

From the Desk of Rabbi Gold



(Continued from last week)

This leads me to your main point. You feel that your parents' attempts to get you to break up with Marie are prompted by a lack of concern for your happiness. The very reverse is probably true. Just because they care about you they are fighting with every ounce of their moral authority to keep you from continuing a relationship that might eventuate in marriage. Are they right? You are old enough, David, to know that at best marriage is a difficult human relationship. If it were not, there would not be such a large and growing percentage of failures. One out of every 3.8 marriages now ends in divorce. Much more than infatuation is needed to make a marriage last. I remember the wry comment of one marriage counsellor who said of a tottering marriage, "The young man fell in love with a face and he married the whole girl." Physical attraction is basic and, I suppose, usually comes first. But marriage is a serious business, requiring the utmost of

compatibility of outlooks, of values, of backgrounds.

The old cliché about opposites attracting each other may be true. But whether or not they should permit this attraction to eventuate in marriage is something else again.

Most authorities in the field would agree that the only opposites that should attract each other are opposite sexes. In all other matters two young people contemplating marriage should have as much in common as possible.

A survey conducted by the American Youth Commission indicated that the percentage of broken homes among the intermarried was more than twice as high as broken homes among Protestants and Catholics and more than three times as high as among Jews when each married within his own faith. Whenever you introduce into a marriage a difference as vital as religious background you have added a strongly divisive factor to what is already a profoundly challenging relationship.

The current issue of the NATIONAL JEWISH MONTHLY contains an article entitled "SOME 'MIXED-MARRIEDS' SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES." The article consists of taped interviews with couples who were assured of anonymity so that they could speak frankly and openly. One young man, married one year, who describes himself as a "fourth generation American-born Jew" sums up his position by saying, "As we see it, a really mixed marriage cannot possibly work. Something as basic as religious beliefs, when not a common bond, can only divide the marriage even where there are no children. It isn't even a marriage, in my book."

Anne, who is 40, and has two children, comes from a mixed Christian background. Her husband is Jewish. She sums up her sentiments by saying, "I would not recommend mixed marriages. I would be frightened if my children said they wanted it. It's a hard row to hoe."

I am not sure, David, that your parents are familiar either with the statistics that I quoted or these citations from the article. What they do feel intuitively is that your chances for happiness would indeed be greater if you married within the Jewish fold and did not take on the many, many complications that are inevitably found in

"I DECLARE"

by Claire Dase



The Cantor David Kusevitsky Concert is already a thing of the past, to be recalled with tender moments, but to overlook thanking those who were Gold ticket sponsors, would be unforgivable, so to Mr. & Mrs. Stan Irwin, Mr. & Mrs. Gene Osheroff, Mr. & Mrs. Louis Coplon, The Fremont Hotel,

Manny Schwartz (Sahara Realty), Mr. & Mrs. Kel Housseis Jr., Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Katz, Mr. & Mrs. Jerome Mack, Mr. & Mrs. Harry Wallerstein, Mr. & Mrs. Preston Feinberg, Desert Inn Hotel, Mr. & Mrs. Hank Greenspun, Mr. & Mrs. Louis Stone, Jack Entratter (Sands Hotel), Maxim Sobolewsky, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Rich, Mr. & Mrs. Irving Fields, Mr. & Mrs. Harry Mack & Mr. and Mrs. Charles Turner, acknowledgment is made.

a house religiously divided. You speak of your happiness as though indeed you could find such happiness in a vacuum. The fact is that you are related to other people. If your marriage brought pain to your parents, would it not diminish your own happiness? And then of course there remains the gnawing problem of the children of such mixed marriages. For them the problem assumes special poignancy.

Some time ago COMMENTARY published an article entitled MY CHILD: JEW OR CHRISTIAN: The main point of the Christian mother's article is summed up in this passage:

"Soon I suppose another child will ask my son that simple question all children ask: 'What are you?' I don't know yet what my son will answer. He can't say, 'My father is Jewish and my mother is Presbyterian.' The world demands a more precise answer. 'What are you?' it insists on knowing. Thousands of us who have married out of our religious groups face the problem where do our children belong? At this moment, my husband and I are deeply involved in searching for an answer." Somewhat later in the article this passage appears:

I wanted to avoid, if I could the experience of a friend whose child came to her in tears, 'I know you are Jewish and Daddy's Methodist,' the child said, 'but what am I? The kids say that I am not anything.' The mother consulted all sorts of authorities, Jewish and Christian. A pointed insight came from a child psychologist who said: "It is hard for a school-age child in our conforming society to have no answer to the question, 'What are you?' It marks him as something different, strange, inferior. It is something that can make a child anxious, and from anxiety grow neuroses."

(Continued next week)

The Junior choir will be singing at Temple Services this Friday. These little ones are doing great and it behooves all the congregation to turn out and hear and encourage them. The intermediate group are "warming up" for its debut on the Bemah in the near future.

Anyone wishing to share the Passover with a boy in military service should contact Joan Weisman or Rebe Isler. You'll be doing a wonderful thing.

Two most important events need YOUR CO-OPERATION The contributions always received in the past for the needy at Passover time, and the Camp Ramah fund. Send your donations, c/o the Rabbi, and he will do the rest.

The gals, B'nai B'rith worked with in Henderson recently were great. Their co-operation and wonderful senses of humor made the Rummage enterprise both a delight as well as a financial success. Thank You.

Almost important thing to all of the community, this paper has proven itself to be one of the greatest assets to the general public, and everyone is aware of the fact that not only does it bring matters of interest with the everyday person, but also gives all the opportunity to hear direct from our Rabbi. To help continue to have it appear on the stands and in the homes, plus the Temple where it is being coveted every week, it needs the support of all of you. PLEASE, I am asking you, SEND IN YOUR SUBSCRIPTIONS. Now, or your promise, or call me, I'll be more than delighted to pick it up at your home. But don't wait.

Welcome home to our own Jeanne Levy. Harry flew her home by Jet last Friday. Not too many calls or visitors right now, please, but she's here Thank G-d, and we're all happy.

Heard that an old friend and long time resident of Las Vegas is seriously ill. Get well wishes go to Cal Cory.

This past Friday the Haddassah, of which I am also a member, took over the Oneg Shabbat, a usual Sisterhood chore. Between the glamor that decorated the Bemah and the social hall, it was delightful. Madylin Posin looked like a breath of Spring in yellow, Kay Wallerstein in her ever delectable black, Pat Friedkin in a soft lavender, and Reva Schwartz in muted beige, plus the gracious Joanne Weiner and Elsie Retsky, each and everyone did a swell job. Proud to belong with you.

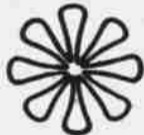
Has anyone seen Mr. Brodie from Boulder City just lately? Harry Cobb and I were wondering only this past week what has happened to him.

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