

Goethe and the Jews

The following is the third of a series of illuminating articles revealing Goethe's lively interest in Jewish and things Jewish, taken from "Goethe and the Jews," (G. P. Putnam's Sons, publishers), by Dr. Mark Waldman of the College of the City of New York. The author, who is a distinguished teacher, scholar and lecturer, was on high praise for his own contributions to the research on Goethe from Professor Carl F. Schreiber, head of the Germanic Department at Yale University, and head of the Goethe Symposium, to which Professor Waldman's contribution was adjudged outstanding.

By DR. MARK WALDMAN

The Bible largely shaped his life and accompanied him through life wittingly and unwittingly till his very last breath. He never failed to acknowledge to the profound debt he owed to the Book. In "A far as I am concerned," he continues, "I lived and esteemed it; for almost to it alone I owed my moral education, and the contents, the teachings, the symbols the similes, everything had made on me a profound impression and had become effective in one way or another. I, therefore, disliked the insolence and want of respect on the other hand, it was defended by serious-minded people of all nations.

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tion and interpretation and though they did not clarify them they did, however, by their explanation affirm them. "Again, and again Goethe reverts to the Bible which has exerted an incalculable influence on the world. That great veneration which the noble races and peoples have bestowed upon the Bible is due to its inner worth. It is not merely a national book, but a book of the world, because it sets up the destinies of a nation as a symbol for all others, because it connects its history with the origin of the world and leads us through a gamut of terrestrial and spiritual developments, through a scale of indispensable and accidental events into the remotest regions of the uttermost eternities."

Spinoza Exercised Goethe
If Goethe never tired of acknowledging his profound indebtedness to the book of books, he never ceased to iterate till the end of his days his deep gratitude to the "God-intoxicated Jew" Spinoza.

It seems that many human beings are imbued with a certain Weltanschauung. It ordinarily lies dormant in them till it is awakened by some extraneous cause or necessity to creep up to meet from without, the man of ordinary intelligence will, on the whole, adopt a Weltanschauung foreign to his own nature, and will, therefore, forsake, association, or both. Not so, however, a person of superior intellect. His Weltanschauung will creep up at all events and under all circumstances.

Before Goethe knew anything of Spinoza's system of philosophy he was already conversant with a philosophy of life entertained and expressed by the latter. When a mere youth he was already dominated by pantheistic ideas. As he himself wrote in his diary: "he had already discarded his faith in a personal God—the momentous words, so thoroughly Spinozistic; the nature of things, of this world, nature is difficult and dangerous, for we recognize God only through nature. All that exists belongs to God, and is therefore, as God, since God is the sole existence." This idea is expressed in Spinoza's Ethic I, Prop. 29. "In nature there is nothing contingent, all things are determined from the necessity of the divine nature to exist and act in a certain manner."

Spinoza had only known of Spinoza from a booklet and Bayle's encyclopedia, in both of which Spinoza had been caricatured and misrepresented. In 1773, however, he tapped the Spinoza fount himself. Thereafter, he became infected with an unbounded admiration for the man and his teaching. Spinoza became his master, teacher, and inspiration. His Ethic became Goethe's breviary and compass in life. He loved and despise he took refuge in it from which he drew counsel, solace, and peace of mind.

Admits Debt to Philosopher
Spinoza had seen his friend Jacob in 1774 they discussed vital matters which touched the innermost recesses of their very souls. "I had been reading your book," said Jacob, "I had read it with great attention, and I had already said on myself, if I did not train myself, from this angle and had absorbed it, I would have been an extraordinary man, to be sure, incompletely and almost furiously; but I nevertheless felt some notable effects. The book had had a decided effect on me and which was to have such a great influence on you my entire way of thinking was Spinozistic." "I had seen my friend Jacob in 1774 they discussed vital matters which touched the innermost recesses of their very souls. I finally came upon the Ethic of Spinoza and I had read it from end to this work, what I may have read into it, I could not tell now; enough, I found here tranquillization of my passions; a large and

wide vista seemed to open up before me so the generous and moral world. What attracted me to him especially was his boundless unselfishness which shone forth from every sentence. That singular maxim: "Whoever loves God rightly, must not demand that God love him in return," with all the premises upon which it is based, with all its corollaries which I must, filled my entire thought. To be unselfish in everything, to be most unselfish in love and friendship constituted my greatest joy, my principles, my practice, so that my impetuous later axiom "If I love thee, what does it concern thee?" was just spittle out of my heart. Moreover, it should be noted that the closest combinations only result from opposites. The tranquility of Spinoza, balancing everything, contrasted with my aspirations, agitating everything; his mathematical method was the counterpoise of my poetic disposition and presentation, and just that regulated mode of treatment which was not considered adaptable to moral man, was now my necessary discipline, his most decided admirer. Mind and heart, reason and disposition sought one another with inevitable elective affinity, and by was brought about a union of the diverse beings." (To Be Continued)

Will Reconstruct Zion Arts School

Keren Kayemeth and English Government Donat Funds for Reopening

(J.T.A. Special Correspondence)
JERUSALEM, July 26.—The reconstruction and reopening of the Bezalel School of Arts and Crafts, an institution which the late Professor Boris Schatz, was instrumental in producing a number of well-known contemporary Jewish artists, is now well advanced. It will be called the New Bezalel.

The Keren Kayemeth has handed the school the old building which the Government is contributing 1,500 pounds to repair the structure.

Prominent local British and Jewish personalities are taking part in the new school board. The new director is a German Jewish immigrant, the artist and graphic worker, Joseph Egoche, who arrived here a year ago.

Appeals Court Confirms Bands' Death Sentence

J.T.A. Special Correspondence

JERUSALEM, July 25.—The Court of Criminal Appeal has affirmed the death sentences passed on Abu Jilda and Eli Aram, notorious Palestinian brigands, for the murder of a Palestinian constable last year.

The two men had led a gang of bandits which had operated in the countryside until caught in a police trap near Nablus.

Community Representative Gets Seat in Karachi, India

J.T.A. Special Correspondence

KARACHI, India, July 7.—A seat on the executive committee of the representative of the Jewish community has been reserved on the local municipal corporation in accordance with the provision of the new municipal act for the city of Karachi. This privilege was obtained through the efforts of Abraham Ruben and L. Solomon.

Arabs Write Protest

J.T.A. Special Correspondence

JERUSALEM, July 7.—The Arab Executive in Jerusalem has received a large number of letters from many cities and villages of the West Bank of the Jordan. The inhabitants state their refusal to participate in the General Arab Congress because of their objection to the electoral registration.

Hitler Conquest Absolute, Midwest Paper

Editorial Sees Falsity of Nazis to Ideals of Hindenburg

(Special to the J. D. B.)

MILWAUKEE, Aug. 7.—One of the most severe arraignments of Hitler so far published in this predominantly German city has just appeared in the Milwaukee Journal.

"Adolf Hitler, the Austrian adventurer, has just completed his revolution in Germany, and the death of Hindenburg has completed it for him," the editorial declares. "The Presidency is no more, the Weimar constitution is gone, the free choice of the people for anything they might desire is put in Nazi cold storage. The subjugation of the nation to one leader and one party is now absolute."

"The Journal goes on to say that 'we have yet to find, historically, any free choice of democracy offered to a nation as Hitler, exalts Germany to swallow.'

"Hitler pretends to venerate Hindenburg the leader and patriot but at the same time destroys all that Hindenburg, the Constitutional head, stood for."

"Hitler feels that there can be no possible alternative to his policies and then announces all power flows from the people and orders them to participate in a 'free election.'

"What can the true German do about it? Nothing."

Palestine Groups Meet To Discuss Position of Actions Center Parties

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

JERUSALEM, July 26.—A joint meeting of members of the Jewish Agency for Palestine and the delegates of the center parties in the British Mandate for Palestine, was held here today. Laborite and Revisionist delegates were excluded.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the internal position of the center groups in the Zionist movement and the means of extending the bitter internal strife in the Zionist ranks.

Reich Jews' Boat Lands Cargo at Palestine City

(J.T.A. Special Correspondence)

TEL AVIV, July 30.—The "Aith" (Antwerp), a cargo boat managed by GEM, arrived here today with 700 tons of German Jewish goods.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the internal position of the center groups in the Zionist movement and the means of extending the bitter internal strife in the Zionist ranks.

Flood Relief Plans Formed

(J.T.A. Special Correspondence)

TEL AVIV, July 24.—A committee consisting of M. J. Fried, Dr. Zev Rabinan and others has been formed here to conduct a speedy campaign to raise funds for Jewish victims of Polish floods. The campaign is under the auspices of the Polish Settlers Association.

Give Zion Refugee Report

(J.T.A. Special Correspondence)

JERUSALEM, July 24.—Fifty of the most prominent of the refugees who arrived in Palestine during the last year were capitalists (having 1,000 pounds or more), it was reported here today.

BRALANS

takes pleasure in announcing that

PRINCE HUBERTUS LOEWENSTEIN



Fighter Against Hitlerism

Is coming to the United States in October for a two months lecture tour.

A leading figure in the Catholic Center Party, he was the founder and leader of the Vortrup Schwarz-Rot-Gold, one of the most important youth organizations of the Republican Reichsbanner in Germany.

Born in the Austrian Tyrol, he was brought up there, later studying law in Munich, Hamburg, Berlin and Geneva. His first political appearance was in the "Vostische Zeitung" and in this he followed up with an enormous number of polemical and editorial articles published in the "Berliner Tageblatt" and other leading German newspapers. He is now contributor to one of the most important reviews in the world, the London "Nineteenth Century and After."

In the last year before the Hitlerite seizure power in Germany, Prince Loewenstein addressed between 300 and 500 meetings in all parts of Germany, speaking against National Socialism, which he regards as the worst enemy of the German nation.

He has lived in London since March, 1934, where he is continuing his fight against National Socialism in the press, in periodical publications and in his books. He is the author of "Straggles of a Nation," "Germany 1918-24," "The New Book," "After Hitler's Fall Germany's Coming Reich," which will be published by Faber and Faber in September.

Prince Loewenstein has won recognition as one of the most important figures in the battle to restore democracy and tolerance in Germany. He will lecture on the following subjects:

- Catholicism and Judaism
- National Socialism as World Menace
- Nazi Germany Is Not Germany
- Situation in Austria
- The Overthrow of the German Republic
- Disarmament and Peace
- German Nobility Under the Nazis
- After Hitler What?

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