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One God, one law, one humanity, 1934.

ONE GOD, ONE LAW, ONE HUMANITY
And The New Paganism Which Is Challenging Them

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver

At

The Temple

On

Sunday morning, January 21, 1934

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The confusion, my friends, which exists in the world today is to be found not merely in the political and economic life of the men of our nation but in their spiritual and intellectual lives as well. Men seem to have lost their way in the world, and nations too. The ancient landmarks have been removed. They are being ignored. The tested compasses have been thrown away and men are leaving the great highways of human progress and are rushing into the dark lanes of the jungle in the hope of finding some shortcuts to salvation and to happiness.

Through many centuries of groping, struggling and experimenting, mankind has evolved a set of ideals which it came to regard as indispensable to its peace and to its progress.

It tried other and opposing ideals through the long epochs of time and found them wanting and dangerous and Dandoned them.

Unconsciously at first and then consciously, through
the processes of trial and error, mankind outlawed these
deficient and hurtful aims which it discovered to be objectionable
and sanctioned the others which it found constructive to its
well being, prosperity and its security.

From time to time certain sections of mankind naturally proved disloyal to these social ideals. But always they returned to them in deep contrition, repentant, having suffered in the

violation of those ideals. From time to time, certain individual heretics would challenge the validity of these ideals. Mankind as a rule brushed aside these heretics, rejected them.

But today, my friends, the apostasy from these ideals of the race has assumed menacing proportions. Whole nations are losing themselves in the jungle world. A furious spiritual and intellectual reaction has set in which seemingly threatens the very survival of those classic ideals of mankind. Paganism, heathenism -- I am referring to intellectual barbarism -- are again strutting on the stage of the world blatant, arrogant and belligerent.

Dispairing men everywhere, and particularly inflamable youth everywhere are being drawn to the revived idolatry of these Gods which once upon a time were dethroned and now are once more re-enthroned.

The classical social ideals which were capitalized through human experience may all be encompassed in one general term, Unity. One God, one moral law, one humanity. All the great religious of mankind had this unity at the heart of their mission and their message. All the great religious teachers, preachers, prophets of mankind taught this basic ideal of unity in one form or another, in one way or another. Unity! Out of chaos -- one Universe! Out of polytheism -- One God! Out of inequality and injustice -- One moral law! Out of struggling, warring people, nations and races -- One humanity!

What prophetic teacher, preacher, seer, poet was there that did not enjoin this ideal of cosmic unity in the very core of his teachings? Whether it be Moses, Isaiah, Jesus, Mohamed, Confucius -- any of the great teachers whose teachings determined civilization, preached the ideal of unity, one cosmic and social unity.

Among our people this ideal of unity was the dominant theme in the whole ideal of our race. Isaiah first exploited this domain of human values. Our religion began with Abraham, the father of Monotheism and is summarized in the theme:

"Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One!"

This conception of the Unity of God is not a theologic conception, my friends. Our people was never given to abstract theologic speculation and dry barren dialectics. This ideal of the Unity of God is an accepted axiom from which all reasoning and speculation is derived.

The religion of our people was opposed to the fragmentations of the Universe which was implied in polytheism. It proclaimed the belief in one Universe, the creation of one intelligence and the dwelling place of one God. It thereby proclaimed the belief that the Universe is a Universe of Law, of order, of purpose. It unified the world, gave it one design, one scheme and purpose, unified man with the Universe and the Universe with man.

And this postulate, this aciom of unity became the basis of all science. And this basic postulate ultimately became the basis of all ethics. Now, out of this concept of the unity of God and unity of the Universe, there evolved the ideal of the unity of mankind, the solidarity of the human race.

When there were many Gods, the races warred with each other. Have we not all one Father? Why then should we deal treacherously with one another? All men are the children of one God. Therefore, there can be no superior and no inferior races -- only advanced and backward races; no eminently superior racial stocks and inferior racial stocks. I have oft repeated that famous saying of the rabbis. God created only one Adam. He might have created many. The reason was that no one shall be able to say that I came better stock than you did.

From this doctrine of the human race, the equality of all races has been challenged. A ghastly new idea has arisen which is fragmentizing human life, which is teaching that all men, all races are not equal. Hitler says: "All cultural values, artistic for scientific and technical have been produced by Aryans." This cultural blasphemy is being taught in the schools to the children. They are being taught that they are the "Herrenrasse" and that all the others are "untermenshen."

This morning I read a new item from Berlin which states that: "German school books an history are to undergo a thorough revision under the Nazi Nordic School of Thought." "History, indeed," says Dr. Wilhelm Frick, minister of public instruction, "Has to be entirely re-written for the benefit of the coming generations." History is now merely a matter of propaganda. It is the means of telling children what might have taken place or what should have been written. "European history," he declares, "is the work of the Nordic race. He adds that records of originally Nordic tribes, among which he includes Medes, Persians and Hittites, must be read as achiev-ments of peoples united by ties of kinship with the Germans." He goes on to say that "Ancient Greek and Roman history also must be treated from the viewpoint of Nordic influences. Incidentally, the decline and downfall of ancient Greece must be shown to be the result of democratic government, and of the reluctance of the people to increase and multiply. The conflicts between the Roman patricians and plebeians must be represented in the light of class wars."

"The World War is to be treated from the same standpoint.

It must be taught in the schools that Germany's resistance was only overcome by the poison of liberalism and Marxism at home."

"Since about one-third of all Germans live abroad, special attention is to be paid to their doings, nor must it be forgotten to stress the Germanic character of the regions east of the Elbe and beyond the Vistula."

His great hope is that all "true Nordics" ultimately will throw themselves into one "Schicksalsgemeinschaft" (common Fate) with Germany, and so bring Nordic "Hochkultur" to perfection.

The following was written by G.K. Chesterton for the Herald-Tribune Magazine, called "The Hell-Brew In Germany."

"As man may say, as a scientific fact, that there is in northern China a well of petroleum, we say that there is in northern Europe a fountain of poison."

"It is a fact and it continues to flow. It is rather obviously nonsense to call it Germany. It is not really satisfactory even to call it Prussia. It is much more satisfactory simply to call it Pride."

"It is a thing of the spirit. It is not a nation; it is a heresy. It is an ideal outside the European ideal; outside what most of us would call the normal human ideal. It is something alien to Europe which Europe cannot digest and did not destroy."

"A Frenchman is proud of France. But a Prussian is not is proud because he/a Prussian. He is not proud, like a French crusader, of what his country has done for Christendom. He is not proud, like a French revolutionist, of what his country has done for humanity. He is simply proud of himself and his sort, and would be equally proud of their wrecking Christendom or enslaving humanity."

"This is the problem of Prussia: that something unbaptized and barbaric remains among the nations. That is the problem of the last loud and hysterical outbreak in Germany."

And so this ideal of the unity of humanity is the subject of attack. And the ideal of one moral law as well. Our religion evolved one law applicable to all men. "He shall have one law applicable alike to the citizen as to the stranger." "And if a stranger sojourn with thee in your land, ye shall not vex him. But the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you. And thou shalt love him as thyself; for ye were strangers in the Land of Egypt."

One law of justice for citizen and stranger. In other words, one law of charity for the citizen and the stranger. Ruth, who is not an Isaraelite, is allowed to glean in the field of Boaz. Why?

The law clearly and specifically states that no distinction shall be made between the poor who come to glean in the field and the stranger. "Thou shalt leave them to the poor and to the stranger."

It is not so in Hitler's land. Here they first take a citzen, -- born citizens who lived there for centuries, and reduce them to the status of strangers and subject these strangers to indignities and to discrimination and disadvantage. That they have done to the Jews. A new law is now being formulated.

Justice is being made subservient to the rank and status of the individual. Among our people and among all of the great civilized peoples of the world, there is one absolute measure of justice for the rich and poor, for the noble or plebeian, for the king and the commoner.

Naboth had a vineyard. Ahab, King of Samaria, wanted that same vineyard. But Naboth treasured it because it had been in his family for many long years and he would not part with it. The king was unable to deprive Naboth of his vineyard and reconciled himself to the fact. Jezebel, his wife, a foreign queen contrived through trickery to have Naboth slain and have the vineyard. For this the prophet Elijah admonished Ahab and said: "Someday dogs will lick your blood."

Universal law, universal justice for all alike. Long
before the Romans declared "Fiat justicia ruat coelum" (Let justice
be done even if the neavens fall), the Jews declared: "Justice
above all and above all else. Let the law cut through the mountains.
Nothing must stand in the way of important universal equality and
justice. Not so in Hitler's land. There is no justice there.
There is only might and force. And if you think I am exaggerating
let me read to you a sentence from one of the speeches of the
great Nazi spokesman, Col. Constantin Hierl: "There is only
one impartial judge above the Nations." And who do you think
that is, God? "That is success. Divine justice awards the right
to the stranger." That is the great issue that mankind will have
to fight with in the proximate future. The Jewish ideal, the
Christian ideal, the religious ideal of one law for all men

entrenches a man in his rights and prerogatives, increases his dignity, makes him important. The new conception, that justice is only the right of the strong, simply disfranchises the man, makes him the prey to the dictator, the brute, the unscrupulous.

When the State is above moral law, when the State maintains that it can be cruel and unjust and tyrannical, just so it services its own end, when a class or a party says that it is justified in trampling on moral law in order to reach its own objectives, then man is completely at the mercy of chance and is victimized. There are no free people left. You are free only as your life is protected by law.

Therefore, the individual in the world today has tremendously lost out everywhere except in democracies. In Russia, Italy, Germany, the worth of the individual has declined.

The rabbis stated that "Man was made in the image of God."

Today individual human rights stand for nothing. Mussolini

declared: "I do not believe in the sanctity of human life." They

are being sacrificed by the tens and hundreds in order to increase
the prestige of the dictator. That is the next tremendous issue

over which battles will be fought and the individual will become

merely a cog in the wheel.

Lastly, my friends, is the ideal of brotherhood and peace.

Not all men are created equal in health and intellect. Some are

more favored and must assist the less favored. Man's supreme

task is to enlighten, to elevate the valleys, to strengthen the weak, to remove, themselves, the obstacles and disabilities of environment. But that too has been challenged.

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This new heresy means that the stronger nation shall strangle the weaker. That means eternal glorification of war. Franz Werfel declared: "In pre-war days in Europe soldiers marches because they had to. Now boys of twelve march for the fun of it -- And how they worship the uniform."

We are back again in the jungle world and this heresy against one humanity, one law, is responsible for oringing many people in the nation back to the primitive jungle.

Hitler is not even satisfied with antipathy. What is hatred?

He says: "Hatred is more durable than antipathy and the generating power of great change is not so much insight as hysteria." Hysteria is what you need to advance, to make progress. So beat the drums, sound the tom toms in a fury of madness. That will make Germany great.

Contrast this pledge of hatred and hysteria of the cannibal and of the medicine man who tried to cure all the illnesses of the tribe by dancing a mad dance, contrast this new paganism with the calm steady exalted ideals of religion which I read from the eleventh chapter of Isaiah this morning:

And there shall come forth a shoot out of the stock of Jesse, And a twig shall grow forth out of his roots. And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and might, The spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord; And he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, Neither decide after the hearing of his years; But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the land; And he shall smite the land with the rod of his mouth, And with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, And faithfulness the girdle of his reins. And the wolf shall dwell with the lamb, And the leopard shall lie down with the kid; And the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, And the weaned child shall put his hand on the basilisk's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy In all My Holy mountain; For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord,

There is the eternal struggle, my friends, darkness or light, unity or fragmentization. The struggle of tomorrow will be much more significant. Mankind must set about preparing itself for this new struggle, this terrible plague sweeping over the world, this spiritual disease. And unless it is checked, it is quite possible that the dictators and tyrants will some day dance a dance of the macabre over the graves of mankind. These classic ideals of civilization will go down to utter defeat -- One God, One Law, One Humanity! -- these are the standards around which every civilized ideal ought to rally more than ever before.

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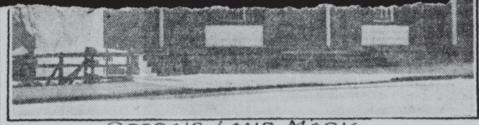
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OPERA'S LAND MARK

disuse and decay until a Little Theater movement was started here months ago.

The players took over the auditorium and refurbished and refinished it, doing a thorough job.

And so the disciples of Thespis are doing their part to revive the popularity of the old Opera House.

## Stress Nordic School of Thought in New Nazi History Books

BERLIN, Jan. 21.—(AP)—German school books on history are to undergo a thorough revision, under the inspiration of the Nazi Nordic School of Thought.

History, indeed, has to be entirely re-written for the benefit of the coming generations, Dr. Wilhelm Frick, minister of public instruction, announced.

The new manuals, which are to be ready by Easter, 1935, must, he says, place the culture and achievements of the Germanic race since earliest times in the forefront.

More attention is to be paid to the "leader principle" as personified by the great figures of the German heroic age, the sagas, legends and folk tales glorifying the mighty deeds of ancient warrior-rulers.

European history, Frick declares, is the work of the Nordic race. He adds that records of originally Nordic tribes, among which he includes Medes. Persians and Hittites, must be read as achievements of peoples united by ties of kinship with the Germans.

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ally, the decline and downfall of ancient Greece must be shown to be the result of democratic government, and of the reluctance of the people to increase and multiply. The conflicts between the Roman patricians and plebeians must be represented in the light of class wars.

The World War is to be treated from the same standpoint. It must be taught in the schools that Germany's resistance was only overcome by the poison of liberalism and Marxism at home.

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Frick's great hope is that all "true Nordics" ultimately will throw themselves into one "Schicksalsgemeinschaft" (common fate) with Germany, and so bring Nordic "Hochkultur" to perfection.

#### Every Turk His Own Typist.

ANKARA, Jan. 20.— (AP) — The 5,000 Turkish girl typists employed by the government here and in Istanbul are dismayed by a government order requiring every civil service employe, of no matter how high rank, to/learn typing for himself so that typists may be dropped.

#### Ceylon Beggar Sells "Rights."

COLOMBO, Jan. 20. — (AP) — Announcing he would sell his "begging rights," a cripple put himself up at auction here and was bought for \$1.12. The purchaser, who receives all money collected by the man in return for boarding him, promptly started his investment to earning dividends.

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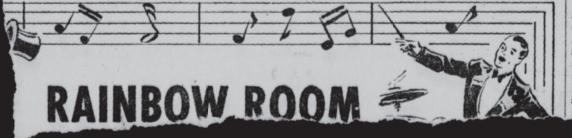
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