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Oil for the Lamps

The Middle East Institute, housed in Washington, is a non-profit organization which supposedly has the best library on the Middle East outside the Library of Congress. Its founder was first attracted to the Middle East because of its architecture. The organization claims it is neutral in the Middle East troubles. It has recently published a booklet on "American Interests in The Middle East" and it reveals some of the motivations underlying the political moves of our government.

American oil interests, the booklet claims, have invested about \$2.85 billion in the Middle East. These investments have a corollary value of stimulating American exports of capital goods, chemicals, consumer products, management and other services. In addition Americans working in those areas send some of their pay back to the United States. The United States imports only about one-fifth of its petroleum requirements, mostly from South America. But oil reserves, says the magazine, have dropped in the United States from a twelve and half year supply to a ten year level. This means, at that rate the reduction, that the United States will have to depend more and more on oil from the Middle East. Israel has little or no oil.

Is it conceivable that American policy towards Israel in the immediate and far future will be determined by this need?

Passover Message

RABBI MENACHEM M. SCHNEERSON
 (WORLD LEADER OF LUBAVITCHER MOVEMENT)

Greeting and Blessing:

Our Festivals - like all matters of Torah and Mitzvot - have general aspects common to all, as well as specific features characteristic of each particular festival. The rich and inexhaustible content of the festivals makes it possible to select certain points which offer pertinent instruction special in any particular time and in any particular place.

The above is, of course, true also of Pesach; indeed, even more forcefully, considering that Pesach is the "Head of the Festivals," and that the Festival of Our Liberation from Egypt marks the birth of our Jewish nation.

The special importance of Pesach can be seen also from the fact that it is one of (no more than) two positive commandments (Mitzvos-asseh), the neglect of which carries the penalty of Kores ("Cutting off" of the soul), G-d forbid. These Mitzvos are: Miloh (Circumcision) and Korban-Pesach. The two are closely interrelated, for a person who is not circumcized is precluded from offering the Korban-Pesach. Of the two, Pesach is even stricter, for while in the case of Miloh the obligation to perform the circumcision remains also later, the Korban-Pesach had to be brought only in its prescribed time, and not later.

In a certain aspect, however, the Korban-Pesach differs

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 OUR RENEWAL IS APPRECIATED

DAYENU BY HENRY LEONARD

'And Sam, if you want it should be a 'Festival of Freedom' for me, too . . . next year we go to the Community Seder at the Temple.'
 Copr. 1963, Dayenu Productions

entirely from all other Mitzvos and sacrifices. It is the requirement that not only the father be circumcized, but that also his children likewise be circumcized. Shoud he have a son whom he had not circumcized and thus not entered into the "Eternal Covenant" with G-d, then he, too cannot offer the Korban Pesach!

To be sure of the offering of Korbonos, including Korban-Pesach, is limited to the Beis-Hamikdash, and will be renewed only when the Beis-Hamikdash will be rebuilt by our righteous Moshiach. However, it is well known that all matters of Torah, by virtue of its eternal nature, contain clear and practical instructions in our daily life, at all times and all palces.

The festival of Pesach, so named after the Korban-Pesach, emphasizes the importance of Chinuch - the proper rearing of Jewish children. As a matter of fact, one of the underlying motives for the whole Seder is to educate the children - each and all of the children. This can also be seen from the Haggada ("Here the child asks the questions", "Of four sons the Torah speaks", "And thou shalt tell it to thy son, etc.). However, the Korban Pesach emphasizes most forcefully the extent to which Jewish education affects not only the child, but also the parents: If parents fail in their duty to their child, and do not bring him into the "Eternal Covenant" with G-d, to the degree of it being engraved not merely on the child's soul, but also in the body (as it is written, "And my covenant shall be in your flesh for an eternal covenant") - then, not only do they, G-d forbid, deprive their child of the Eternal Covenant and of all the blessings that go with it (and with the Korban-Pesach), but the parents, too, forfeit the opportunity of offering the Korbann-Pesach, together with all the things and blessings associated with it, both material and spiritual; specifically the benefit spelled out in the Torah: "It is a Pesach unto G-d...and I will pass over you (or I will have mercy on you)...and shall not let the destroyer (plague) enter your houses to smite." This is G-d's assurance of mercy and protection even in a world afflicted with ills, physical or spiritual; the Jew who properly observes the "Korban Pesach" is promised that such ills will "pass over" him and his house.

At the time when the children of Israel were in Egypt, the Korban Pesach protected their houses against the Destroyer (Plague) raging outside. Only the first born were threatened then. But in our day and age, when Jews everywhere are still in Golus, in a physical as well as a spritual Golus, some Jewish parents have unfortunately disregarded the Korban-Pesach, the first prerequisite of which, as stated in the Tohah, is: "Withdraw and take unto yourselves," meaning, "withdraw from idolatry (foreign ideologies) and cleave to Mitzvos." Consequently, the Destroyer finds an open door to these houses, seeking victims to lead astray, G-d forbid, and not discriminating whether they be first born or not, boys or girls. The plague has spread to many Jewish homes. Heaven-protect us. This is the result of the failure of some parents to abandon the alien (and inimical to true Yiddishkeit) ideologies, while some parents who endeavor to fulfill the said directive of "withdraw and take unto yourselves" have nevertheless abdicated their duty and responsibility of bringing up their children in the way of true Yiddishkeit, the way of Torah and Mitzvos, from their earliest age. The sad and tragic effects of such an attitude are not far to seek, sad and tragic not only for the neglected children, but also for the neglecting parents.

TELL TALES
 "One Man Plus The Truth Constitutes A Majority"
 BY JACK TELL

An acute attack of muscle spasm in our right arm and shoulder has completely inactivated our capacity to write a column this week despite the very many subjects in the news that call for comment.
 We have accepted an invitation to appear on Evelyn Newman's "Open Line" afternoon program on Radio Station K-TOO, Friday from 1 to 2 p.m. We look forward to the opportunity to personally thank all those wonderful people who make this outstanding program possible and to Evelyn for keeping it so interesting.

Jewish McGillicuddy
 by RABBI SAMUEL SILVER

If you are a baseball buff you know that Cornelius McGillicuddy was the real name of a great baseball manager, Connie Mack.
 But what about Patrick J. McGillicuddy?
 What, you don't know him?
 Patrick is the brainchild of one of the liveliest rabbis in America.

Rabbi Norman Goldberg is now an emeritus in Augusta, Georgia. A few years ago the rabbi was flown across the continent by Bob Hope to say a blessing over Hope's daughter and her groom, a member of the Georgia temple.
 Rabbi Goldberg is a rabbi who can make people laugh. He can make you think too. But his jocular sense is finally tuned. Throughout the World War II period, when there was little to laugh about, Rabbi Goldberg, himself a chaplain, regaled audiences of a number of magazines with sketches of "life behind the pulpit" as seen by an imaginary chaplain's clerk, the aforesaid Patrick.
 Now that witty Rabbi Goldberg has updated the McGillicuddy yarns and has given us a new series of hilarious episodes born in his fruitful brain.

Published by Geron-X, of Los Angeles, Calif., the new book called "Patrick J. McGillicuddy and the Rabbi" is available at any synagogue library. It will keep you guffawing without letup as you read the chapters in which you go behind the scenes in synagogue life. There's nothing vicious or malicious about the book; it's just innocent merriment.
 You will have your favorite sketch. The one that broke me up was the one where the rabbi tells how to cope with unordered merchandise and letters urging us to invest in get-rich schemes. In the former case, the rabbi shoots off a bill for storage to the merchant who sent the unordered goods. In the latter case, the rabbi sends the get-rich merchant a check for \$1000, but he doesn't sign it.
 There are many more goodies in this delightful book, which will make a wonderful gift or a hospital cheerer-up. Be sure to get it.

NEW YORK (WNS) - - The Federation of Jewish Philanthropies had dropped charges of criminal trespass against 41 militant youths who had staged a sit-in at Federation's office to protest the organization's limited support of Jewish educational, cultural and campus activities.

The festival of Pesach, and especially the Korban Pesach, reminds us most emphatically that if Jews desire to secure for themselves and their children the blessing of "I shall have mercy and pass over (exclude) you" and of the "season of Our Liberation" in general -- liberation from all existing and potential harm, both within (unrestrained natural proclivities) as well as, and especially, without (the harmful influences and pressures of the environment) - at a time when the Destroyer roams in the streets and even in the halls of learning - such liberation can be assured only if the parents themselves will reject all "idolatry" and attach themselves to authentic Yiddishkeit, at the same time giving their children a thorough Torah-true Jewish education from infancy, the kind of education which is sealed in their body and soul, through the practical fulfillment of the Torah and Mitzvos in the daily life, in actual practice. Then there is hope and confidence that the parents and their children, all the children, will be together at the Seder-table and celebrate Pesach, the Festival of Our Liberation - liberation in all respects.
 This will also bring nearer and hasten the true Liberation - the true and complete Geoloh-through our righteous Moschiach.
 With prayerful wishes for a kosher and happy Pesach and true Liberation -
 /signed/ Menachem Schneerson