

A-192

(based on Fosdick's "what is vital in Religion", 1st serm., with additions & 7:12)

I. Yehuda Halevi begins one of his famous poems (215 NIK 1/11 11.1) with the following verse:

"Lord, where shall I find Thee? / High & hidden is Thy place;
"And where shall I not find Thee? - / The world is full of Thy glory."

II - we can find G-d every place - in any experience & in any situation - because the world is full of His glory. ^{well,} we naturally find G-d in life's lovely experiences - in His blessings & in His charity. But when darkness & disaster come, we naturally cry: where is G-d?

III - one person recently said to me: suffered too much to believe - lost child war, wife cancer, unemployed. Now wanting atom bombs fall....

IV - This morning study kind person who, in such ^{difficult} situations, does not lose G-d but finds Him. Let us leave spot for moment, go back to ^{wilderness} Sinai 32 centuries ago. Moses, facing desperate situation, heard Divine voice say: "The place where thou standest is Be'er-Or - holy ground!" He knew that wilderness Moses had fled, refuge from Egypt. In anger killed Egyptian taskmaster who beat Israelites, & compelled to flee, had escaped into desert to lose himself in the Bad Sands. When he thinks of the public evils of his time under Pharaoh's tyranny, or slavery of his people in Egypt, or his own personal fall from son Pharaoh's daughter to face ruggedly life steep range, he was in an unpromising place. & it was new to him when amid sagebrush & sand. The arresting message came that that was holy ground.

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I. Far from being 32 centuries old, that scene is here in this interpretation now.
 we find G-d in life's lovely things. Yes! G-d is in life's lovely things but
 some a later all of us come to place where, it wears to find G-d at all,
 we must find Him in a wilderness. How we admire people who do that!
 King David found Him in the valley of the shadow of death
 R. Yehudai gam ~~was~~ saw Him through his blindness in ancient Babylon.
 R. Meir of Rottenberg rediscovered Him in the crusader's jail.
 Franz Rosinow found Him on the battlefield & in a brookland
 "outlet" in ~~east~~ ^{west} Poland. A beautiful agnostic agent of the JDC
 found G-d in the unlovely, fetid, disease-ridden melas of
 Casablanca. I can find G-d the divine in a B symphony or in
 a beautiful majestic sunset, but to find G-d where R. Meir
 or R. Yehudai found Him, to find Him on battlefield or in
 desolate quiet, to find Him in wilderness where Moses
 found Him - that calls for insight!

II. Today we all need that insight. Not only does life lead each of
 us in an unpromising situation, but our whole era is tragic,
 desperately tragic. How does one find G-d here? It is not easy.
 Our rabbis maintain that otherwise with Moses in that
 wilderness, but (in Hebrew) וַיִּשְׁמַע וַיִּבְרַח, that only he perceived
 & heard the voice of the angel. Why he found G-d there.
 It is certainly not easy. Yet it must be done. Some of the
 most momentous discoveries of G-d in history have been
 made in just such situations. Look at the history of our
 people! Moses found G-d in the 223N. Israel found G-d's Torah in
 the 223N. They built the Tabernacle - in the 223N. The
 saw clouds of glory - in the 223N. They ordained וַיִּשְׁמַע -
 in the 223N! (וַיִּשְׁמַע). Isaiah found G-d in His וַיִּשְׁמַע,
 but Ezekiel also found Him וַיִּשְׁמַע. We find Him on וַיִּשְׁמַע when
 reading וַיִּשְׁמַע. But we also find Him on וַיִּשְׁמַע וַיִּשְׁמַע.

included in following poem - composed by unknown author
 in concentration camp Hungary. pulled up by inmates
 & recorded for posterity (see article by M. Prager in
 ספר השירים - אגרות אהבה - כרך 1 - י"א)

ני אלו ברוי עולם, נשם נשמה
 כי הולך עין א-ג ואלה ויני טעם עולמי
 ואלו מינסמן דברט מלכ נטון ...
 נכח ווי קי בוימתי ולין וואל
 טעם, אג ללין בול ע,
 קומט קול מלך

מיכ וואלן ללין ע"ן עול מלך
 מלך טעם מלכ מלכ מלך
 כי מלך מלך מלך: מלך מלך מלך!

3rd way finding G-d etc - after looking
 after identifying self w/ world, one prepared to
 accept His challenge. Do something w/ Him -
 Do something for Him ... ^{with both faith-}
 faithfulness

Drush - וְיָשָׁר

Carry that G-d loves thru life w/ you