

EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT THERE ARE THREE KINDS OF JEWS, ORTHODOX, CONSERVATIVE AND REFORM. BUT THESE DIFFERENTIATIONS HAVE TO DO WITH PHILOSOPHIC ORIENTATION TOWARDS JUDAISM AND WITH THE DEGREE OF RITUALISTIC OBSERVANCE. THERE ARE OTHER WAYS OF DIFFERENTIATING BETWEEN JEWS ALSO. FOR EXAMPLE, ~~IF~~ THERE ARE INFORMED JEWS AND UNINFORMED JEWS. AN INFORMED JEW KNOWS ~~something~~ <sup>something</sup> ABOUT JEWISH HISTORY AND IDEALS, TO LIVE <sup>out</sup> HIS JEWISHNESS IN AN INTELLIGENT MANNER. THE UNINFORMED JEW, KNOWS LITTLE ABOUT WHAT BEING A JEW MEANS, YET HE <sup>may</sup> ~~CHOOS~~ES TO LINK HIMSELF TO THE JEWISH PEOPLE. ~~WE MIGHT ALSO~~ THERE ARE OTHER KINDS OF DIFFERENTIATION WHICH WE MIGHT USE, AND WE SHALL CONSIDER SOME OF THEM NOW.

FOR EXAMPLE, THERE IS A CATEGORY WHICH WE MIGHT CALL "THE YICCHUS JEW". A YICCHUS JEW IS A JEW WHO IS JEWISH BY OSMOSIS. HE HIMSELF IS UNAFFILIATED WITH A SYNAGOGUE, AND HE KNOWS LITTLE <sup>about</sup> HIS FAITH, YET WHEN HE MEETS YOU, AND THE TOPIC OF JUDAISM COMES UP, HE WILL IMMEDIATELY SAY, "MY GRAND-FATHER WAS A RABBI IN <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ VILLAGE <sup>in</sup> LITHUANIA. OR <sup>he will say</sup> "MY COUSIN WAS THE FAMOUS CANTOR IN ODESSA IN 1843, OR "MY BROTHER IS THE SHAMMAS OF BETH AM IN SOUTH MIAMI". USUALLY THE YICCHUS JEW WILL HASTEN TO ADD, "BUT I AM NOT RELIGIOUS". <sup>or I live too far away from your Shul to join.</sup>

A VERY COMMON TYPE OF JEW THESE DAYS MIGHT BE CALLED THE "NIGHT CLUB JEW". THIS FELLOW IS ACTUALLY FRIGHTENED AT THE PROSPECT OF VISITING A BRIGHTLY-LIT MODERN SYNAGOGUE, BUT IN THE SEMI-DARKNESS OF A NIGHT-CLUB, LISTENING TO THE MUSICAL STRAINS OF THE LATIN-AMERICAN VERSION OF THE HORA, HIS JEWISHNESS SEEPS TO THE FORE, AND HE WAITS EAGERLY FOR THE JEWISH COMEDIAN TO APPEAR. LIKE THE OLD JEWS USED TO WAIT IN ANTICIPATION OF THE RABBI'S DISSERTATION ON TORAH, SO THE NIGHT CLUB JEW OF MODERN TIMES LEANS FORWARD TO HEAR THE <sup>Hochmas</sup> THAT SPILL FORTH FROM THE INSPIRED LIPS OF THE COMEDIAN. THE COMEDIAN, WHO MAY OR MAY NOT BE A FORMER <sup>Rabbinical</sup> ~~Orthodox~~ <sup>Orthodox</sup> SAYS A FEW WORDS OF YIDDISH, EVERYBODY LAUGHS. HE TELLS A JOKE. NOBODY LAUGHS. IT WASN'T FUNNY. HE SAYS ANOTHER FEW WORDS OF YIDDISH. EVERYBODY HOWLS. WHAT ARE THEY LAUGHING AT? THEY'RE NOT CERTAIN. MAYBE THEY FEEL GOOD BECAUSE BY EXPOSING THEMSELVES TO A FEW JEWISH WORDS, THEIR GUILT FEELINGS FOR NOT GOING TO SYNAGOGUE ARE PURGED. WHEN THE COMEDIAN IS THROUGH TALKING ABOUT THE GOOD OLD DAYS ON THE EAST SIDE OF NEW YORK, THE NIGHT CLUB JEW IS SO FILLED WITH SPIRITUAL YEARNING THAT HE GETS UP AND DANCES THE LATIN AMERICAN HORA <sup>with abandon.</sup>

PERHAPS THE LARGEST GROUP OF JEWS IN OUR TIME ARE THE GASTRONOMICAL JEWS. THEIR MINDS AND HEARTS ARE NOT JEWISH BUT THEIR BELLIES ARE. THIS KIND OF JEW IS CONVINCED NOT SO MUCH OF THE SUPREMACY OF JEWISH MORAL TEACHING, AS OF THE SUPREMACY OF JEWISH-STYLE COOKING. HIS IDEA OF A HERO IS NOT MOSES ATOP MT. SINAI, BUT THE OLD JEWISH MOTHER OVER THE KITCHEN STOVE. I HAD MY FIRST EXPERIENCE WITH THIS TYPE OF JEW WHEN I WAS IN THE ARMY. AT FIRST, VERY FEW OF THE <sup>Service-</sup> MEN ATTENDED SERVICES, BUT WHEN WE STARTED SERVING SALAMI SANDWICHES AFTER SERVICES, OUR ATTENDANCE QUADRUPLED. I STILL DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND WHAT IT IS ABOUT A SALAMI THAT CAUSES A MAN TO SAY "SH'MA YISROEL". AS I HAVE GROWN OLDER I HAVE NOTICED THAT FEW JEWS ARE ACQUAINTED WITH THE ~~VARIOUS~~ <sup>Important</sup> PROPHETS, LIKE JEREMIAH AND ISAIAH, BUT THE VAST MAJORITY ARE ACQUAINTED WITH THE VARIOUS WAYS OF SERVING <sup>Sweet</sup> ~~SALT~~ AND SOUR MEATBALLS. A JEW WHO WILL NOT THINK TO BEND OVER A PRAYER-BOOK OR A BOOK OF LEARNING, WILL SPEND QUITE A BIT OF TIME BENDING OVER SOUP AND ~~KIBELACH~~ <sup>KIBELACH</sup>. I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS SPIRITUAL ABOUT HELZYL, BUT I HAVE SEEN JEWS GET THAT FAR-AWAY LOOK WHEN THEY EAT IT. WILLIAM JAMES, THE GREAT AMERICAN PHILOSOPHER, ONCE WROTE THAT WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS IS A "MORAL EQUIVALENT FOR WAR", <sup>that is</sup> SOMETHING MORAL THAT WILL COMMAND MAN'S LOYALTY AND EFFORT AS MUCH AS THE ~~WAR EFFORT~~ <sup>Stimulus</sup> SEEMS TO DEMAND THE BEST OF PEOPLE. FOR JEWS IT MIGHT BE SAID THAT WE NEED THE MORAL EQUIVALENT OF CHOPPED LIVER.

A SPECIAL VARIETY OF THE GASTRONOMICAL JEW IS THE DELICATESSEN JEW. FOR SOME JEWS FRIDAY NIGHT IS THE SACRED HOUR OF THE WEEK. FOR THE DELICATESSEN JEW, THE WEEKLY VISIT TO THE DELLY, USUALLY ON SUNDAY MORNING, IS THE SACRED HOUR WHICH REMINDS HIM OF THE RELIGION OF HIS FATHERS. WHEN THE DELLY JEW ENTERS THE PORTALS OF HIS FAVORITE STORE, AND ~~FIX~~ THE FIRST WAVES OF THE ODOR OF BELLY-LOX DRIFT BY, HE IMMEDIATELY GETS A VISION OF HIS HOLY GRAND <sup>mother</sup> AND HE SAYS IN HIS INWARD PARTS, "IT IS GOOD TO BE AJEW". WHEN THE SALESMAN WAVES THE <sup>patami</sup> PATAMI UNDER HIS NOSE, THE DELLY <sup>Delicatessen Jew</sup> JEW SHARES THE SENTIMENTS OF THE PSALMISTS AND THINKS TO HIMSELF, "HOW GOODLY ARE THY TABERNACLES O ISRAEL". ~~AN EXTREME VARIETY OF THE GASTRONOMICAL JEW IS THE PERSON WHO~~ IN A SENSE, ALL OF US ARE GASTRONOMICAL JEWS, BUT SOME OF US HAVE OTHER PLACES IN OUR JEWISH PANTHEON, ~~AND~~ FOR A FEW OF US, THE SOLE JUSTIFICATION FOR GOD IS HIS ~~GUIDANCE~~ HANDING DOWN OF THE TORAH FOR JEWISH COOKING.

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I HAVE SPOKEN FROM THIS PULPIT BEFORE OF JEWS WHO MIGHT BE CALLED "FOUR-WHEEL JEWS". THEY ARE NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH BIG-WHEEL JEWS. A FOUR WHEEL JEW CAN BE IDENTIFIED BY THESE SIGNS. THEY DRIVE THEIR KIDS TO THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL ON THE WEEK-END, BUT INSTEAD OF GETTING OUT OF THEIR CARS TO ATTEND THE ADULT CLASSES BEING CONDUCTED ON SUNDAY OR THE SERVICES BEING CONDUCTED ON SATURDAY, THEY STAY IN THE CAR. THEY HAVE WHAT MIGHT BE CALLED A FOUR WHEEL IDENTIFICATION WITH THE SYNAGOGUE. WHEN THEIR CHILDREN HAVE TO ATTEND SERVICES ON FRIDAY NIGHT AS PART OF THE CONFIRMATION PROGRAM, THEY DRIVE THE CHILDREN TO THE SERVICE, LEAVE THEM OFF, AND THEN STAY IN THE CAR. THEY THINK NOT IN TERMS OF FAMILY TOGETHERNESS, OR OF THE LESSONS THEY MIGHT LEARN IN THE SYNAGOGUE. APPARENTLY, THERE IS SOMETHING SPIRITUALLY REASSURING ABOUT THE INSIDE OF THE CAR. THEY MUST BE THINKING THAT THEY CAN ALWAYS TURN THE CAR RADIO OFF, BUT IF THEY GO INTO THE SYNAGOGUE, THEY CAN'T TURN THE RABBI OFF. THE FOUR-WHEEL JEW GOES TO THE SYNAGOGUE OFTEN. HE JUST DOESN'T GO IN THE SYNAGOGUE.

YOU ARE ALL FAMILIAR, I AM CERTAIN, WITH THE CLASSIFICATION OF "REVOLVING DOOR JEWS". THESE JEWS COME INTO THE SYNAGOGUE AND GO OUT SO FAST, YOU WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM. IN THIS CATEGORY COMES THE SUB-CLASSIFICATION OF "BAR MITZVAH JEWS". THEY JOIN TO GIVE THEIR SON A QUICK EXPOSURE TO THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR BAR MITZVAH, AND ~~BY THE WAY~~ THEY HAVE RESIGNED FROM THE TEMPLE WHILE THE ECHO OF THE BAR MITZVAH SPEECH IS STILL RESOUNDING IN OUR EARS. WHILE THE BOY IS BLOWING OUT THE CANDLES ON THE BAR MITZVAH CAKE, THE FATHER IS WRITING THE LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM THE TEMPLE. WE MUST ADMIT, HOWEVER, THAT THIS PROBLEM IS MUCH WORSE IN CONSERVATIVE AND ORTHODOX CONGREGATIONS THAN IN OUR OWN, WHERE THE EMPHASIS IS ON CONFIRMATION. WE HAVE A FEW "CONFIRMATION JEWS," AS WELL AS A FEW "LETS GET OUT BEFORE THE PLEDGE COMES DUE" JEWS. . ALSO IN THE GENERAL CATEGORY OF REVOLVING DOOR JEWS COULD BE PLACED THE "LIGHTNING-BOLT JEWS". THESE ARE THE JEWS WHO COME TO THE TEMPLE, SIT VERY QUIETLY, AND THEN COMPLAIN THAT THEY ARE QUITTING THE CONGREGATION BECAUSE "NOTHING HAPPENED". CLEARLY, THEY EXPECTED THAT GOD WOULD CALL THEM BY NAME AS THEY SAT IN THEIR SEAT, AND THEY WERE DISAPPOINTED THAT NO DOVES APPEARED WITH TWIGS IN THEIR MOUTHS.

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THESE JEWS HAVE NOT YET LEARNED THAT RELIGION IS NOT A CHILL RUNNING UP AND DOWN THE SPINE, BUT A HUMAN BEING RUNNING UP AND DOWN TO SERVE HIS FELLOW MEN. A FINAL TYPE OF REVOLVING DOOR JEW IS THE KIND THAT QUILTS THE SHUL ~~REVOLVE?~~ TO GO TO ANOTHER ONE WHERE THE CANTOR IS TALLER OR THE RABBI HAS A DEEPER VOICE. WE MIGHT CALL THIS SUB-CATEGORY, "THE MATINEE IDOL JEW".

A MORE DIFFICULT KIND OF JEW IS THE "CHIP ON THE SHOULDER JEW". HE IS CONVINCED THAT BECAUSE HE IS A JEW, EVERYBODY HATES HIM. IF HE MOVES INTO A NEIGHBORHOOD WHICH HAS CHRISTIANS, HE WILL TALK TO NOONE BECAUSE HE IS CERTAIN THAT NOONE WANTS TO TALK TO HIM. SINCE HE IS SO WITHDRAWN, THE NEIGHBORS SOON LABEL HIM AS UNFRIENDLY, AND THEY FORGET ABOUT HIM. THIS KIND OF JEW SEEMS A NAZI UNDER EVERY ROCK, AND INTERPRETS EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS TO HIM IN TERMS OF ANTI-SEMITISM. WE CAN ALL UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEMS OF THIS TYPE, BUT WE HAVE TO ADMIT THAT IT SERVES NO GOOD TO CARRY A CHIP ON ~~ONE'S~~ <sup>our</sup> SHOULDER.

*we can all understand we hardly do it serve the cause I understand when*

A VARIETY OF THIS CATEGORY IS WHAT MIGHT BE CALLED THE "DEFENSIVE JEW".. HE IS WILLING TO GIVE GREAT SUMS OF MONEY TO ORGANIZATIONS FIGHTING ANTI-SEMITISM, BUT HE IS UN-WILLING TO JOIN ORGANIZATIONS WORKING TO TEACH JUDAISM OR TO SPREAD JEWISH CULTURE. THIS MAN WORKS FOR SOME LIBERAL CAUSES, NOT SO MUCH OUT OF LOVE FOR HIS NEIGHBOR, AS OUT OF FEAR FOR HIMSELF. WHILE ~~INTELLIGENT/FEAR/~~ the informed JEW HAD BEST TAKE STEPS TO PROTECT HIMSELF IN MODERN SOCIETY, THE FUTURE OF JEWS AND JUDAISM DOES NOT DEPEND ON OUR SQUELCHING OF ANTI-SEMITISM BUT ON OUR TEACHING OF JEWISH VALUES.

AS WE REVIEW THE MANY DIFFERENT TYPES OF JEWS THAT ARE AMONGST US, WE MUST CANDIDLY ADMIT THAT THESE TYPES ARE NOT MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE. A PERSON CAN BE A LITTLE OF EACH OF THESE THINGS, AS MOST OF US ARE, FOR UNDERSTANDABLE REASONS. WE ARE ALSO ABLE TO ADMIT, I HOPE, THAT THE VITALITY OF JUDAISM WILL NOT SURVIVE IF WE ARE MERELY NIGHT CLUB JEWS, <sup>merely</sup> GASTRONOMICAL JEWS, <sup>merely</sup> FOUR WHEEL JEWS OR <sup>merely</sup> REVOLVING DOOR JEWS. IT IS NOT MY INTENTION TO MAKE YOU FEEL GUILTY WHEN YOU LAUGH AT A JEWISH JOKE OR WHEN YOU EAT PATRAMI. I AM VERY POND OF THESE THINGS MYSELF, BUT WE <sup>must</sup> HAVE VERY CLEARLY IN OUR MINDS, THE NOTION THAT NIGHT CLUB JOKES AND SOUR PICKLES

5 WILL NOT RESERVE JUDAISM ANY MORE THAN THE OBSERVANCE OF  
BAR MITZVAH OR CONFIRMATION AS AMERE FORM. SO LONG AS ~~the~~ *Adults among us*  
ARE MERELY JEWISH CHAUFFEURS, JUDAISM IS IN DIRE DANGER.  
OUR CHILDREN ARE BOUND TO BELITTLE THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR RELIGION  
WHEN THEY SEE THAT THE PARENTS ARE INDIFFERENT TO IT, ~~FOR~~ *some important aspects*  
JUDAISM TO SURVIVE IN A CULTURE OF WHICH IT IS <sup>but</sup> A SMALL COMPONENT,  
EACH OF ITS MEMBERS MUST RECOGNIZE HIS RESPONSIBILITY TO SUPPORT  
THE SYNAGOGUE ON A CONTINUING BASIS. EACH OF US MUST RECOGNIZE  
THE NECESSITY OF LEARNING THE DEEPER CONTENT OF JUDAISM. *and making*  
~~EACH OF US MUST BECOME AN ADULT STUDENT OF THE ADULT CONTENT~~ *and practice*  
~~OF OUR FAITH,~~ *it is an active part of this life.*

*For*  
When we become Jews not only gastronomically  
but also intellectually & spiritually  
~~we need have no fear for the future~~  
~~of our faith~~  
we will be able to make a contribution  
to our age such as our fathers made  
to theirs.