורה פג'ז. Also תורה (still in ms.).
- Also: ORDA (RAV + N taught to פג'ז - פג'ז).

I RMB

- ✓ 1. Phenomenal ~~anthrop~~ minds; new-fangled methodology.
- ✓ 2. Child prodigy - story: father + mother ask for tea...
- ✓ 3. Hol-alt-embracing: story (in ~~with~~ left): RMB's MINDS AND + interest by studying MINDING (<sup>SV: VIKTOR FRANKL
writing on psych-
care camp inmates</sup>)
- ✓ 4. Analytic powers: RMB surgery
Story: when - ask RMB, I happen to be happy - ask RMB - both her & questioner unhappy...
- ✓ 5. Method: categorical analyses: e.g. sl - subj + obj; broad; gen + specific; sln + pln; sln + gen; -> MINDS.
- ✓ 6. Ex-I: \rightarrow yes, MINDS, with brain etc. \rightarrow sl, sln + sln
- ✓ 7. Ex-II: in \rightarrow sln - an example g. by Zwin (100% P/H)
in sln or sln + sln
- ✓ 8. Trust in Rambam - in what he does NOT say - when he says.
see Zwin, Story told by R. Abramson in *zehar*
is it gen - thinking / N/H or \rightarrow MINDS
- ✓ 9. But can be overdone - paradox.
Story: (sln) once or instant ... "216/SN"!
- ✓ 10. RMB policy on \rightarrow - TipN -> NNN. R. Velvel explains.
100% MINDS AND only as in \rightarrow N/H that not now
changes, but will be it fast. But it now ranges,
not as regularly.

9. בְּרִית מָנָה - תְּנִינָה

- RAV: purposeful יְמִינֵיכֶם לְגַדֵּל
- RB in turn of Rabbi (similar to in RAB)
- RB during סָבֵב in Birk (see זָבֵב)
- " in פִּזְנָה , פְּזִילָה לְבָשָׂר (see ").

10. Our own RB life - תְּנִינָה

his intellectual integrity
his personal זָבֵב