

March 14, 1966

Sisterhood post-Purim talk - entitled

~~ADVERSARIES~~
"AS-OUR ADVISORIES-SEE US"

In planning this talk, I had a whole idea in mind, but forgot all about it and used up a good part of it in my recent Purim sermon about Haman's accusations against us.

2) "As our ^{eria}advisories see us" does not tell us what we really like are ~~unk~~. One should never view himself in the eyes of his enemies.

Nevertheless, it does tell us something about how we appear to others,

and at the same time, it offers us some ~~xxx~~ ^{kriticism} criticism. For our

^{eysa}advisories always pick on some minor imperfections ^{within us} and exaggerate them.

From spreading their exaggerations we may discover our own imperfections.

The ^{prophets}~~prph~~ did the same things, and did not spare us when they said that frequently we suffer by comparison to other people.

3) Sometimes what the anti-~~S~~emite says ^{is} ~~as~~ a whole lie. For instance: their blood libels, and the deicide charge.

4) Sometimes it is the ~~g~~ truth/ but discolored and exaggerated. Thus, what I mentioned in my recent Purim sermon, about Haman's charges

that we were am ehad , one nation. It is ^{true} ~~xxxx~~ that we were one nation, and shall so remain, although the conspiratorial implications are false. Similarly , when he said that our laws are different from other peoples and we do not listen to the laws of the king -- it is true that our laws are different, but it is not true that we disobey the laws of the kingdom.

5) There is an inbetween category, that of which I spoke, when the ^{crsa} advisory chooses a minor imperfection and blows it up, but which nevertheless reveals a deserved criticism. One such thing is when anti-semites accuse Jews of being overly ostentatious. It is ^{true} ~~xxxx~~ . Some of our bar-mitzvah celebrations are totally lacking in religious content. Some of our weddings and bar-mitzvahs are nothing more than pagan orgies, Bacchanalian feasts that are thoroughly un^Jewish.

6) The same is true for the Jewish criticism of Jews. An example of a total lie by a Jewish anti-semite occurred in the recent Commentary symposium of some years ago. One Jewish "intellectual" self-hater

clannishness

complained about our ~~clannishness~~, when he pointed out that his old mother, when she would hear of an airplane crash tragedy, would always look to see if there were any Jewish names on the list. I confess that when I read this I felt somewhat guilty, for I do the same thing! I did not like the idea, for Jews have universal concern for all human life. Nevertheless I observed thereafter that when there was an airplane crash overseas, the New York Times -- ^{which} ~~who~~ certainly cannot be accused of Jewish clannishness -- will always mention the number of Americans killed, or the number of New Yorkers killed! Is this a sign of "clannishness"? Obviously not. It is a sign merely of concern for those closet^s to you. For a person to be universally involved in the fate of human life, does not mean that he cares less for his own family than for others. Our concern goes in concentric[?] circles outwards, ourselves, our ~~families~~ ^{families,} our people, our religion, our nation, the entire world.

7) Of my major concern this morning is an "inbetween" charge: It occasionally falls to my unfortunate lot to have to counsel young Jews who desire to marry out of the faith. Most of the time these are

boys. Let me repeat to you, without comment meanwhile, some of their remarks. And I prefer to listen to them carefully rather than merely to dismiss them as spoiled children. All too often the boys complain that they cannot find a good Jewish girl, for the simple reason that the Jewish girl wants too many of the material things. She is more interested in the security he can offer, the fur coats and cruises he will give, rather than in him himself. *She judges him by the money he'll spend on her.*

Now, I know that this is ridiculous. The non Jewish girl merely feeds him a good line of wanting nothing from him. If, indeed, she sincerely ~~sincerely~~ feels that way, she will learn much differently quite soon. Nevertheless, it does point up to some fundamental disorientation in the way we have raised our own children. Our children are trained to want material things in life much more than other values. They have learned to rate people by what they can get out of them, rather than by what they are ^{as} people. They have learned to measure human beings not by human criteria but by financial criteria. This reveals itself ⁱⁿ in the materialistic goals and aspirations ~~of~~ of the young Jewish

women on the verge of matrimony. If the young Jewish boy generally in college or just out of college, and in the flush of youthful idealism, resents this, it is a sign that something is wrong with our value system.

8) The Rabbis said in the Talmud that if a man is beset by trouble, he shall search his life for any sins. But if pishpesh ve-10 matzah if he searched and could not find, ^{then} why yitleh bivitul, ^{Torah} that is, he may assume it is because he abandoned the study of Torah. The great Hasidic "Silent Rabbi" of Vorke explained: Torah must teach us to judge ourselves, self-criticism. If he has found no sins, it means he has abandoned Torah i.e. the study of self criticism. Anyone who cannot find anything in himself worthy of criticism has failed to study the Torah of how to evaluate his own life.