

JACK TELL'S NEWSPAPER

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The Seder

By Rabbi Samuel M. Silver

There's nothing like a Seder! The table observance of Passover is unique. The Seder is a dinner party. But it's more than that.

It's a birthday party, too, for Passover marks the birth of freedom.

Every nation which has won independence from imperialists has followed in the footsteps of Moses and his people.

The Seder is also a history lesson. It dramatizes that first struggle for liberty in the annals of Western civilization.

The Seder is a worship event. We pray, give thanks and try to get on the same wave length with the Almighty One, as we go through the Haggadah.

The Seder is also a songfest. The music, some rollicking (Dayenu), and some solemn gives us a lift of the heart, as we rejoice over the gift of freedom.

The Seder is also entertainment. To hear the youngest child display its prowess at singing the Four Questions, to see the youngsters cavorting as they look for the afikomen, to have various people exhibit the various melodies for the Seder songs -- is to indulge in wholesome and meaningful fun.

The Seder is also an experience in nostalgia. No one sits at the Seder table without recalling yesterdays and former family gatherings. Sentimentality has its way and its sway around the Passover table.

No wonder Passover is "station identification time," in that even peripheral Jews gravitate to the table for the celebration of the glorious Spring festival marking the fact that our people was "sprung" from bondage into the bright light of autonomy.

Our Christian friends are so enamored of the Seder that they have introduced it into many churches. Christian clergymen tell their parishioners that Jesus was conducting a Seder at the "last supper." That bit of information has done much to make many Christians understand the roots of their faith in Judaism.

And no other holiday is celebrated around the table, as Passover is. For that reason it has been suggested that other festivals be given the "Seder" treatment, that is, marked by some kind of family gathering.

This Passover will be a historic one, since it will mark the first time in hundreds of years that the Biblical foes, the Jews and the Egyptians, will have created a formula for peace. May the centuries - old rift be permanently healed!

Behind The Scenes

At The United Nations

By DAVID HOROWITZ

A World-Union Press Feature

UN Ignores Treaty

UNITED NATIONS (WUP) -- The historic Israeli - Egyptian Peace Treaty signed with President Carter as "witness" in Washington on March 26 -- barely two and a half weeks



MIXING MATZAH INGREDIENTS TAKES MUSCLE, AS THESE NURSERY SCHOOL YOUNGSTERS ARE DISCOVERING AT THE ST. PAUL, MINN., JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER, AN AFFILIATE OF THE NATIONAL JEWISH WELFARE BOARD (JWB). ONCE THE BATTER IS ROLLED OUT, BAKED AND PERFORATED, THE CAKES OF UNLEAVENED BREAD WILL BE AUTHENTIC IN EVERY RESPECT.

before Passover 5739 -- was practically ignored here in this House of 'peace' whose Charter obligates its members to live at peace and harmony with each other.

Monday, 26 March 1979, a time of great festivities in Washington and much rejoicing in Israel and Egypt -- for it ended a state of war between the Jewish State and the most powerful of Arab states -- was just another ordinary day here at the UN. It was business as usual. Several meetings took place as scheduled, and this in the face of the fact that three UN Member States, two who had been at war for over thirty years and fought four wars, and one, a Permanent Member of the Security Council and the largest financial supporter of the world organization, fulfilled the Charter obligations by signing a Treaty of Peace and thus opened the grounds for a comprehensive settlement in the entire Middle East region.

Significantly, while the delegates were pre-occupied in their respective committees debating such issues as the peaceful uses of outer space, international terrorism, development planning in the economic field, etc., hundreds of Secretariat workers and correspondents flocked to the nearest television sets to view the signing of the Peace Treaty; even some of the Ambassadors sneaked out of their meeting rooms to take a glimpse at a smiling Carter preside over the signing ceremony.

Symbolizing the position of that UN majority -- composed of the Soviet and Arab blocs including most of the Third World states, which has expressed its opposition to Camp David, Secretary - General Kurt Waldheim kept a scheduled date to fly off to Europe on the very eve of the Peace Treaty signing.

ISRAELITE ADS PAY



HENNY YOUNGMAN

...Man Of Many Talents

INDIAN GIRL MARRIES JEWISH BOY. THEY HAVE TO GIVE THEIR NEW SON A NAME TO PLEASE BOTH SIDES OF THE FAMILY. THEY NAMED HIM "WHITE FISH."

TELL TALKS

"One Man Plus The Truth Constitutes A Majority"

BY JACK TELL



(Continued from Page 1)

Jewish male babies cast into the Nile. That's when Moses was set adrift in a waterproof basket and was rescued by the Pharaoh's daughter, to grow up in the palace.

Moses, who never forgot he was a Jew, belted an anti-Semite and had to go into hiding. He married the daughter of a Priest and became a sheep grazer.

One day near Mt. Sinai, a voice from a burning bush commanded Moses to set the children of Israel free. Moses tried to reason with Pharaoh but it was no use. Strong measures were needed. A plague brought death to every first-born Egyptian. Pharaoh was glad then to get rid of the Hebrews, who took off in a hurry. Three days later, Pharaoh changed his mind and set out after the Jews with the Egyptian army. The Israelites practically had to eat on the march and as for prepared food didn't have time to let the dough rise, so the short-baked bread came out unleavened - now known as matzoths.

Then came the incident at the Red Sea where the waters parted to let the Hebrews across, only to come together again to drown the Egyptians. After 40 years of wandering, the Israelites settled in Canaan, the Promised Land beyond the Jordan River. But Moses never got there.

It was God's will that Moses should get a look at the Promised Land from Mt. Pisgah before he died of old age. Exactly when Moses received the Ten Commandments from God is not clearly identified. Our belief is that Moses was in constant touch with God and all liturgical law was promulgated through him. From the Ten Commandments came all accepted criminal codes and mandates of human ethics practiced in civilized countries.

Leo Tolstoi, the Russian novelist and philosopher who died in 1910, came up with several answers to the question: "What is a Jew?" Some of his responses are appropriately significant to the story of Passover.

He wrote: "Let us see what kind of peculiar creature the Jew is, which all the rulers and all nations have together and separately abused and molested, oppressed and persecuted, trampled and butchered, burned and hanged - and in spite of all this he is yet alive."

"The Jew is the religious source, spring and fountain out of which all the rest of the peoples have drawn their beliefs and their religions."

"The Jew is the pioneer of liberty. The Jew is the pioneer of civilization. Ignorance was condemned in olden Palestine more even than it is today in civilized Europe."

"The Jew is an emblem of civil and religious toleration," wrote Tolstoi, who went on to quote Moses in remote and savage times when the principal ambition of the nations consisted of crushing and enslaving one another: "Love the stranger, Moses commands, "Because you have been stranger in the land of Egypt."

"The Jew is the emblem of eternity," wrote Tolstoi, who continued, "He whom neither fire nor sword nor inquisition was able to wipe off from the face of the earth, he who was the first to produce the oracles of God, he who has been for long the guardian of prophesy, and who transmitted it to the rest of the world - such a nation cannot be destroyed. The Jew is everlasting as is eternity itself."

After reading the writings of Tolstoi, who authored "War and Peace," "Anna Karenina," and other monumental works, you kind of get the unequivocal, indisputable feeling that the Jewish religion is here to stay. Let's keep it that way no matter how you celebrate Passover. Incidentally, Tolstoi was not Jewish.

NEW YORK (WNS) -- Israel's existence would be endangered if it were forced to return to its pre - 1967 borders, according to Prof. Hans Morgenthau, a political scientist on the Graduate Faculty of the New School for Social Research,