

LINKING SINAI AND MESSIAH - THE DUAL ROLE OF THE JEW

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WHEN FORMER SUPREME COURT JUSTICE GOLDBERG SPOKE THIS SUMMER IN HOUSTON TO A CONFERENCE OF REFORM RABBIS, HE SAID THAT THE NEW SUPREME COURT RULINGS GUARANTEEING THE RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS WERE MADE NECESSARY BY INCREASED THREATS AGAINST INDIVIDUAL PRIVACY. TO MAKE HIS POINT, JUSTICE GOLDBERG POINTED OUT THAT WITH THE NEW DEVICES AVAILABLE TO INVESTIGATORS EVERY WORD BEING SAID AT THAT CONVENTION COULD BE RECORDED FROM A DISTANCE OF A MILE AWAY WITHOUT THE PRESENCE OF A MICROPHONE OR TELEPHONE AT THE CONVENTION. IN SHORT, JUSTICE GOLDBERG CONCLUDED, INDIVIDUAL PRIVACY IS THREATENED IN AMERICA AS IT HAS NEVER BEEN BEFORE. THE REMARKS OF JUSTICE GOLDBERG MAKE IT ALL THE MORE CLEAR THAT WE LIVE IN A TIME OF SUPER-GOVERNMENTS AND SUPER-BUSINESS. THE MORE MEN STRUGGLE TO RETAIN THEIR INDIVIDUALISM, THE MORE THEY SEEM TO BE SWALLOWED UP IN RED TAPE. CZECHOSLOVAKS SPEAK OF FREEDOM AND ARE HEMMED IN BY RUSSIAN TANKS. AMERICAN COLLEGE STUDENTS SPEAK OF PEACE AND ARE SENT OFF TO RISK THEIR LIVES IN A WAR OF DOUBTFUL PURPOSE. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SET OFF FOR COLLEGE IDEALISTICALLY AND FIND THEMSELVES TO BE COMPUTER NUMBERS IN EDUCATIONAL FACTORIES. YOUNG MEN STRUGGLING TO SUPPORT FAMILIES FIND THEMSELVES SWALLOWED UP IN CORPORATE ESTABLISHMENTS CONCERNED MORE WITH PROFITS THAN WITH PEOPLE. IN A WORLD WHERE NATIONS HAVE BILLIONS TO MAKE HYDROGEN BOMBS, BUT RELATIVELY LITTLE MONEY TO FIGHT POVERTY, IN A WORLD WHERE THE GREAT NATIONAL GIANTS SEEM BENT ON PREPARING FOR THE FINAL WAR OF MUTUAL ANNIHILATION, THE CRY OF THE INDIVIDUAL CAN SCARCELY BE HEARD AND SEEMS FUTILE ENOUGH, LIKE THAT OF A MOUNTAIN CLIMBER WHO HEARS HIS VOICE ECHOING THROUGHOUT THE CANYONS AND WONDERS IF THERE IS IN ALL OF THAT UNENDING VASTNESS, ONE PAIR OF EARS TO HEAR HIS CRY FOR HELP.

UNFORTUNATELY, THOSE WHO ARE WISE ENOUGH TO REVOLT AGAINST THE SUBMERGING OF THE INDIVIDUAL IN TODAY'S SOCIETY SOMETIMES COME TO CONCLUSIONS THAT ARE OVERLY SIMPLE. TO THE INDIVIDUALIST, IT SOMETIMES SEEMS THAT ALL OF THOSE INVOLVED IN GOVERNMENT ARE

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THE ENEMY. TO THE SENSITIVE IDEALIST, IT SOMETIMES SEEMS THAT ANYONE WHO DOES NOT TURN HIS BACK ON SOCIETY IS IGNORANT AND A FOOL. TO SOME ARTISTIC SPIRITS, ALL RESTRAINTS ARE TO BE DESPISED AND ALL TRADITIONAL FORMS ARE TO BE CAST OUT. TO SOME WHO ARE YOUNG AND ANGRY AT PRESENT INJUSTICE, ALL OF THE PAST IS DARK AND ALL WHO DO NOT JOIN THE REVOLUTION ARE SUSPECT.

ACTUALLY, THE PRESENT ROARING CONTROVERSY BETWEEN THE INDIVIDUALISTS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT IS NOT WITHOUT PRECEDENT. TO BE A JEW IS TO HAVE THE VANTAGE POINT OF THE HISTORIC PERSPECTIVE. WE KNOW THAT IT HAS ALL HAPPENED BEFORE, AND IT WILL HAPPEN AGAIN. WE ALSO KNOW THAT WE CANNOT JUST SIT IDLY BY AND BE SPECTATORS. THE JEW HAS TO TAKE SIDES. HE MUST TRY TO STEER SOCIETY AND HISTORY TOWARDS THE MESSIANIC DAY, OUR PHRASE FOR THE DAY OF WORLD-WIDE PEACE AND JUSTICE.

THE PARTICULAR WISDOM WHICH THE JEW HAS ACCUMULATED THROUGH CENTURIES OF STRUGGLE IS THAT THE CHOICE IS USUALLY NOT A MATTER OF "EITHER - OR". AT A CERTAIN MOMENT IN HISTORY, THE CHOICE IS NEVER BETWEEN "ALL" OR "NOTHING". THE CHOICE IS USUALLY A RELATIVE ONE. THERE IS A LITTLE MORE JUSTICE ON THIS SIDE AND A LITTLE LESS ON THAT SIDE. ONLY THOSE NOT EXPERIENCED IN THE HUMAN STRUGGLE SEE THE PRESENT IN TERMS OF BLACK OR WHITE. YET JUDAISM TEACHES THAT IT IS A MATTER OF RELIGIOUS IMPERATIVE THAT A MAN CHOOSE SIDES AND TRY TO TIP THE SCALES OF SOCIETY IN FAVOR OF GREATER JUSTICE. IN MAKING OUR CHOICE WE ARE URGED TO SEEK NEW SOLUTIONS, YES, BUT OUR SEARCHING MUST BE TEMPERED BY THE WISDOM OF PAST EXPERIENCE. ONE OF MY TEACHERS ONCE TAUGHT, "THE TASK OF THE JEW IS TO BRIDGE SINAI AND MESSIAH, TO LINK TOGETHER IN HIS DEEDS THE VALUABLE ACCUMULATIONS OF CIVILIZATION WITH THE THRUST FOR THE IDEAL WORLD". IN THIS UNIQUE SENSE, THE SELF-CONSCIOUS JEW OUGHT TO BE BOTH A CONSERVATIVE AND A REVOLUTIONARY, PRESERVER OF WORTHWHILE VALUES AND CREATOR OF HIGHER STANDARDS. BY REVIEWING JEWISH HISTORY, THAT IS BY RECALLING THE HUMAN DRAMA THAT BRINGS YOU AND ME TO OUR

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PLACES THIS EVENING, WE CAN SEE THAT OUR FATHERS TRIED TO PLAY THIS DUAL ROLE DOWN THROUGH THE CENTURIES, AND THEY HAVE PLAYED THIS ROLE AMAZINGLY WELL.

TRY AS WE MIGHT, WE CANNOT CONCEAL THE FACT THAT THE FIRST JEW, ABRAHAM, WAS A REVOLUTIONARY. NOT ONLY DID ABRAHAM CHALLENGE THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL RULERS OF ANCIENT BABYLONIA, HE DENIED THE EXISTENCE OF THEIR GODS! TODAY WHEN A YOUNG MAN OUTGROWS HIS CHILDHOOD CONCEPT OF GOD, HE DECIDES THAT HE IS ATHEISTIC. ABRAHAM WAS ATHEISTIC WITH RESPECT TO A MORE PRIMITIVE CONCEPT OF GOD, BUT HE WAS WISE ENOUGH TO SEARCH FOR A HIGHER CONCEPT. IN BABYLONIA OR CHALDEA, WHERE ABRAHAM WAS BORN, IT WAS AN ACCEPTED FACT THAT EACH CITY HAD ITS OWN GOD AND NO ONE QUESTIONED THAT IN THE HEAVENS, THE GODS MADE WAR TO ASSERT THEIR SUPREMACY ON EARTH. AS ONE WHO COULD NOT ACCEPT THE CONSTANT WARRING OF THE MANY CITY-STATES, ABRAHAM SET OUT FOR A NEW COUNTRY WHERE HE MIGHT ESTABLISH A NEW KIND OF GOVERNMENT AND A NEW KIND OF WORLD VIEW OR RELIGION. FROM THE STORIES IN THE BIBLE WITH ABRAHAM AS THE HERO, WE LEARN THAT HE WAS THE FIRST TO TEACH THAT GOD DOES NOT DESIRE HUMAN SACRIFICE. HE WAS THE FIRST TO TEACH THAT GOD IS NOT BLIND POWER ANGRILY DESTROYING THOSE WHO DISPLEASED HIM. INDEED, WE MIGHT SAY THAT ABRAHAM WAS THE FIRST RELIGIOUS HUMANIST WHO SAW IN THE GOOD MAN EVIDENCE OF THE DIVINE PRESENCE.

WHILE ABRAHAM WAS CLEARLY A REVOLUTIONARY, HE WAS NOT AN ANARCHIST. HE BELIEVED IN THE IMPORTANCE OF A DISCIPLINED SOCIETY. NOR WAS HE A HEDONIST. HE WAS CONCERNED WITH A HIGHER IMAGE OF MAN, BUT HE DID NOT TRY TO SPEND HIS DAYS SOLELY IN THE PURSUIT OF PERSONAL PLEASURE. IN THIS SENSE, WE COULD SAY THAT ABRAHAM WAS ALSO A CONSERVATIVE. HE BELIEVED THAT LIFE HAD ITS MORE NOBLE PURPOSES WHICH COULD ONLY BE ACHIEVED IF EACH MAN VOLUNTARILY GAVE UP SOME OF HIS ABSOLUTE FREEDOM IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN SOCIETY.

IN OUR BIBLE, THE BOOK WRITTEN BY OUR GRANDFATHERS, MOSES ALSO IS PRESENTED AS A MAN

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AGAINST THE ESTABLISHMENT. IN 1300 BCE EGYPT WAS THE WORLD POWER, THE FIRST IN WAR, FIRST IN TECHNOLOGY, AND FIRST IN THE OPPRESSION OF THE MASSES. THE GENIUS OF MOSES IS THAT HE WAS ABLE TO GET A LARGE GROUP OF PEOPLE TO STAND UP ON THEIR HIND LEGS AND SAY, "WE ARE CHILDREN OF GOD AND NOT DOGS". HIS GENIUS IS THAT HE WAS ABLE TO CONVINCED A GROUP OF SLAVES THAT THEY WERE MADE IN THE IMAGE OF THE DIVINE AND THAT THEY COULD IMITATE GOD IN HIS ATTRIBUTES OF JUSTICE AND LOVE. MOSES, GREAT FOE OF THE EGYPTIAN ESTABLISHMENT, REBEL SUPREME, EMERGES AS ONE OF THE GREATEST LAW-GIVERS OF ALL TIME. WAS IT NOT HE WHO EDUCATED THE HEBREWS, AND THROUGH THEM ALL MANKIND, TO THE IDEA OF GOVERNMENT UNDER LAW, WHERE HUMAN RIGHTS COULD NOT BE ABROGATED BY A DICTATORIAL SOVEREIGN? SURELY EVERY JEW KNOWS THAT THE TEN COMMANDMENTS GLEANED AT MT. SINAI WERE BUT THE BEGINNING OF THE GREAT LEGAL CODE WHICH MOSES AND THE ELDERS OR CONGRESS DEVELOPED. THE ESCAPE FROM EGYPT, THE REVOLUTION, COMES TO ITS CLIMAX AT SINAI, THE SYMBOL OF MAN'S GREAT LEAP FORWARD INTO CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT GUARANTEEING HUMAN RIGHTS.

STILL WE MUST NOT ASSUME THAT EVEN WITH MOSES EVERYTHING WENT SMOOTHLY. AFTER A REVOLUTION, THERE IS ALWAYS THE QUESTION, WHO WILL GAIN CONTROL? WILL IT BE THE CRUEL INNER CORE WHO WILL CREATE A DICTATORSHIP OF A DIFFERENT TYPE? WILL THE ANARCHISTS CONTROL? OR WILL THE MODERATES CONTROL? THE PROBLEM OF OUR GRANDFATHERS IS DRAMATICALLY DESCRIBED IN THE STORY OF THE GOLDEN CALF. THE STORY TELLS US THAT MOSES AND THE ELDERS SPENT A GREAT DEAL OF TIME AT THE MOUNTAIN TOP PREPARING THE LAWS FOR THE NEW SOCIETY. WHEN FINALLY, MOSES AND JOSHUA STARTED DOWN THE MOUNTAIN, THEY HEARD WILD SOUNDS ARISING FROM BELOW, AS THE PEOPLE DANCED AROUND THEIR IDOL OF GOLD. UPON HEARING THE CLAMOR, JOSHUA, THE ARMY COMMANDER, EXCLAIMED, "THERE IS A CRY OF WAR IN THE CAMP!" HOW INTERESTING IT IS THAT THE CLAMOR MEN MAKE WHEN SEEKING PLEASURE UNRESTRAINED SOUNDS LIKE THE CRY OF WAR, FOR IN TRUTH THE FRANTIC FLIGHT FROM THE DISCIPLINE OF LAW IS LIKE A WAR ON SOCIETY, A WAR AGAINST MAN'S BETTER NATURE. AS

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JOSHUA AND MOSES CONTINUED THEIR DESCENT, MOSES INTERPRETED THE DISTANT SOUNDS IN ANOTHER WAY. "NO", SAID THIS STUDENT OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR, "IT IS NOT THE SOUND OF TRIUMPH, THAT I HEAR, NOR IS IT THE SOUND OF DEFEAT. IT IS THE SOUND OF PEOPLE REVELING. IT IS THE SOUND OF A PEOPLE BROKEN LOOSE". WHEN THE TWO REACHED THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAIN, THEY SAW, INDEED, THAT THE PEOPLE HAD CAST OFF ALL CONVENTIONS. THEY HAD INTERPRETED THEIR RELEASE FROM SLAVERY AS A SIGN THAT THEY WERE FREE TO DO ANYTHING THEIR HEART WILLED. THE PROBLEM FOR MOSES AND THE ELDERS WAS NOW MADE ABUNDANTLY CLEAR. HOW COULD THEY TEACH THE MASSES THAT THE ALTERNATIVE TO FOLLOWING EVERY ORDER OF A SLAVE MASTER WAS NOT UTTER FREEDOM TO INDULGE ONESELF IN EVERY REPRESSED DESIRE.

THE PROBLEM OF THE ISRAELITES OF 3300 YEARS AGO AT SINAI IS SIMILAR TO THE PROBLEMS OF OUR SOCIETY. HOW CAN WE TEACH THE MORE ADVENTUROUS AMONG US TODAY THAT THE ALTERNATIVE TO ACQUIESCING IN THE DICTATES OF BIG BUSINESS AND BIG GOVERNMENT IS NOT THE NARCISSISTIC LIFE, LIVING ONLY FOR ONE'S SELF BY ONE'S OWN STANDARD? THE MASSES OF ANCIENT ISRAEL WERE TO BE ADMIRER FOR THEIR GUMPTION IN STANDING UP TO PHAAROH, BUT HISTORY HAS THE RIGHT TO JUDGE MEN NOT ONLY BY THEIR WILLINGNESS TO REVOLT BUT ALSO BY WHAT THEY DO WITH THEIR FREEDOM! TO THIS ARGUMENT, MANY OF THE MODERN REVOLUTIONARIES ASSERT, BUT WE ARE NOT CONCERNED ABOUT THE VERDICT OF HISTORY. WE LIVE ONLY FOR THE MOMENT. OUR GODS LIVED NOT IN THE PAST, SOME OF THEM ASSERT, NOR DO OUR GODS HAVE A CONCERN FOR THE FUTURE. SURELY, THIS IS NOT THE SOUND OF THOSE IN DEFEAT. NOR IS IT QUITE THE SOUND OF THOSE WHO HAVE TRIUMPHED. IT IS MERELY THE SOUND OF THOSE WHO HAVE BROKEN LOOSE.

THE BOOK OF OUR GRANDFATHERS TELLS US THAT THROUGH GREAT INGENUITY, MOSES WELDED TOGETHER A UNIQUE NATION FROM THESE FORMER SLAVES. YET HISTORY IS NOT STATIC AND AFTER SEVERAL HUNDRED YEARS OF SUCCESSFUL GOVERNMENT, THE ISRAELITES FACED A NEW

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CRISIS. THE DESCENDENTS OF SOME FEW OF THE SLAVES HAD WAXED RICH AND POWERFUL. OTHERS HAD BEEN FORCED TO SELL OFF THEIR LAND AND HAD BECOME POOR. THE EARLY IDEALISM AND DEMOCRACY OF THE ISRAELITE KINGDOM WAS GRADUALLY DILUTED BY TIME. BY 850 BCE, THE KINGS AND NOBLES, AND PRIESTS HAD MADE OF ISRAEL JUST ANOTHER NATION OF THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST. THE YEARS HAD WORKED TO BUILD UP A NEW ESTABLISHMENT NOT MINDFUL OF THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE, ONLY THIS TIME THE ESTABLISHMENT WAS IN ISRAELITE HANDS. CLASSICAL SCHOLARS TELL US THAT IN RESPONSE TO THIS EMERGENCY, THERE AROSE IN ISRAEL ONE OF THE GREATEST GROUPS OF MEN IN HUMAN HISTORY KNOWN AS THE N'VI'IM, OR PROPHETS. IN ORDER TO BRING ABOUT CHANGE WITHIN THEIR SOCIETY, THE PROPHETS HAD TO DO MUCH OF WHAT MODERN RADICALS ARE DOING. THE PROPHET JEREMIAH WALKED THROUGH THE STREETS OF JERUSALEM WITH A YOKE AROUND HIS NECK DEMONSTRATING WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO THE KING IF HE DID NOT SERVE THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE. THE NEGRO, JAMES FORMAN, JUMPED INTO THE PULPIT OF RIVERSIDE CHURCH IN NEW YORK, BUT JEREMIAH STOOD IN THE CENTER OF THE VERY TEMPLE OF SOLOMON AND CONDEMNED THE HIGH PRIEST AND HIS UNDERLINGS.

A FEW WAR PROTESTORS IN MODERN TIMES HAVE BURNED THEIR DRAFT CARDS, BUT JEREMIAH, THROWN INTO PRISON ON A CHARGE OF TREASON AND THREATENED WITH DEATH, CALLED FOR NON-RESISTANCE TO A FOREIGN ARMY STANDING AT THE GATES OF JERUSALEM ITSELF.

THERE ARE IMPORTANT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE PROPHETS AND SOME OF OUR MODERN PROTESTORS, HOWEVER. JEREMIAH WAS NOT AN ANARCHIST, NOR WAS HE AN ATHEIST. INDEED, FOR ALL OF HIS OBVIOUS RADICALISM, JEREMIAH WAS A CONSERVATIVE IN A SENSE. WHAT HE WANTED WAS A RETURN TO THE OLD LAW, TO THE SPIRIT OF SINAI. HE CHAMPIONED THE LAW THAT CENTERED AROUND INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS. HE OPPOSED THE NOTION THAT THE KING WAS A LAW UNTO HIMSELF. FOR ALL OF HIS COURAGEOUS ATTACKS ON HYPOCRITICAL PRIESTS, JEREMIAH WAS PROFOUNDLY RELIGIOUS, BELIEVING WITH AN ALL-CONSUMING FAITH, THAT WHAT HE DID, HE DID AS GOD'S ALLY. LIKE SOME OF THE MODERN PROTESTORS, JEREMIAH SPOKE OF A HIGHER LAW, BUT BY

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THIS HE MEANT THE OLDER LAW, THE ESSENTIAL LAW BASED ON THE RELIGIOUS HYPOTHESIS THAT EVERY MAN IS CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF THE DIVINE. JEREMIAH REVERED THE BEST OF THE PAST WHILE MANY MODERN REBELS CONSIDER THEMSELVES THE ORIGINAL SOURCE OF ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS AND A LAW UNTO THEMSELVES.

WHAT THE PROPHETS TRIED TO DO 2700 YEARS AGO, OTHER GREAT JEWS HAVE DONE THROUGHOUT THE HONORED HISTORY OF OUR PEOPLE. THIS VERY SYNAGOGUE IS PART OF A REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT THAT BROKE WITH ORTHODOXY IN THE LATE 18th CENTURY OF THIS ERA, SHORT YEARS AGO. IT WAS REFORM JUDAISM THAT MADE WOMEN THE EQUAL OF MEN IN CONGREGATIONS, ACCENTED THE OLD UNIVERSALISTIC IDEALS, MADE RITUAL OBSERVANCE VOLUNTARY, AND CALLED JEWS BACK TO THE TASK OF ENTERING THE SOCIAL ARENA TO BATTLE POVERTY AND PREJUDICE. NO DOUBT THERE ARE STILL REFORMS TO BE MADE IN JUDAISM AND IN SOCIETY. PERHAPS, THE PRAYER BOOK WE USE NEEDS TO BE UPDATED, JUST AS WE UPDATED THE ORTHODOX BOOK. PERHAPS, WE NEED A NEW AND HIGHER VIEW OF GOD. WHO WILL HELP US WITH THESE CHANGES AND IMPROVEMENTS?! I CHALLENGE ANY OF YOU, YOUNG OR OLD, TO REVOLUTIONIZE JUDAISM, TO MAKE IT MORE VITAL AND MEANINGFUL. MATURE REVOLUTION DOES NOT FRIGHTEN THE JEW STEEPED IN THE HISTORY OF HUMAN CHANGE. WHAT FRIGHTENS HIM IS IRRESPONSIBILITY AND ANARCHY. A MATURE REVOLUTIONARY DIVORCES HIMSELF NEITHER FROM THE COMMUNITY NOR FROM HISTORY. HE SIFTS THE BEST FROM THE PAST. HE REVIVES GRAND IDEAS AND RETIRES THOSE THAT SEEM TO BE OUT-DATED. HE JOINS TOGETHER TWO DIFFERENT IDEAS AND CREATES A THIRD MORE DYNAMIC IDEA; BUT HE DOES NOT SEEK TO FLY FREE ABOVE THE CROWD LIKE A BIRD WITHOUT A NEST.

PERHAPS, THERE ARE THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO BREAK LOOSE INTO AN UNCHARTERED AND UNDISCIPLINED WORLD, BUT IF ONE IS A JEW, ONE CANNOT DO THIS. WE KNOW, BECAUSE WE HAVE LIVED SO LONG AS A PEOPLE THAT THE SEAS OF LIFE MAY SEEM ALWAYS TO BE CHANGING, AND THEY ARE, YET IN ANOTHER SENSE, THEY ARE ALWAYS THE SAME, JUST AS HUMAN NEEDS ARE

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ALWAYS THE SAME. ON THIS ROSH HASHANAH EVENING, IT IS GOOD THAT WE HAVE REVIEWED SOME OF OUR HISTORY TO REMIND OURSELVES WHO WE ARE AND WHERE WE OUGHT TO STAND IN THE PRESENT CONFLICT. WE ARE JEWS, CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM, WHO DARED TO SMASH THE IDOLS OF ANCIENT BABYLON AND TO TEACH THAT THERE ARE NOT CONFLICTING DIVINE WILLS WHICH SANCTION WAR. WE ARE JEWS, CHILDREN OF MOSES, WHO TAUGHT THAT NO CHILD OF GOD SHOULD BE ENSLAVED AND THAT THERE ARE ESSENTIAL LAWS WHICH ALL MEN MUST FOLLOW IF WE ARE TO HAVE A PEACEFUL AND JUST SOCIETY. WE ARE CHILDREN OF THE PROPHETS, THOSE WHO TAUGHT THE EQUALITY OF ALL NATIONS BUT THE SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF ISRAEL. WE ARE DESCENDENTS OF THOSE, LIKE ISAIAH, WHO CASTIGATED THE INSENSITIVE WEALTHY FOR NEGLECTING THE SUFFERING OF THE POOR. WE ARE THE HEIRS OF THOSE, LIKE JEREMIAH, WHO WENT TO PRISON PROTESTING SENSELESS WAR AND ASSERTING THE RIGHTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL IN A HIGHER LAW, ROOTED IN GOD.

WE JEWS HONOR OUR PAST, FOR IT FEEDS AND SUSTAINS US. IT GIVES US THE TASTE OF HUMAN VICTORIES WRESTED FROM THE MOUTH OF TRAGEDY. WE RESPECT OUR PAST FOR IT PROJECTS FOR US A TASK FRAUGHT, AT ONCE, WITH DANGER AND WITH GLORIOUS POSSIBILITIES. FOR THE JEW, THE PRESENT MOMENT IS NOT AN ISOLATED MOMENT IN TIME, BUT A CROSS-SECTION OF THE PAST AND THE FUTURE. FOR US THE PRESENT IS SACRED, BECAUSE IT HAS THE MEMORY OF THE PAST AND THE HOPE OF THE FUTURE. ON THIS PRECIOUS EVENING HISTORY LIVES FOR US. LET US PRAY THAT IT ALSO LIVES THROUGH US!