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Sukkot 1981

BY RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM

This past October 12, at sundown, the Jewish community began the observance of the eight-day festival of Sukkot, of Tabernacles. It was a joyous festival of Thanksgiving, celebrating the reaping of the summer fruits at the beginning of autumn and related to the time when our Israelite farmer ancestors dwelled in booths or huts during the ingathering of the harvest.

Historically, Sukkot also commemorates the perilous journey of the Israelites through the Sinai wilderness to the Promised Land, when they also dwelled in makeshift booths.

Many of the Sukkot ceremonies observed today derive from the practices engaged in by generation upon generation of Israelite pilgrims to the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. Remarkably, these symbols take on extraordinary contemporary meaning in the 20th century.

A key symbol of Sukkot is the tall palm branch, the lulav, bound with willow and myrtle, and the errog, the aromatic citron. Both in the synagogue and in the sukkah at home, the Jewish worshipper holds fruit and brought together and chants a Hebrew prayer of gratitude for divine blessings of a bountiful harvest.

In an age of growing food scarcity and famine in the world, that exercise will serve to sensitize a whole people to their obligations to help feed the needy in our land and overseas. That conviction is reinforced by the Rabbinic teaching that holding the palm and citron together is a symbol of one human brotherhood mutually responsible for the welfare of the whole Jewish people and all mankind.

The sukkah which is a makeshift residence, reminds us that this temporary home of the festival is for millions a permanent home, and therefore the Jew is obliged to help bring decent living conditions to the deprived everywhere.

All in all, Sukkot is an ancient festival that is right on target for our 20th century condition.

Behind The Scenes

At The United Nations

By David Horowitz

A World-Union Press Feature

Egypt's Tragic Yom Kippur

UNITED NATIONS (WUP) -- The news of the assassination of President Anwar el-Sadat on October 6 struck this world organization like a thunderbolt. Delegates, the press and Secretariat officials including the Secretary-General were shocked. The greater part of the afternoon session of the Assembly plenary meeting was devoted to expressions of grief by representatives of the various region groups. However,

CAMP DAVID



TELL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth Constitutes A Majority"

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only a few moderate Arab voices were heard. The general feeling here was that with the passing of Sadat, the Middle East political scenario will change. Undoubtedly there will be new thinking on issues affecting the Camp David Accords, and both Israel and the United States will be forced to reappraise their positions, and this despite Vice President Hosni Mubarak's assurances that Egypt will follow their martyred leader's "road to peace." It goes without saying that Mubarak himself will be faced with a power struggle and great danger from his enemies within.

No doubt the Egyptian tragedy will of necessity also affect the problem facing President Reagan's efforts on behalf of the AWACS sale to Saudi Arabia.

It is ironic that Sadat's end should have occurred on the occasion of Egypt's unfamous surprise attack launched against Israel on Yom Kippur 1973 -- an onslaught that inflicted heavy casualties on the Jewish State and which, although belatedly concluded in victory for Israel, created much turmoil and conflict within the Israeli leadership. Arafat and Qaddafi had vowed that Sadat would pay the price for his "traitorous" Camp David Treaty. He paid. October 6 was Egypt's tragic "Yom Kippur."

Sadat had chosen Yom Kippur in his knowledge that the whole yishuv was engaged in prayer and rest in its most sacred and solemn holy day of the year. All Israel was in prayerful supplication to the Rock of all Israel, to the God of Zion who hath chosen Jerusalem as His abode and Who was bringing his scattered children back Home. The world was stunned at his decision to attack Israel on that singular day even as it was equally stunned last week at the news

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King of One Liners



HENNY YOUNGMAN
 ...Man of Many Talents.

I JUST FOUND OUT WHY THOSE GUYS RIDE BICYCLES UP IN THE AIR ON THE TIGHT WIRE. NO TRAFFIC.

Animals and Society at the University of Pennsylvania under the direction of Dr. Aaron Ketches, a professor of psychiatry. His team of researchers, led by Alan Beak, an animal ecologist, includes veterinarians, biologists, anthropologists, social workers and ethologists. The team has established that while animals alone do not cure or socialize anybody, they can establish trust and communication between the therapist and the emotionally disabled person. Based upon this finding, programs for taking pets from animal shelters to visit hospitals, nursing homes, and even prisons now exist in many cities.

Like most people who have pets, I talk to my "shaine kelef" (registered name Suzanne) and I know she understands me. Accordingly, I was delighted to learn that the center has discovered that when people talk to their pets there is no rise in their blood pressure. When people talk to each other there is always at least a slight rise. Perhaps the difference is due to the soothing effect of talking to an uncritical, nonjudgmental creature.

Another finding came out of the study of heart attack victims who recovered and went home. After a year it was established that pet owners survived significantly longer than patients without pets. Additional research conducted at the Center and by the People - Pet Partnership Program at Washington State University and at Ohio State University and the University of Michigan all point to the fact that the human companion - animal bond has benefits for the health of people of all ages and I believe particularly for the elderly who ultimately find themselves alone in a world of young strangers. This is not to say that pets are, or should be, substitutes for human contact but rather that they offer a kind of relationship that human beings do not provide.

In an earlier column I reported that an organization known as United Humanitarians has launched a nationwide campaign in opposition to restrictions against keeping pets in housing projects whether they are rentals, condominiums or retirement centers. The group considers such restrictions discriminatory and contends that the ownership of pets is a civil right just as is the ownership of any other property. The organization agrees that owners should be responsible for their pets' behavior and maintain that for a great many elderly pets are important sources of companionship and for many their only protection. I believe that some states have passed legislation outlawing restrictions against keeping pets in housing projects. Certainly the Smithsonian Magazine article helps significantly to fortify the social policy espoused by United Humanitarians. If you want to know more about the organization and how you can help, write to Larry Andrews, 16 E. Hercher Road, Phoenix, Arizona, 85020.