

Passover Thoughts

By Rabbi Samuel Silver

Who was it who said those who refused to learn from history would be forced to repeat it?

Modern Egypt has already suffered three plagues. Before she lets go of the Jews must she undergo seven more?

Passover reminds us of the plight of the poor. We eat the matzah to taste vicariously the meager food of those who are fictims of hunger. Can our nation not realize that its resources should go less for arms and more for the relief of those who are disadvantaged?

Can we not see that those who are deprived can become depraved? What we would spend in largesse would be less than what we spend to cope with the criminal acts of the desperate.

Moses, the hero of the Passover saga, did all he could to avoid violence. He pleaded with Pharaoh to let his people go with a minimum of strife. In the desert he begged other nations to let the Israelites pass through without war. He was a devotee of peace. Our nation could also reduce violence if its Congress would pass a gun control measure. But despite the rise of blood-

shed, despite the recognition of the fact that lethal weapons are easy to get, no measure to restrict the use of weapons has passed. How much more suffering must occur before it does?

Passover is the home festival par excellence. Seeing our loved ones around the table should prompt us to find as many opportunities as possible to bring our

relatives together for happy purposes. When sadness strikes, we permit no alibis to interfere with our gatherings. But for joyous occasions we procrastinate and find many reasons why "we can't make" the simcha. Let the gladness and heart-warming uplift of the Seder service stir us to find ways to get together often with our dear ones and offer thanks for our good fortune in having relatives and friends who are pleasant and a delight to be with.

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