

R E M E M B E R

A High Holiday Sermon (1973 - 5734)  
by Rabbi Dr. Herbert M. Baumgard  
Temple Beth Am, Miami, Florida

IT WAS ONLY LAST ROSH HA-SHANAH THAT WE DISCUSSED THE THEN RECENT OLYMPIC DISASTER. A FEW WEEKS AGO, A MONUMENT WAS UNVEILED IN MUNICH, WHERE THE GAMES WERE HELD, IN MEMORY OF THE SLAUGHTERED ATHLETES. THE MONUMENT LISTS THE NAMES OF THE YOUNG ISRAELIS AND, THEN, ENDS WITH A BRIEF STATEMENT, "REMEMBER THEM".

THE MEMBERS OF BETH AM DECIDED AT ROSH HA-SHANAH SERVICES LAST YEAR TO REMEMBER THESE YOUNG ISRAELIS BY ERECTING A NEW YOUTH BUILDING. THE PHYSICAL EVIDENCE OF YOUR COMMITMENT IS AVAILABLE IN THAT RISING BUILDING. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THOSE WHO HAVE NOT YET CONTRIBUTED TO IT WILL WANT TO DO SO DURING THIS HOLIDAY PERIOD, IN ANY AMOUNT YOU CAN AFFORD. BIG BUILDINGS GROW FROM LITTLE BLOCKS OF CONTRIBUTIONS.

THE NEW TEEN-AGE BUILDING WILL BE A MONUMENT TO THOSE WHO WERE KILLED NEEDLESSLY IN MUNICH, BUT IT WILL ALSO SERVE OUR OWN CHILDREN MARVELOUSLY. IT WILL NOT ONLY HONOR DEAD JEWS, IT WILL HELP TO INSPIRE LIVING JEWS THE BEST MONUMENT IS ONE THAT SERVES THE LIVING. THIS IS HOW THE DEAD ARE RESURRECTED.

THE DEPTH OF A PERSON'S SENSITIVITY AND HUMANENESS IS MARKED BY HIS ABILITY TO REMEMBER. A SELF-CENTERED PERSON RESENTS THE NEED TO REMEMBER WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE. HIS ENERGY SEEMS TO GO INTO THE ACTIVITY OF CUTTING OFF HIS TIES TO THE PAST AND SEVERING HIMSELF FROM THOSE WHO HAVE HELPED HIM ALONG THE WAY. WE ARE ALL BENEFICIARIES OF THE PREVIOUS GENERATIONS, BUT SOME OF US ACT AS IF NO ONE EVER TROD THIS EARTH BEFORE. YOU ALL KNOW THE STORY OF THE THREE MEN WHO WANTED SOME APPLES GROWING ON A TALL TREE. ONE MAN GOT ON THE SHOULDERS OF ANOTHER, THE THIRD MAN GOT ON THE SHOULDERS OF THE SECOND MAN. SO SUPPORTED BY HIS TWO FRIENDS, THIS THIRD MAN REACHED THE APPLES HIGH IN THE TREE, AND AS HE SAT THERE MUNCHING AWAY AT THE TASTY FRUIT, HE THOUGHT TO HIMSELF, "HOW TALENTED AM I TO NEGOTIATE THIS FEAT". HOW EASY IT IS TO FORGET THOSE ON WHOSE SHOULDERS WE STAND. WE WHO BELONG TO THE MODERN GENERATION MIGHT WELL TRY TO REMEMBER THOSE INDIVIDUALS AND GENERATIONS WHOSE LABOR SET UP THE PLATFORM WHICH ENABLED OUR GENERATION TO BLAST OFF INTO THE SCIENTIFIC AGE.

THE SENSITIVE PERSON IS MORE AWARE OF HOW MUCH HE OWES TO OTHERS. IT IS HE WHO HAS A KEEN SENSE OF FAMILY, A SENSE OF

COMMUNITY, A SENSE OF HISTORY. I HAVE TOLD YOU THE STORY OF THE RESEARCH BIOLOGIST WHO WENT TO CENTRAL PARK IN NEW YORK CITY AND TOOK OUT A PLUG OF EARTH NEAR THE LAKE. IN THIS PATCH OF EARTH, HE FOUND ENDLESS NUMBERS OF SMALL PARTICLES OF ORGANIC LIFE VISIBLE ONLY UNDER A POWERFUL MICROSCOPE. AFTER USING THIS EARTH AND ITS TREASURES FOR HIS PURPOSES, THE SCIENTIST TOOK IT BACK TO CENTRAL PARK AND REPLANTED IT ON THE VERY SPOT FROM WHICH HE HAD TAKEN IT. "I DON'T LIKE TO BREAK UP FAMILIES", HE SAID. ONLY A PERSON WHO KNEW THAT THESE MICROSCOPIC LIFE FORMS HAD BEEN GROWING THERE FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS WOULD EXERCISE SUCH EXTREME CARE. ONLY A PERSON WITH SUCH KNOWLEDGE WOULD HAVE SO ACUTE A SENSE OF HISTORY, SUCH A SENSE OF THE INTERRELATEDNESS AND THE CONTINUITY OF ALL LIVING THINGS, HOWEVER PRIMITIVE. THIS SAME RESEARCH SCIENTIST, WHO HAPPENS TO BE A JEW, HAS PERHAPS THE OUTSTANDING COLLECTION OF PRIVATE PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE NAZI PERSECUTION OF THE JEWS. HE HAS THE NEED TO REMEMBER.

"REMEMBER THEM", THE MONUMENT IN MUNICH READS. HOW CAN WE WHO ARE HUMAN FORGET THEM? BUT THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO "REMEMBER". THE QUESTION IS HOW SHALL WE REMEMBER THEM, AND HOW SHALL WE REMEMBER OUR DEBT TO ALL THE GENERATIONS OF JEWISH MARTYRS AND TEACHERS WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE THEM AND ON WHOSE SHOULDERS WE PRESENTLY SIT, MUNCHING THE REWARDS OF THE GOOD LIFE.

THE BIBLE TELLS US THAT ONE OF THE WORDS FOR RESPONSIBLE AND ACTIVE REMEMBERING IS "CHESED". CHESED HAS ALSO BEEN TRANSLATED AS "COVENANT LOYALTY". WHEN ABRAHAM WAS DYING, HE SAID TO HIS SERVANT, "GET THEE A WIFE FOR MY SON, ISAAC, FROM AMONGST MY KINSMEN". WHEN ABRAHAM DIED, THERE WAS NO HOLD UPON HIS SERVANT. HE COULD HAVE DONE ENTIRELY AS HE WISHED, YET HE CONSIDERED IT A MATTER OF SACRED HONOR TO REMEMBER HIS MASTER'S WISH. BRAVING THE PERILS OF THE DESERT, THE SERVANT TRAVELLED HUNDREDS OF MILES BY CAMEL TO ABRAHAM'S DISTANT HOMETOWN IN ORDER TO FIND REBECCA. WHEN HE FOUND HER, HE GOT DOWN ON HIS KNEES TO THANK THE GOD WHO HAD MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO FULFILL HIS PROMISE TO ABRAHAM. THE SERVANT WAS DRIVEN BY A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY TO THE DEAD WHICH SEEMS TO ELUDE SOME OF US IN THE 20TH CENTURY.

THE MONUMENT IN MUNICH SPEAKS ELOQUENTLY, "REMEMBER THEM". DOES NOT THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM SPEAK AS ELOQUENTLY, "REMEMBER ME". ABRAHAM MIGHT WELL SAY TO US, "REMEMBER THAT I BROKE AWAY FROM THE PAGANS AND TRIED TO ESTABLISH A NEW WAY OF LIFE. REMEMBER THAT I RISKED DEATH TO SAY THERE IS ONE GOD AND NOT MANY. REMEMBER THAT I DARED TO SAY THAT GOD DOES NOT DESIRE WAR, THAT HE WISHES US TO BE MERCIFUL TO ONE ANOTHER. REMEMBER ME." SHALL WE BE LESS LOYAL TO ABRAHAM THAN HIS SERVANT WAS? SHALL WE SHOW NO SENSE OF DUTY TO THE MAN WHO TURNED THE WORLD AROUND TO ETHICAL RELIGION? AND WHAT OF OUR DUTY

TO THE LATER GENERATIONS OF JEWS WHO, LIKE ABRAHAM, DARED TO BE DIFFERENT AND CLUNG TO THEIR BELIEF IN THE FACE OF SCORN AND PERSECUTION?

IT IS NOT ALWAYS SO EASY TO REMEMBER THE PAST; SOMETIMES THE DETAILS OF DAILY LIVING ARE SO OVERWHELMING THAT IT IS DIFFICULT ENOUGH TO REMEMBER MUCH BEYOND THE DEMANDS OF TOMORROW. THAT'S WHY WE HAVE ROSH HA-SHANAH. ON THIS DAY, WE SET ASIDE THE PRESSING DEMANDS OF THE PRESENT TO TRY TO REMEMBER THE MORE ENDURING THINGS. WHEN JOSEPH WAS IN PRISON, THE BIBLE TELLS US, A FELLOW INMATE, THE CHIEF BUTLER OF PHARAOH, TOLD HIM OF HIS DREAM. JOSEPH INFORMED THE BUTLER THAT THE DREAM MEANT THAT HE WAS TO BE RESTORED AS CHIEF BUTLER OF THE KINGDOM. THE BUTLER COULD NOT CONTAIN HIS JOY. HE OFFERED JOSEPH ALL KINDS OF REWARDS IF HIS INTERPRETATION WAS CORRECT. JOSEPH SAID TO HIM, "I ASK ONLY ONE THING OF YOU. WHEN YOU ARE RESTORED TO YOUR POSITION OF POWER AT PHARAOH'S SIDE, REMEMBER ME, FOR I HAVE BEEN UNJUSTLY IMPRISONED." UNFORTUNATELY FOR JOSEPH, THE BUTLER BECAME SO PREOCCUPIED WITH HIMSELF WHEN HE WAS RESTORED TO HIS ROLE OF HONOR THAT HE FORGOT JOSEPH LANGUISHING IN PRISON.

SIMILARLY, SO MANY OF US FORGET THOSE TO WHOM WE OWE A REAL DEBT OF GRATITUDE. SOMETIMES, ONLY WE HOLD THE KEY TO THEIR IMPRISONMENT; ONLY WE CAN BRING THEM RELEASE AND MAKE THEIR SACRIFICES MEANINGFUL. SOMETIMES, ONLY WE CAN SUPPLY THE TIME AND EFFORT TO ENABLE A PERSON TO GROW AND TO FULFILL HIMSELF. DOES NOT THIS KIND OF SPECIAL DEPENDENCE EXIST SUPREME IN THE MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP - IN WHICH EARLY DREAMS ARE INTERPRETED TOGETHER AND SOMETIMES FORGOTTEN BY ONE OR BOTH PARTNERS? IF THERE IS ONE RELATIONSHIP IN WHICH "CHESED", OR "ACTIVE REMEMBERING", OUGHT TO PLAY A MAJOR ROLE, IT IS IN MARRIAGE, YET, IT IS PRECISELY THIS RELATIONSHIP TODAY WHICH SEEMS TO BE THE VICTIM OF SO MUCH FORGETFULNESS. JUDAISM HAS ALWAYS PERMITTED DIVORCE, AND THERE ARE OBVIOUSLY SOME MARRIAGES WHICH SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN AND OUGHT TO BE DISSOLVED. THE FACT STILL REMAINS THAT MOST OF THE MARRIAGES WHICH END IN DIVORCE COULD, WITH THE EXPENDITURE OF REASONED EFFORT, SUCCEED VERY WELL; AND THERE ARE MANY MORE MARRIAGES WHICH ARE JUST LIMPING ALONG BECAUSE THE PARTNERS MAKE NO REAL EFFORT TO WORK OUT THEIR PROBLEMS TOGETHER. THE PROPHET HOSEA TELLS US THAT GOD EXPRESSED THIS MARRIAGE VOW TO HIS BRIDE, THE NATION ISRAEL, "I WED MYSELF TO THEE IN JUSTICE, IN ENDURING REMEMBRANCE (CHESED), IN TRUST AND IN COMPASSION." WE DO NOT HAVE THE TIME TONIGHT TO DISCUSS ALL OF THE TERMS OF THIS VOW WHICH ARE PART OF EACH JEWISH WEDDING CEREMONY. WE MUST TALK, HOWEVER BRIEFLY, ABOUT "CHESED" WHICH IS "ENDURING REMEMBRANCE" AND ABOUT "EMUNAH" WHICH IS TRUST. REMEMBRANCE AND TRUST ARE TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN. WHEN ABRAHAM MADE HIS DYING WISH, HE KNEW THAT HE HAD TO TRUST HIS SERVANT COMPLETELY. WHEN TWO PEOPLE GET MARRIED, THEY GIVE THE FLOWER OF THEIR YOUTH AND THE PROMISE OF THEIR FUTURE INTO THE HANDS OF THEIR MATE. NO RELATIONSHIP REQUIRES A GREATER INVESTMENT OF TRUST THAN MARRIAGE.

PRECISELY BECAUSE THE MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP IS SO INVOLVED AND COMPLEX, IT REQUIRES CONSTANT READJUSTMENT BY THE TWO PARTNERS. AS CHILDREN ARRIVE, THE WHOLE RELATIONSHIP CHANGES FOR SUBTLE, PSYCHOLOGICALLY ORIENTED REASONS. THE HUSBAND MAY FEEL LEFT OUT BECAUSE THE ATTENTION HE ONCE HAD ENTIRELY FOR HIMSELF IS NOW SHARED BY OTHERS. THE WIFE MAY BE OVERWHELMED BY HER NEW AND EXTRA DUTIES. EACH PARTNER WANTS TO SAY TO THE OTHER, "HEY, LOOK AT ME! I NEED HELP." FREQUENTLY, THIS IS THE VERY THING THAT NEITHER PARTNER SAYS, AND IF HE SAYS IT, HE DOES SO IN ANGER AND DESPERATION, RATHER THAN AS PART OF A REASONED DISCUSSION. AS THE COUPLE GROWS OLDER, STILL OTHER FACTORS COME INTO PLAY. THE MAN MAY FEAR THE LOSS OF HIS VIRILITY; THE WOMAN MAY BE BESIEGED BY MENOPAUSAL CHANGES. UNLESS THE PARTNERS MAKE A STRONG EFFORT TO WORK TOGETHER, THEY MAY BECOME ESTRANGED AT THE TIME WHEN THEY NEED <sup>each</sup> OTHER THE MOST AND AT THE VERY TIME WHEN EACH IS IN POSITION TO HELP THE OTHER AS NO ONE ELSE ON EARTH CAN.

UNFORTUNATELY, MOST OF US ARE IGNORANT OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL INTERPLAY BETWEEN HUSBAND AND WIFE. SUCH KNOWLEDGE CAN SOMETIMES BE ACQUIRED INTELLECTUALLY BUT NOT EMOTIONALLY, WHICH MEANS THAT SOMETIMES WE CAN UNDERSTAND WHAT WE OUGHT TO DO, BUT WE'RE SIMPLY NOT ABLE TO DO IT. BEFORE A PARTNER BLAMES HIS SPOUSE FOR HIS UNHAPPINESS, HE OWES IT TO HIMSELF AND TO HIS FAMILY TO TRY TO GET A BROADER VIEW OF THE SITUATION. IT IS NOT ENOUGH SOMETIMES TO TALK TO A SYMPATHETIC FRIEND. IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO TALK TO A SPECIALIST IN HUMAN RELATIONS WHO CAN HELP US UNDERSTAND OUR OWN ANXIETIES AND NEEDS, AS A FIRST STEP.

AS TROUBLE DEVELOPS IN A MARRIAGE, AND THERE IS TALK OF GETTING PROFESSIONAL HELP, IT IS NOT UNCOMMON FOR ONE PARTNER TO SAY TO THE OTHER, "YOU NEED A PSYCHIATRIST, NOT ME". IDEALLY, WHAT EACH PARTNER SHOULD SAY IS, "WE'VE GOT SO MUCH INVESTED IN EACH OTHER, LET'S TOGETHER SEEK OUT SOME PROFESSIONAL HELP."

STATISTICS SHOW THAT MEN MORE THAN WOMEN RESIST THE TURNING TO A PROFESSIONAL. SUCH RESISTANCE IS MOST UNFORTUNATE. IT IS NOT UNMANLY TO SEEK MORE UNDERSTANDING OF ONESELF AND OF ONE'S MATE. CONSULTATION WITH A PSYCHOLOGICALLY ORIENTED SPECIALIST MAY OR MAY NOT SAVE YOUR MARRIAGE, BUT IF SUCH CONSULTATION CONTINUES OVER A SUFFICIENTLY LONG PERIOD IN REAL SINCERITY, IT WILL, IN THE VERY LEAST, MAKE YOU A STRONGER AND HEALTHIER PERSON, BETTER ABLE TO DEAL WITH ALL OF LIFE'S PROBLEMS.

TO BREAK UP A MARRIAGE WITHOUT THE USE OF COUNSELLING TOOLS AVAILABLE TODAY IS LIKE SUFFERING A CONTINUOUS TOOTHACHE BECAUSE ONE IS AFRAID OF THE DENTIST, OR LIKE LETTING A POISONOUS GALL BLADDER KILL YOU BECAUSE YOU ARE AFRAID OF SURGERY. IT IS MATURE

AND ADULT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT YOURSELF AND ABOUT THE DYNAMICS OF RELATING TO ANOTHER PERSON IN AN INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP. IT IS IMMATURE, IF NOT IMMORAL, TO BREAK UP A MARRIAGE WITHOUT DOING EVERYTHING YOU CAN TO WORK THINGS OUT FIRST.

THERE ARE BASICALLY ONLY TWO KINDS OF MARRIAGES. ON THE ONE HAND, THERE ARE MARRIAGES IN WHICH THE PARTNERS ARE DEVOTED TO WORKING OUT THEIR PROBLEMS, AND ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE ARE MARRIAGES IN WHICH ONE OR BOTH PARTNERS LACKS THIS DEVOTION OR LACKS THE ABILITY TO COMPROMISE AND TO ADJUST. NOTHING ENRICHES A MARRIAGE MORE THAN WORKING THROUGH A DIFFICULT PROBLEM. THE SINCERE ADMISSION OF MISTAKES AND WEAKNESS BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER IN A DEEPER LOVE WHICH THEY MAY NEVER HAVE THOUGHT POSSIBLE.

"REMEMBER THEM"! REMEMBER THE MARTYRED DEAD, YES, BUT REMEMBER THE LIVING TOO. YOU OWE MORE TO YOUR HUSBAND OR WIFE THAN YOU OWE TO ANY LIVING BEING, FOR SHE OR HE, AS THE BIBLE SAYS, IS BONE OF YOUR BONE AND FLESH OF YOUR FLESH.

THE FOUNDATION OF THE FAMILY IS SOMEWHAT SHAKY IN OUR SOCIETY, AND THIS IS A DOUBLE THREAT TO THE EXISTENCE OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE. FIRST OF ALL, THE STRENGTH OF OUR PEOPLE HAS ALWAYS RESTED ON THE PRESENCE OF STRONG FAMILIES, THE MEMBERS OF WHICH ARE COMMITTED TO EACH OTHER, LOYAL TO EACH OTHER. SECONDLY, WE HAVE ALWAYS REGARDED THE JEWISH PEOPLE ITSELF AS ONE LARGE FAMILY, WITH ALL JEWS RESPONSIBLE FOR ONE ANOTHER. UNFORTUNATELY, THERE ARE SOME JEWS TODAY WHO DO NOT WISH TO TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR OTHER JEWS. SOMETIMES THE RESPONSIBILITY IS SHUNTED OFF WITH THIS KIND OF STATEMENT, "I AM A CITIZEN OF THE WORLD. I LOVE MANKIND. I HAVE NO SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE JEWS". BUT HOW CAN YOU REALLY LOVE MANKIND WITHOUT TAKING CARE OF YOUR OWN PEOPLE FIRST? IT IS ALWAYS EASIER TO PRETEND TO LOVE MANKIND THAN TO CARE FOR THE GROUP OR PERSON CLOSEST TO YOU. LOVE MEANS NOTHING IN GENERALITIES OR IN THE ABSTRACT. IT IS THE SPECIFIC APPLICATION OF LOVE TO THE PERSON AVAILABLE FOR HELP AND WHO HAS THE GREATEST CLAIM ON YOU THAT SHOWS WHAT KIND OF PERSON YOU REALLY ARE.

GRANTED, THERE ARE THE DEEPEST EMOTIONAL CONFLICTS IN DEALING WITH THE PERSON WHO IS CLOSE. GRANTED, IT IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO HELP THAT PERSON PRECISELY BECAUSE HE IS CLOSE; BUT IF WE CAN LEARN TO LOVE THE PERSON WHO IS CLOSE, WE WILL HAVE UNLOCKED THE SECRETS OF UNIVERSAL LOVE.

THE COMMITTEE FOR SAVING SOVIET JEWRY HAS JUST COME OUT WITH A HANDSOME BUTTON. ON IT IS A JEWISH STAR, AND UNDER THE STAR IS ONE HEBREW WORD, "Z'CHOR, REMEMBER". THE BUTTON DOES NOT MENTION SOVIET JEWRY, IT SIMPLY SAYS, "REMEMBER". WHEN THE BUTLER LEFT JOSEPH ALONE IN PRISON, JOSEPH SAID TO HIM, "REMEMBER ME". SO THE PROFESSIONAL

OR BUSINESS MAN'S WIFE, WHO STRUGGLED WITH HIM THROUGH COLLEGE OUGHT TO SAY, "WHEN YOU MAKE IT BIG, REMEMBER ME". SO THE TIRED HUSBAND WHO COMES HOME FROM WORK IN NEED OF A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT MIGHT SAY TO HIS WIFE AFTER SHE HAS SPENT HERSELF TAKING CARE OF THE CHILDREN, "HAVE YOU A LITTLE ENERGY AND LOVE LEFT FOR ME?" SO THE WIFE CAN SAY TO THE WEARY HUSBAND, "I KNOW YOU'VE HAD A HARD DAY AT THE OFFICE, DEAR, BUT CAN YOU FIND IT IN YOUR HEART TO REMEMBER ME?" SO THE HUSBAND CAN SAY TO THE WIFE WHO HAS EMOTIONAL HANG-UPS WHICH DON'T PERMIT HER TO ENJOY SEX, "TRY TO REMEMBER ME". SO THE PARENTS CAN SAY TO THEIR CHILDREN, INTO WHOM THEY HAVE POURED THEIR ENERGY AND CARE, "REMEMBER ME". SO THE CHILDREN CAN SAY TO THEIR PARENTS, WHO ARE SO BUSY WITH BUSINESS AND SOCIAL OBLIGATIONS THAT THEY DON'T HAVE TIME TO DISCUSS THE ANXIETIES AND FEARS OF THEIR CHILDREN, "REMEMBER ME".

IT IS CLEAR FROM THESE FEW EXAMPLES THAT REMEMBERING AND RESPONSIBILITY GO TOGETHER. WE MIGHT SAY THAT TO BE A JEW IS TO BE A REMEMBERER PAR EXCELLENCE. FIRST OF ALL, THERE ARE 4,000 YEARS OF CREATIVE LIVING AS A PEOPLE TO REMEMBER. THIS MAKES US THE HISTORIC PEOPLE - THE PEOPLE MOST AWARE OF THE ORGANIC INTERRELATION OF THE GENERATIONS. SECONDLY, THE JEW IS A REMEMBERER BECAUSE HIS ETHICAL AND HUMANE TRADITION HAS TRAINED HIM TO LOOK INWARD INTO HUMAN FEELINGS AND EXPERIENCE. BOTH JOSEPH AND FREUD WERE CONCERNED WITH REMEMBERING. AS A RABBI, I HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASK YOU NOT TO FOLLOW THE CURRENT TRENDS OF DISLOYALTY TO THE FAMILY AND TO INDIVIDUAL TRUST. I HAVE THE RIGHT BECAUSE YOU ARE A JEW, AND I KNOW THAT, LIKE THE SERVANT OF ABRAHAM, YOU WILL NOT FORGET YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO THE DEAD - AND TO THE LIVING.