

# Indestructible Jews

BY MAX I. DIMONT  
(CONTINUED)

Jerusalem, now the spiritual homeland for diasporized Jews, could become the spiritual world capital for diasporized man. Ethical Judaism -- the Judaism of the Prophets -- could be the universal creed for the universal man in the third act?

Arnold Toynbee, so much vilified by the Jews because he branded them fossils, has perceived the true function of Judaism more clearly than many Jewish historians. He stated, and I quote: "The future of Judaism is to convert the world. It is an extraordinary thing that twice before in history the Jews have allowed outsiders to run away with their religion and spread it over the world. ...Does not the real future of Jews and Judaism lie in spreading Judaism, in its authentic form, over the whole world?"

Is this so improbable? Does rationalism, communism, nazism, fascism, or racism hold greater promise for man than the ethics of Judaism? Has not the Old Testament shown itself superior to the philosophies of Plato, Hegel, or Kant? Do you feel safer with the finger of the scientist or the finger of God on the trigger of the hydrogen bomb?

Is the pendulum of history perhaps right now swinging back from empty rationalism to prophetic humanism? Behold the pagans of Africa, catapulted from their Stone Age into the twentieth century, bewildered by their loss of tribe and faith. Behold India's half a billion souls in search of a religion that will neither drown them in mythology or smother them with materialism. Behold the Chinese, a spiritually sensitive people, suddenly bereft of religion.

Behold the Russians, taught atheism for half a century, yet still seeking a religion that will satisfy their spiritual urge. Behold the Arab people, struggling to free themselves from the effendis who have chained Allah to a dying feudalism. And behold the Christian world itself, proclaiming God is dead, yet groping for new religious values.

Are the people of the world as ready to embrace ethical Judaism today as the pagans in the Roman Empire were ready to embrace Christianity in the fourth century A.D.? Can Judaism step into the breach at this crucial juncture of materialist wealth and disintegrating spirit? Will it be the universal aspect of their faith to a diasporized world that is sick unto its scientific soul? Is it possible that Christianity, Mohammedanism, Communism, have only been stepping stones to make it easier for the future diasporized man to cross over into a universal Judaism?

The rationalist twentieth century Jew, though he has abandoned the theological idea of the Messiah, still has a vision of that messianic ideal -- as the redemption of the Jew through the soil of Palestine. No philosophy, no logic, no science has altered this Jewish belief in a prophetic manifest destiny. The distant past is closer to the heart of the Jew than recent history. Nothing -- not anti-Semitism, not communism, not fascism -- can uproot this attachment to his past or blind his vision of the future.

But how can the rational, emancipated Jew still proclaim the chosenness of the Jewish people and maintain a messianic spirit? The Zionist intellectuals recognized that Israel must be more than a sanctuary for Jews hopscotching the globe, one step ahead of anti-Semitism. Israel, they warned, must never be just another nation among nations.

She must never imitate, she must never tie her fate to any other civilization or ideology. If she does, she too will die with that civilization or that ideology. Her Salvation is in becoming a universalist state, a symbol of peace, a sanctuary of the prophetic ideal.

This brings up echoes of the Prophets. Two thousand five hundred years ago the Prophets warned Israel against compromising its spirit. It was the Prophets who first insisted that there was no security for Israel except in her uniqueness. The Prophets knew that if Israel existed only as a political structure, she, too, would perish. Only by standing as a chosen messenger of God could she survive, said the Prophets. The Prophets were the first to call upon Israel to enter world history as a prototype of an ethical-religious community and be an example for man-

kind. In words of Isaiah: "For out of Zion shall go forth the Law and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem."

So you see, the ideas I have outlined here are not farfetched after all. They did occur to men two thousand five hundred years ago. What I have said is only a restatement in modern terminology of what the Prophets stated allegorically. After two and a half millennia, Isaiah's words still express the longing of men of all faiths, the universal hope of mankind.

As long as the Jews stick to the ethics of the Torah and the ideology of the Prophets, they will remain indestructible. It is these ideas that give them their indestructibility. If they forsake these ideas they will then become as destructible as any other people.

When mankind embraces that ethic and that ideology, it, too, will symbolically become "Jewish". There will then be only "man". Such success cannot spoil Judaism. It can only immortalize it. This is the paradox of "The Indestructible Jews."

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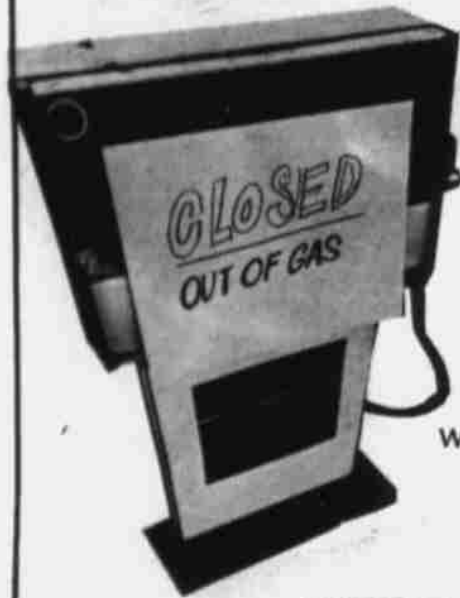
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We certainly cannot just hang up our hard hats and go home... but it's something to think about! Nevada Power presently has the generating resources to provide Southern Nevada the electric

energy needed, but its natural gas fuel supply is being severely curtailed, and there are uncertainties concerning substitute fuel oil supplies. It is something to think about! If the nation's energy crisis continues to worsen, by this winter it may affect your supply of electric energy. But we're doing our best to see that it doesn't happen. Meanwhile, we hope you recognize that electricity is a vital resource. Please eliminate waste. It all adds up.

(One of a series of conservation messages from Nevada Power Company)



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