

"ENTEBBE - THE JEWISH PROPENSITY FOR MIRACLES"

A Rosh Ha-shanah Sermon by
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ON SUNDAY, JULY 4TH, 1976, THE MIGHTIEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD CELEBRATED ITS 200TH ANNIVERSARY. HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF AMERICANS ATTENDED SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS ALL AROUND THE COUNTRY. TENS OF MILLIONS WATCHED THE BICENTENNIAL PROGRAMS ON TELEVISION. YOU WOULD THINK THAT THESE UNUSUAL CELEBRATIONS WOULD DOMINATE THE NEWS REPORTS ON THE FOLLOWING MORNING, BUT YOU WOULD BE WRONG. THE NEWSPAPERS OF THE UNITED STATES, LIKE ALL THE NEWSPAPERS IN THE WORLD ON THE MORNING OF JULY 5TH, WERE FILLED INSTEAD WITH REPORTS OF A HEROIC AND DARING ESCAPE PERFORMED BY ONE OF THE TINIEST NATIONS IN THE WORLD, A NATION AT ONCE MUCH YOUNGER AND MUCH OLDER THAN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

THE HEADLINE IN THE MIAMI HERALD READ, "ISRAEL REJOICES AND GENERAL AMIN IS ANGRY: CAPTIVES ARE SAFE, HIJACKERS DEAD". WHY WOULD THIS NEWS BE SO IMPORTANT AS TO RELEGATE THE DESCRIPTIONS OF THE U.S. BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION TO SECOND PLACE? IT WAS IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT CONCERNED NOT ONLY THE NATION ISRAEL, BUT ALL THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD. THE HIJACKING OF THE AIR FRANCE JET BY ARAB AND GERMAN TERRORISTS WAS PART OF AN INTERNATIONAL PATTERN OF TERRORISM THAT WAS PROGRESSIVELY THREATENING THE ORDER OF THE WORLD. TO BE SURE, ISRAEL WAS THE PRIME TARGET OF PALESTINIAN TERRORISTS, BUT MUCH OF THE REST OF THE WORLD HAD BEEN DRAWN INTO THE DANGER. AIRPORTS IN A NUMBER OF EUROPEAN CAPITALS HAD BEEN SHOT UP ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS AND SCORES OF PEOPLE HAD BEEN KILLED. ROME, ATHENS, VIENNA, AND MUNICH HAD NOT ESCAPED THE TERROR. NOW FRANCE, WHICH HAD FOR SO LONG COURTED ARAB FRIENDSHIP, WAS FACED WITH THE LOSS OF A SCORE OF FRENCH PASSENGERS AND A JET CREW OF TWELVE.

THE RESCUING OF THE HIJACKED PASSENGERS HAD TAKEN PLACE ON JULY 4TH IN REMOTE AFRICA, 2,000 MILES FROM ISRAEL. THE SCENE WAS THE AIRPORT IN ENTEBBE IN UGANDA. THE TERRORISTS HAD GUIDED THE PLANE THERE BECAUSE GEN. IDI AMIN, THE DICTATOR OF UGANDA, WAS AN OUTSPOKEN ENEMY OF ISRAEL AND A DECLARED FRIEND OF THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION. GEN. AMIN HAD GONE ON RECORD AS DECLARING THAT HITLER WAS RIGHT ABOUT THE JEWS, AND THE PASSENGERS LATER TOLD HOW THE GENERAL HAD WALKED UP AND DOWN AMONG THEM BERATING ISRAEL AND MAKING LESS THAN SUBTLE THREATS TO THEM.

THE TERRORISTS HAD ORIGINALLY CAPTURED ALMOST 300 PASSENGERS. THEY HAD RELEASED MANY OF THEM, BUT RETAINED 21 FRENCH NATIONALS, THE TWELVE MEMBERS OF THE FRENCH CREW, OVER 60 ISRAELIS, AND A FEW JEWS WITH BOTH AMERICAN AND ISRAELI CITIZENSHIP. THERE SEEMED TO BE LITTLE DOUBT THAT THE TERRORISTS WOULD BE WILLING TO KILL THEIR HOSTAGES IF THEY DID NOT GET THE RELEASE OF A LARGE NUMBER OF CAPTURED ARAB TERRORISTS WHO LANGUISHED IN ISRAELI JAILS.

IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN ISRAELI POLICY NOT TO YIELD TO TERRORIST THREATS, BUT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO BE FIRM WITH SO MANY LIVES AT STAKE. FURTHERMORE, THE RELATIVES OF THE PASSENGERS HAD STORMED THE ISRAELI PARLIAMENT BUILDING TO DEMAND THAT THE GOVERNMENT DEAL WITH THE TERRORISTS AND SAVE THE LIVES OF THE PASSENGERS. IT SEEMED FROM THE PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF PRIME MINISTER RABIN THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD, ~~NEGOTIATE WITH THE TERRORISTS.~~ ^{INDEED,} WHEN THE ISRAELI PLANES FIRST APPEARED OVER THE ENTEBBE AIRFIELD ON JULY 4TH, THEY RADIOED TO THE FIELD THAT THEY WERE CIVILIAN PLANES BRINGING IN THE FIRST OF THE RELEASED ARAB TERRORISTS FROM ISRAEL.

Some news reports stated that

*Negotiate
indeed,*

← WHEN THE HUGE AMERICAN BUILT HERCULES C-130 PLANES TOUCHED THE GROUND, HOWEVER, WHAT CAME OUT OF THEM WAS NOT RELEASED ARABS, BUT ISRAELI JEEPS AND LIGHTWEIGHT ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS. BEFORE THE UGANDA SOLDIERS GUARDING THE AIRFIELD KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING, THE AIRFIELD WAS CONTROLLED BY THE ISRAELIS. WITHIN MINUTES, ONE GROUP OF ISRAELI COMMANDOS HAD ENCIRCLED THE BUILDING WHERE THE SLEEPING PASSENGERS WERE STIRRING IN RESPONSE TO THE NOISE AND EXCITEMENT. THERE WAS A BRIEF BATTLE. MOST OF THE TERRORISTS WERE KILLED. A FEW PASSENGERS WHO HAD NOT OBEYED ORDERS TO LIE DOWN WERE ACCIDENTAL VICTIMS OF THE CROSS-FIRE. THE MOMENT OF GREATEST DANGER CAME WHEN THE LEADER OF THE TERRORISTS, A GERMAN NAMED WILFRIED BOSE POINTED HIS MACHINE GUN AT THE HOSTAGES LYING ON THE FLOOR, BUT BOSE FROZE. HE DID NOT FIRE AT THEM. HE RAN INSTEAD INTO THE NIGHT AND TO HIS CERTAIN DEATH. THIS CRITICAL MOMENT WHEN THE GERMAN COULD HAVE KILLED MANY OF THE HOSTAGES HAS A MOVING STORY BEHIND IT. *AS IF TO will them*

THE NIGHT BEFORE THE ISRAELI INVASION OF ENTEBBE, ONE OF THE HOSTAGES, YITZHAK DAVID, A SURVIVOR OF THE CONCENTRATION CAMP BUCHENWALD, CAME UP TO THE GERMAN AND SHOWED HIM HIS ARM. ON DAVID'S ARM WAS A TATOO MARK. "SEE," SAID DAVID TO THE GERMAN, "THIS IS WHAT YOUR FATHERS DID TO ME. I'VE BEEN TELLING MY SONS THAT YOUR GENERATION OF GERMANS IS DIFFERENT. HOW AM I GOING TO EXPLAIN TO THEM WHAT YOU'RE DOING TO US NOW?" WAS THIS BRIEF CONVERSATION A FACTOR IN THE GERMAN'S DECISION NOT TO SHOOT AT THE HOSTAGES? WE WILL NEVER KNOW, BECAUSE BOSE WAS KILLED ALONG WITH THE OTHER TERRORISTS.

SAFE AND MOSTLY SOUND WERE OVER 100 HOSTAGES AND THE FRENCH CREW WHICH WERE QUICKLY GATHERED INTO THE WAITING JETS AND FLOWN OFF, FIRST TO NAIROBI FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT AND REFUELING, AND THEN TO ISRAEL. ONE OF THE HOSTAGES SAID, "I WAS TERRIFIED AND ECSTATIC AT THE SAME TIME. WHEN I HEARD THE SHOTS, I KNEW GOD HAD COME TO TAKE US OUT. IT WAS A MIRACLE. WE WERE SO FAR FROM ISRAEL, AND THEY CAME FOR US."

ONE OF THE HOSTAGES WAS MICHAL, A YOUNG MOTHER WHO HAD A MISCARRIAGE DURING THE EARLY DAYS OF THE HIJACKING. MICHAL HAD TRIED ALWAYS TO KEEP UP THE SPIRITS OF THE HIJACKERS. NEWSPAPERS REPORTED THAT ON THE FRIDAY NIGHT BEFORE THE RESCUE, MICHAL'S HUSBAND, MORDECAI, HAD GATHERED THEIR FAMILY IN THEIR HOME IN ISRAEL FOR THE TRADITIONAL BLESSINGS FOR THE SABBATH. IN THE MIDDLE OF THE BLESSING OVER THE WINE, MORDECAI BROKE DOWN AND CRIED, AND THE FAMILY FINISHED THEIR PRAYER IN TEARS. *Michal's husband Mordecai was safe in Israel.*

WHY DID MORDECAI BREAK DOWN IN THE MIDST OF THE PRAYER OVER THE WINE, THE KIDDUSH? WE CAN ONLY SURMISE. THIS IS THE PRAYER WHICH TALKS OF THE MIRACLE OF THE EXODUS FROM EGYPT AND URGES US TO HOPE ON EVEN IN THE MIDST OF TROUBLE. MORDECAI WAS LOOKING FOR ANOTHER MIRACLE, FOR IT WOULD TAKE A MIRACLE ALMOST AS GREAT AS THE EXODUS FROM EGYPT TO SAVE THE HOSTAGES IN ENTEBBE. *Kiddush, the 2,000 miles away*

AFTER THE RESCUE, MICHAL TOLD REPORTERS, "WE ISRAELIS WERE SO HAPPY WHEN WE HEARD VOICES SPEAKING HEBREW TELLING US TO LIE DOWN. WE KNEW WE WERE GOING TO BE SAVED, BUT THE FRENCH HOSTAGES COULD NOT BELIEVE IT WAS POSSIBLE."

SOME FIFTY MINUTES AFTER THEY HAD LANDED AT ENTEBBE, THE ISRAELI PLANES WERE TAKING OFF AGAIN. ONE HOSTAGE WHO WAS ILL IN THE HOSPITAL HAD TO BE LEFT BEHIND. AS THE AIRPLANES ROSE IN THE SKY, MOST OF THE HOSTAGES WERE QUIET. THEY WERE STUNNED. THEY WERE EXHAUSTED FROM THEIR WEEK OF TERROR. THEY COULD HARDLY BELIEVE THEIR DELIVERANCE. ONLY ONE VOICE WAS HEARD IN THE PLANE, THE VOICE OF A WOMAN CRYING, "NESS, NESS, A MIRACLE, A MIRACLE."

AFTER THE ARRIVAL OF THE RESCUED HOSTAGES IN ISRAEL, PRIME MINISTER RABIN DECLARED, "THIS OPERATION OF REDEMPTION OF CAPTIVES IS WORTHY OF JEWISH AND ISRAELI PRIDE AND OF WORLDWIDE ACCLAIM. THE OPERATION WILL BE A SUBJECT FOR RESEARCH, FOR SONG AND FOR LEGEND, AND IT WILL BE WRITTEN ABOUT IN THE ANNALS OF THE NATION."

ON THE MORNING OF JULY 5TH, THE WORLD TOOK NOTE OF THE UNBELIEVABLE COURAGE OF THE PEOPLE OF THIS TINY NATION. ^{primary} THE GREAT NATION OF FRANCE HAD NOT ACTED IN THE CRISIS, ALTHOUGH IT WAS ITS RESPONSIBILITY TO DO SO. THE ISRAELIS HAD SHOWN ONCE AGAIN THAT THEY ARE THE VERY ESSENCE OF THE WORD "CHUTZPA". THEY HAD DEMONSTRATED ONCE AGAIN THAT THERE IS NO GREATNESS WITHOUT AUDACITY. THEY HAD SHOWN ONCE AGAIN THAT, FOR SOME REASON, MIRACLES ARE A PART OF THE LIFE OF BEING A JEW.

WHEN ONE CLOSELY STUDIES AN EVENT OF THIS KIND, ONE BEGINS TO LEARN WHAT THE MIRACULOUS REALLY IS. A MIRACLE IS AN EVENT WHICH TAKES PLACE BECAUSE A PERSON OR A PEOPLE HAS THE COURAGE NOT TO SURRENDER, HAS THE AUDACITY TO FIGHT AGAINST OVERWHELMING ODDS, HAS THE FAITH TO MOVE FORWARD, HAS THE DETERMINATION TO INSIST ON A HAPPY ENDING. SURELY, SUCH WAS THE CASE AT THE RED SEA IN THE TIME OF MOSES, WHEN THE PEOPLE SAW THE SEA BEFORE THEM AND THE EGYPTIAN CHARIOTS BEHIND THEM. THEY CRIED TO MOSES IN DESPERATION, ANTICIPATING THEIR CERTAIN DEATH, AND MOSES, IN TURN, APPEALED TO GOD. THE BIBLE TELLS US THAT GOD REPLIED ^{to Moses,} "WHY CRIEST THOU UNTO ME? TELL THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL TO GO FORWARD!" AND FORWARD THEY WENT INTO THE SEA. WHO IS TO SAY THAT THE MIRACLE WAS WROUGHT BY GOD ALONE? SURELY THE AUDACITY OF THIS PEOPLE HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE PARTING OF THE WATERS. INDEED, HOW COULD THE WATERS STAND STILL BEFORE SUCH COURAGE AND MAGNIFICENCE?

THE ISRAELIS UNDER MOSES ACHIEVED A MIRACLE WHICH WE ACKNOWLEDGE EVERY PASSOVER. THE JUDEANS UNDER JUDAH THE MACCABEE REALIZED A MIRACLE 1200 YEARS AFTER MOSES WHEN THEY THREW THE ^{Representatives of the Empire} GRECO-SYRIANS OUT OF THE TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM AND REDEDICATED IT TO THE SERVICE OF THE TRUE GOD. WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE MIRACLE OF THE JEWS UNDER THE MACCABEES IN OUR OBSERVANCE OF CHANUKAH. BUT THESE ARE HOLIDAYS BASED ON ANCIENT MIRACLES, AND THE JEWS HAVE PROVED THAT MIRACLES ARE NOT ONLY A THING OF THE PAST.

THOSE ISRAELIS WHO HELD BACK THE INVADING ARAB NATIONS IN 1948 WITH ONLY RAKES AND SHOVELS AND OLD GUNS AS WEAPONS WORKED A MIRACLE AS GREAT AS THAT OF JUDAH THE MACCABEE AT THE TIME OF THE FIRST CHANUKAH. IN 1967, THE ISRAELIS THREW THE EGYPTIANS OUT OF SINAI, THE SYRIANS OFF THE GOLAN HEIGHTS, AND THE JORDANIANS OUT OF THE WEST BANK WITHIN SIX DAYS. THIS 1967 EFFORT IS LIKEWISE UNEXPLAINABLE EXCEPT IN TERMS OF INORDINATE CHUTZPAH AND COURAGE. THE INVASION AT ENTEBBE IS TRULY A MIRACLE, BUT IT IS ONLY A PART OF A SERIES OF MIRACLES WORKED BY MODERN ISRAEL. ENTEBBE IS A FAIRY STORY WHICH IS TRUE. IT IS MADE OF THE SAME STUFF AS THE STORY OF HAMAN AND MORDECAI IN THE BOOK OF ESTHER, FOR GENERAL AMIN IS HAMAN AND MORDECAI IS ANY ONE OF SEVERAL ISRAELI HEROES. HE IS PRIME MINISTER RABIN, OR COL. _____, THE AMERICAN BORN ISRAELI WHO WAS SHOT AS HE LED HIS TROOPS INTO ACTION. PERHAPS THE HERO IS ETAI DAGAN, 21 YEARS OLD, WHO WAS ONE OF THE ISRAELI COMMANDOS AND WHO SAID WHEN IT WAS ALL OVER, "WE ARE QUITE USED TO THINGS LIKE THIS. THIS IS WHAT WE SERVE FOR."

humbly

IT IS EASY TO TAKE THE MEASURE OF A MIRACLE WHEN IT TAKES PLACE QUICKLY AND UNEXPECTEDLY, WHEN IT IS CLEARLY PERFORMED AGAINST GREAT ODDS AND FROM A LONG DISTANCE. THERE ARE OTHER MIRACLES PERFORMED BY THE JEWISH PEOPLE WHICH MAY NOT SEEM TO BE SO SENSATIONAL, BUT WHICH MAY BE MORE PROFOUND. FOR EXAMPLE, WHICH WAS THE GREATER MIRACLE, THAT THE JEWS UNDER MOSES WALKED INTO THE WATERS OF THE RED SEA, OR THAT THEY HAD THE COURAGE TO DEFY PHAROAH IN THE FIRST PLACE, AND TO SAY TO THAT CRUEL DICTATOR, "WE AS A PEOPLE REFUSE TO BE YOUR SLAVES; WE WILL BE FREE."? IS NOT THE LATTER THE GREATER MIRACLE, AND IS IT NOT PRECISELY THIS SHOW OF HUMAN DIGNITY WHICH HAS SO INSPIRED MEN AND NATIONS TO IMITATION DOWN THROUGH THE CENTURIES?

WHICH WAS THE GREATER MIRACLE IN THE TIME OF JUDAH THE MACCABEE, THE FACT THAT HE DEFEATED THE ARMIES OF THE CONQUEROR WITH BUT A FEW MEN, OR THE FACT THAT SO MANY OF THE LIVING JEWS REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE RULING LIFE-STYLE OF THE HELLENISTS, A LIFE-STYLE THAT EMPHASIZED PLEASURE AND CULTURE RATHER THAN MORALITY? I RATHER THINK THAT MODERN JEWS, ESPECIALLY AMERICAN JEWS, WOULD BE MORE CAPABLE OF MILITARY HEROISM THAN THEY WOULD BE CAPABLE OF RESISTING A LIFE-STYLE BASED ON THE PLEASURE PRINCIPLE. AS FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON STATED, THE JEWS TODAY ARE THE MODERN HELLENISTS. WE ARE THE CULTURE-VULTURES, BUT ARE WE ALSO THE MORALITY STANDARD BEARERS AS WERE THE FOLLOWERS OF JUDAH THE MACCABEE AND MOSES? I WONDER IF WE ARE CAPABLE OF SUCH HEROISM TODAY.

of that
DAY
I
has
suggested

COULD AN AMERICAN JEW DO WHAT JOSEPH DID WHEN HE WAS SOLD INTO SLAVERY IN EGYPT? JOSEPH WORKED HIS WAY UP TO BE THE TRUSTED MANAGER OF THE VAST AGRICULTURAL ESTATE OF THE EGYPTIAN POTIPHAR. THE BIBLE TELLS US THAT POTIPHAR'S WIFE TOOK A FANCY TO THIS HANDSOME YOUNG HEBREW AND INVITED HIM TO SLEEP WITH HER. JOSEPH REFUSED TO DO SO PROTESTING THAT HE COULD NOT SO DISHONOR HIS MASTER. WHEN SHE EMBRACED HIM, NONETHELESS, JOSEPH LEFT HIS COAT IN HER CLINGING HANDS. THE EMPTY COAT WAS THE SYMBOL OF JOSEPH'S MORALITY. NO ONE SAW THIS ACT OF HONOR AND, INDEED, THE SCORNED LADY TURNED THE INCIDENT AGAINST JOSEPH AND ACCUSED HIM OF TRYING TO RAPE HER. JOSEPH'S UNSEEN ACT WOULD BE DOUBLY MIRACULOUS IN OUR TIME WHEN SO MANY PEOPLE HAVE DISCARDED ALL STANDARDS RELATING TO SEXUAL HONOR. IT TAKES CHUTZPA TO REJECT PREVAILING STANDARDS AS JOSEPH DID IN EGYPT, AS THE HEBREWS DID IN CANAAN, AS OUR EUROPEAN ANCESTORS DID IN EUROPE *for a thousand years*.

moral
for example
of heroism

IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT THE GREATEST MIRACLE OF ALL IS THE INDIVIDUAL WITH INTEGRITY. THE JEWISH PEOPLE HAS HAD FAR MORE THAN ITS SHARE OF SUCH INDIVIDUALS, BUT WE ALL KNOW THAT THE INDIVIDUAL IS BUT THE PROJECTION, THE SHADOW, OF THE GROUP THAT PRODUCES HIM. IT IS NOT BY ACCIDENT THAT THE PROPHETS WERE CREATED BY THE JEWISH PEOPLE. THE MAN ISAIAH, OR THE MAN JEREMIAH ARE MIRACLES IN THEMSELVES, BUT IF YOU STUDY THEIR TEACHINGS AND THEIR LIFE HISTORY IN OUR BIBLE, YOU WILL SEE THAT THEY ARE PROJECTIONS OF THE BEST IN THE JEWISH PEOPLE. OTHER PEOPLES HAVE NOT PRODUCED PROPHETS WITH SUCH A PASSION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE. EVEN THE MAN WHOM CHRISTIANS SAY BECAME GOD CAME FROM OUR MIDST.

They are unique products of a unique people

WHAT HAPPENED AT ENTEBBE HAS REMINDED US THAT THE JEWS ARE A PEOPLE WHICH PRODUCES THE MIRACULOUS, AND THE MIRACLES WILL CONTINUE TO COME SO LONG AS THE JEWISH PEOPLE MAINTAINS ITS INTEGRITY, SO LONG AS IT MAINTAINS THAT CHARACTER AND THOSE QUALITIES WHICH MAKE IT DIFFERENT FROM OTHER PEOPLES.

On the one hand,

WE AMERICAN JEWS FACE A DUAL TASK IN OUR EFFORT TO KEEP THE JEWISH COMMUNITY ALIVE. WE MUST GIVE THE STATE OF ISRAEL ALL THE HELP WE CAN. ~~IT~~ NEEDS OUR DETERMINED SUPPORT IF IT IS TO CONTINUE TO HAVE THE CAPACITY TO BE DARING AND CHUTZPADICK. ~~WE MUST~~ ALSO COME TO UNDERSTAND IN ALL CLARITY THAT UNLESS WE REVERSE THE TREND IN AMERICA FOR JEWS TO DESCEND TO THE MORALITY OF THE MASSES, WE WILL CEASE TO BE JEWS, AND WE WILL LOSE OUR ABILITY TO ACHIEVE MIRACLES.

Israel

~~Israel is a~~

A generous gift to the CIA is with make possible more Entebbe, The purchase of an Israeli Bond will make possible the maintenance of an advance post on the Syrian front; We cannot call the miracle at Entebbe our own unless we make it our own. We cannot take personal pride in Israeli accomplishment unless we earn that right. Our motto should be, "Every Jew a giver to CIA. Every Jew a purchaser of Israeli Bonds. There should be no exceptions, you give whatever you can. However large or small your gift or your purchase you want should be on the list of those Jews who support Israel."

aid to Israel is only one part of our dual task. We American Jews must

your purchase should be on the list of those Jews who support Israel.

WE AMERICAN JEWS FACE A DUAL TASK IN OUR EFFORT TO SEE THAT THE JEWISH PEOPLE SURVIVES. ON THE ONE HAND, WE MUST GIVE THE STATE OF ISRAEL ALL THE HELP WE CAN. ISRAEL NEEDS OUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IF IT IS TO CONTINUE TO HAVE THE CAPACITY TO BE DAR~~VING~~ AND CHUTZPADIK. THE QUESTION HERE IS HOW CAN WE BEST GIVE THAT SUPPORT? IS IT OUR ROLE TO SIT HERE IN OUR PROTECTED POSITION ACROSS THE ATLANTIC AND APPLAUD? IS IT OUR ROLE TO WATCH OUR TELEVISION SETS AND ~~SPECTATE~~ TO SERVE AS SYMPATHETIC SPECTATORS? OR IS IT OUR ROLE, AT THE VERY LEAST, TO GIVE GENEROUSLY TO THE COMBINED JEWISH APPEAL AND TO BUY ISRAEL BONDS?

SURELY IT IS UNTHINKABLE THAT AN AMERICAN JEW NOT DO WHAT HE CAN TO HELP THE BELEAGUERED ISRAELIS. IT IS UNTHINKABLE THAT HE ~~GIVE~~ NOT GIVE ANNUALLY TO THE CJA, AND IT IS UNTHINKABLE THAT HE NOW OWN ISRAEL BONDS. IF YOU DO NOT OWN AN ISRAEL BOND, IN WHATEVER AMOUNT YOU CAN AFFORD, YOU CAN NOT PURCHASE ONE TOO SOON. FOR THAT REASON I HAVE PERSONALLY ASKED THE TEMPLE BOARD TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO YOU TONIGHT A FORM WITH WHICH YOU MIGHT BUY AN ISRAEL BOND. THAT FORM WAS GIVEN OUT TO YOU WITH OTHER LITERATURE TODAY. LOOK AT IT, PUT IT IN ~~YOUR POCKET~~, TAKE IT HOME WITH YOU, FILL IT OUT, AND MAIL TO THE ISRAEL BOND OFFICE. IN THIS WAY YOU WILL BECOME A PART OWNER OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL. YOU WILL BECOME A SMALL PART OF IT, AND YOU WILL EARN INTEREST AS WELL. WE OWE AT LEAST THIS TO THE HEROES OF ENTEBBE.

CONCRETE LOYALTY TO THE STATE OF ISRAEL IS BUT ~~ONE~~ ONE PART OF OUR DUAL TASK AS AMERICAN JEWS. WE MUST ALSO COME TO UNDERSTAND IN ALL CLARITY THAT UNLESS WE REVERSE THE TREND IN AMERICA FOR JEWS TO DESCEND TO THE MORALITY OF THE MASSES, WE WILL CEASE TO BE JEWS, AND WE WILL LOSE OUR ABILITY TO ACHIEVE MIRACLES. I suppose it all boils

down to this one question - are you willing to stand-out from the crowd? are you willing to be different even at the cost of ridicule and rejection? are you willing to try to be - in yourself - a miracle?