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Series E: Sermons, Speeches, and Writings, 1933-1959.

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"Spiritual Reconversion." undated.

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SPIRITUAL RECONVERSION

Yesterday, we talked about a new world, and about putting religion to work to help build this new world, in an improved economic & political sense.

There is ~~but~~ ^{additional} one thing to remember, that a shiny new world isn't going to be any good, unless the inhabitants become better people. ^{Spin. Recon. is needed as well as econ. recon.} The environment is important, but the heredity is also. (Story of J. Q. Adams & the house.)

Men are bad. Let's not kid ourselves. ^{Even the priests & reformers.} The prohibitionists like their liquor too - only they are neurotics who must compel others to desist. The Midrash says men are bad. (ben I. 58) Everyone of you is guilty of being suspicious, isolated, distrustful.

How do we expect to get anywhere?

League of Nations will ~~not~~ only be successful on basis of trust.
microcosm
macrocosm
Palestine is successful ^{only} because we created the best in men.

Story from Tagore - chapter "man's nature"

Spiritual reconversion means true religiosity. "Religio" means to bind together - to create a community.

Sometimes all this depresses the man with faith in human nature. Is it all a big bad joke? Then he sees some particularly beautiful deed - and his mad laughter quiets and he becomes firm again in his faith. Wasn't Abraham willing to make a sacrifice?

A.S. on spiritual reconversion. - card # 90
Peroration.

Love

Every day + every hour every minute, walk round yourself and watch yourself and make sure that your image is a pleasant one. You pass by a little child, you pass by, spiteful, with ugly words, with wrathful heart; you may not have noticed the child, but he has seen you and your image unseemly and ignoble, may remain in his defenceless heart. You don't know it, but you may have sown an evil seed in him and it may grow, and all because you were not careful before the child because you did not foster in yourself a careful, active, benevolent love.

Brothers, love is a teacher; but one must know how to acquire it, for it is hard to acquire, it is dearly bought, it is won slowly by hard labor. For we must love not only occasionally, for a moment, but forever. Every one can love occasionally, even the wicked can.

Dostoevsky, Karamazov, p. 335

SPIRITUAL RECONVERSION

Point - A new world depends on new men

Telegram - ^{the success of the} creation of any new forms (economic, political, social, etc.) requires human reconversion to the best within himself. Even a good sound healthy environment does not necessitate good sound healthy living, ^{hence} it only good people who make a good world, not good houses (as much as these are necessary.)

Sentences - R.H. represents day of creation p/13 11 + p/15
The best is a small creation

Point - Man was created ^{and this ^{action} was ^{not} of confidence in him by God, as we stand on the ^{edge} of a new creation, we are again faced with the question what kind of world will it be? No more beautiful or successful than this one, unless man faces out of himself the minimum of divinity.}

1) International society - is predicated upon the amount of faith + trust + respect which all have for each other. Nations are sure as individuals. Trust is rare, but even head-headed divisions men will meet someone he trusts instinctively. Trouble is not enough people can engender confidence for others. When they do, they bring out the best in

Their opponent and in themselves. Then no matter what their differences they can deal with one another & build new well. (John Q Adams and the country house. If the essence of man is fire & good, and then goodness comes out in him, then he will always be able to build a new structure on the old location. If he won't fire then all the new structures won't be him any good.)
(If possible to repeat Adams story, use fifty story)

2. Palestine

Creation going on in Jewish life today, as well as general, and the creation of the other will depend upon the people involved. True creations - one in Palestine, one in America. (American Jewish creation for tomorrow)

- a) Regardless of one's attitude on political Zionism we have common sense. There has been a building work + resource not to be left for America or other nations in the world.
- b) Do you think it is possible to have come about if the pioneers had been narrow, petty, bigoted, selfish, small people? ~~They~~ ^{They} ~~did~~ ^{did} not. They set out to create a new world and they gave the best in themselves. Thus they created a "harvest in the desert". Good people created good society.
- c) Quality + character of people resulted, for example, in policy of Havelokah - which left the Jews with their dignity and left the Arabs degraded. Self-restraint + discipline + concentration in building with patience + zeal rather than indulging in the fury of revenge left them far better people. Because they were good people they became better people.

Thus we have seen
Persuasion - The examples
are given - and we
determined the success
people can make a

Thus, it all
rests on the people and
the people is you.
If you are capable of
spiritual reconversion, then so are they - and
the new year & new world can be fun & lasting; if
you are not capable, then all the blood &
suffering of this war will lead nowhere.

You can leave this struggle feeling optimistic
or pessimistic about the future of the world - it
all revolves about yourself. If you feel that you
can bring out the best in yourself then the
world will be alright. If you know how deep
in your heart that you can never be any better,
then the world is what -
(Jerusalem's new government) ?

of creation - we would like
have seen that the people
of Palestine, and that only, the
success of the world-idea.

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Story of figs in palace - still being figs in palace because figs

