Friday Night, Jan. 23, 1954

I - The Scriptural Reading we have just heard entailed the reading of the מִצְוֹת, or the 10 commandments.

II - While these 10 commandments are only 10 of the 613 Mitvot recorded in the Torah as being obligatory upon every Jew, they are nevertheless great and profound import.

III - The ideas found in these 10 are expounded in the midrash, i.e., into more than 10 orders by God to Man. They are also 10 offices by Man to God, offering self-sacrifice, love and service.

IV - (And) following in tradition of earlier authorities, that מִצְוֹת contain in root or seed form the essence of all the rest of Torah.

Example: 25a 10 = stealing property, kidnapping, usury, robbery, etc.
V. And of these 10 important commandments, most significant in point of precedence and essential message is probably first - because in this principle - existence of God - all else is based.

V1. Our Rabbis gave no indication of its importance when they recorded the legend that after this particular 1st commandment, Moses rose up in ecstasy and thanked God with a blessing which we recite every morning:

"who art Alpha and Omega...

VII. True, it is a great religious proclamation.

But why is it so? Are then non-Jews, completely ignorant of the value of God?

VIII. The Existence of God: - is well-known to the Non-Jewish world.
Fri. Nite - 12-31

A) Aristotle - through brilliant philosophical reasoning arrived at conclusion that existence of G-d, Abba Mari of Lemuq refers to him as "The Abraham of the Gentiles.

B) The two most numerous religions have many sincere and devout followers. We may radically disagree with their religious thought, with their ethics and morals, with their frequent brutal intolerance. But pure are religions which recognize G-d's existence and even His Unity.

Political Independence - 2nd part - is even more well-known to gentile world.

A) Nations great and small have sacrificed all to achieve independence. England, France, U.S., and smaller nations - Lebanon, Indochina and Liberia.

B) The 12,000 PW's who gallantly gave up forever their homes & families for freedom & liberty certainly appreciated...
What then ran through Moses' mind as he made that blessing? Why did he feel that now he had achieved spiritual supremacy to the heathen lands of Egypt, to the pagan nomads of Canaan?

Answer: There are people who have maintained belief in God as an Abstact Principle, as a Universal or Israel. But it ended in this airy, realm of philosophy, speculation. There are people who have dedicated their lives to political independence, to liberty, freedom. But it began in the sphere of politics and ended there. What made the heart of Moses swell with pride? That this and this did not stop there; that it was
followed the outstanding obscene idolatry, by the ordinance of Sabbath as day of rest, even for slaves & animals, by the command to honor parents, by injunction not to murder, commit adultery, steal, bear false witness.

He was proud & happy that the lofty religious principles were to be enshrined in an ordered ethical personal life; that the noble ideals of political self-determination and independence were to be translated to practical respect for the dignity of citizens as human beings.

We too must learn to understand the 10th commandment so that we too can announce in happiness, "We know the Jewish content of these holy words".
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A) It means that our love Zion. The State of Israel will not forget that a spirit and the Jews are not enough; must have saints and scholars. That it must have more than a stabilized economy - it must have at a stabilized spiritual life too. That it must be not only 19312 but 19312 in all. But also the 19312 in all.

B) Nationally, it means that the 10 commandments must be fulfilled. The American scene shows that the 1st commandment of dependence should be fortified with democracy. That security and prosperity of the state must lead to the protection of the lives, jobs, and reputations of individual citizens, even if they do not agree with current public opinion. It means that a Declaration of Independence is not enough; you must have, in addition, a Bill of Rights.
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And, finally, it means that in our religious lives, not enough to pay lip-service to an abstract ideal—must have actual observance of these precepts. Not enough speak of the beauty of Bible & Torah & commandments—have to study it and practice it.

= Lowell's Torch—They are useless who know that alone insufficient, have but to seek... They have the great rigid say...