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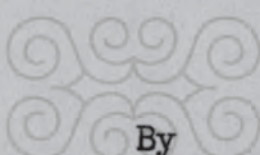
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Dawn on the horizon, 1943.

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DAWN ON THE HORIZON

A Purim Sermon

WRHS



By
Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver



At
The Temple

On
Sunday morning, March 21, 1943

The Bible tells of a long period of Drought and Famine which prevailed in the Land of Israel in the days of Elijah, the Prophet. And after a long period of time Elijah went up to Mt. Carmel, put his face between his knees and waited until dawn. And he said to his servant: "Go up now, look toward the Sea." The servant went up and looked and said: "There is nothing." Go again!" Seven times the prophet told his servant. And every time the servant came back and reported, "There is nothing." The seventh time he returned and said: "Behold there ariseth a cloud out of the Sea as small as a man's hand." Elijah knew that the drought was about to end. And in a little while the heavens grew black with clouds and a thousand winds, and there was a great rain. The long drought was over!

I believe that without being unduly optimistic, we are justified in believing today that deliverance is on the horizon. And even though it is as though no bigger than a man's hand, the promise of it is unmistakable. This long war will certainly end before very long in victory. Hard fighting is still to be faced. The costliest battles, as far as our country is concerned, are still to be fought. But the Great Infamy which has cursed our world is doomed. On the steppes of Russia and on the sands of Africa they are bleeding to death. The Lie of the Ages, the shameless lie of the ages, is fighting desperately to stave off inevitable doom.

The Nazis and the Fascists know themselves to be beaten. They no longer strut about as they did not so long ago, insistently boasting about conquering the world and of setting up a regime which would last a thousand years. They are no longer dancing like intoxicated dervishes with unholy glee at the prospect of ruling the whole world and exploiting it.

No, their people, the "Herren rasse" must now be scared into a last desperate resistance by the fear of being conquered and in being treated in the same manner as they treated the people whom they conquered. There is a new note in the Nazi propaganda now.: You must fight now not to conquer the world, but to save your own skin. The invincible Wehrmacht is now content to display its greatest prowess

greatest
and its triumphs against helpless civilians -- men, women and children. But mass murdering Jews will not save them. Mass murdering Jews will only serve to pile up a heavier score which will have to be settled when the day of retribution does come.

I hear a great deal of talk today about how we are to treat the Germans after the war. There is a good deal of pietist declamations heard in certain circles about the need for forgiveness, about fighting without hate, and how the German people, after all, are not to blame for all these unspeakable acts for the deeds of Hitler. I reckon that in the last war the same thing was said. The German people are not to blame. They are blameless. They are innocent. All the fault is with that terrible Hitler. Some of this talk is sincere, although it would be more convincing if these same people who are so concerned with the treatment of the Germans after the war would be equally concerned with the treatment of the Jews by the Germans during the war. Most of it, I am afraid, most of this evangelistic talk, is a cover up for a negotiated peace. Religious sentiments, noble religious sentiments are being exploited to spare a sinful nation the rod of punishment for a gross crime committed against humanity.

There was a people in ancient times known as Amalek, who lived on the southern border of Palestine--in the south, in the desertland. And the Children of Israel on their way out of slavery from Egypt, on their way to the Promised Land had to pass through this territory of the Amalekites. They asked permission to pass through this territory but that permission was denied -- not only denied, but they waited until the main column passed -- the younger men, the stronger men -- and then they attacked the weak and the feeble ones, and destroyed them. Of these Amalekites it was said in the Bible: "Thou shalt blot his remembrance from under heaven. Thou shalt not forget."

Now, as a rule, religion teaches men to forgive -- to forgive and forget. It is well that men should not harbor long grudges, hates, bitter memories. They

poison life. But about Amalek, the Bible said: "Thou shalt blot out his remembrance from under heaven." Thou shalt not forget. Why not? Because Amalek was a particularly dastardly and despicable enemy. He waged war upon the helpless. "Remember", said the Bible, "what he did unto thee by the way as ye came forth out of Egypt; how he met thee by the way and smote the hindmost of thee; all that were enfeebled in thy rear, when thou wast faint and weary -- and he feared not God." They made war upon the weak and feeble! And their hate was a baseless hate, a ground-less hate. They hated out of sheer love of hatred. Such folks must be annihilated like a cancer that must be cut away or they corrupt the whole body, the whole system.

No peaceful society can ever endure as long as there remain alive people who wage unprovoked war on the weak, and who hate for sheer joy of hating. Not this is not vengeance! This is prophylaxis. This mankind's self-defense against peoples who cannot live among people in peace, who are ~~xxx~~ living wolves. These were the Amelekites of old. And these are the Nazis of today. Haman was one of them. Haman, said the Rabbinic legend, was a descendant of Amalek. Haman, too, sought to annihilate a whole people with Persian thoroughness and expeditiousness -- that sought to destroy all the Jews in 127 provinces of far-flung Persia -- out of sheer hate, spite. He, too, believed in mass murder. The decree had to be signed and sealed by the king -- there had to be a decree in legal terminology. The whole Jewish problem was to be liquidated in one day -- all of them, young and old - all of them. Baseless hate.

And just ~~xxx~~ as Haman, and all his evil brood had to be destroyed, just as Amalek of Old and all the proto-types of all ~~xxx~~ subsequent enemies of Israel had to be wiped off the face of the earth, so in self-defense -- so must the Nazi criminals of our day be destroyed from the face of the earth. They must be brought to justice, these Nazi criminals. And these criminals are far more numerous than the handful around Hitler. We owe it to ourselves, even as the

German people owes it to itself to face these facts. A people which permits twice in a quarter of a century its government to plunge them and the world into war, and to perpetrate with its knowledge, consent and help unspeakable crimes on the peoples of Norway, Czechoslovakia, Poland, and on civilians -- Lidice -- and on the helpless Jews -- such a people ought not to be permitted to wash its hands clean from innocent blood shed, and absolve itself of all guilt -- by saying: It is all the fault of Hitler; it is the Kaiser's fault. It is not as simple as that.

Either, or! Either the German people has a will of its own which it can exercise -- then it is morally responsible for what has happened. If it hasn't a will of its own, then it certainly can't be trusted with self-government, or any government of any kind. It must remain a subject people until it is educated into the disciplines and responsibilities of peaceful international living. The German people must be made to realize that war doesn't pay. The German people must be made to understand that they can't get what they want, or what they think they want, or what they think they are entitled to at the expense of other peoples. The German people must finally be made to understand that the day of blood and iron is over, that this was their last desperate gamble and that they lost forever the hope of dominating the world, or of dominating Europe.

There is a legitimate place for the German people in the family of nations. They have a right to live and to enjoy the opportunities of cooperative living in society. The world intends to remain after this war a peaceful and organized place. There will no longer be room for pirate nations, brigands or bandit nations. The world will, after this war, deal sternly with nations who disturb the peace. They will not be treated ~~xx~~ as heretofore -- as a nation is which/aggressive and provokes war, as a combatant to be given the benefits of law after the war is over. We will not say: Too bad that someone led you into war. We will give you money, credit to rebuild your country until the next time."

Gangster nations will in the days to come, like Amalek, be erased from the face of the earth. The world will not permit its sons to be butchered every twenty, twenty-five years because people had mad ideas about their importance and their right to dominate.

There is dawn on the horizon, even if it is only the first glimmer of light, no bigger than a man's hand. The promise of the defeat of the evil forces in the war gives promise of a better day, and our faith in civilization is being revived after many weary bitter years of Doubt bordering on despair.

You may recall that Song of Doubt of the poet, Jonah Holland:

"The day is quenched, and the sun is fled;
God has forgotten the world!
The moon has gone, and the stars are dead
God has forgotten the world.

"Evil has won in the horrid feud
Of ages with the throne:
Evil stands as the neck of God
And rules the world alone."

That was the mood for the last decade or two. The same poet after long reflection wrote:

"Day will return with a fresher boon,
God will remember the world!
Light will come with a newer moon.
God will remember the world!"

Men in the united nations, and the subjected peoples under Nazi-Fascist rule will begin to see the light on the horizon, and will begin to renew their faith and say: "God will remember you!"

On the body of an Australian soldier they found this song:

Ye that have faith to look with fearless eyes
Beyond the tragedy of a world at strife,
And know that our of death and night shall rise
The dawn of ampler life:
Rejoice, whatever anguish rend the heart,
That God has given you the priceless dower
To live in these great times and have your part
In Freedom's crowning hour,
That ye may tell your sons who see the light
High in the heavens -- their heritage to take --
"I saw the powers of darkness take their flight;
I saw the morning break."



A better world will emerge, not immediately after this war, but definitely. Having sampled new types of despotism as the way to salvation, and failed, having again resorted to war to attain objectives and failed, nations will turn to the classic technique of human progress, freedom and cooperation. Tomorrow will not be a perfect day. Tomorrow will not witness the consumation of all of our hearts' desires. But it will witness an approximation. We are getting nearer to it. The way will be clear for a march forward. We have in the last twenty-five years been descending into the Valley of Death. After this war we will begin to ascent to the higher plateaus, to the hills where there is light, life and bracing winds, and dawn on the horizon.

And there is dawn, good friends, also for the people of Israel. I say this though the night is still dark, very dark. As I stand here and speak to you mass graves are being dug for our fellow Jews who will be thrown into them. Even at this very hour the synagogues in many parts of Eastern Europe are being crowded with men, women and children, the doors locked, the windows barred and the synagogues set fire to. Cattle cars are being crowded with human beings, chemicals stewn on the floors, the doors closed, so that the Jews may die a slow death. Market places are being filled with Jews brought in from neighboring towns and villages and machine-gunned. Amalek is at work. He is on the heels of our people

The night is still dark for our people, and yet, even now, the first faint glimmer of light and hope is visible not only at the prospect of approaching victory of the United Nations, but also because of a new attitude toward the Jewish people. Friendship toward the Jews in many of the occupied countries is today those subject peoples have of expressing their hatred of the Nazis. Everywhere in those countries -- in Holland, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Norway and elsewhere there are manifestations of sympathy and good will shown to the Jews, and oft-times with the risk of class demonstrations -- sympathy

to the Jews. They shelter them, help them to escape, feed them. At times public demonstrations of the Nazis against the Jews take place, and the Jews of Holland were ordered to put on the Star of David on their arms. Non-Jews, Dutch, appeared the next day with the Star of David on their arms too. Anti-semitism is being discredited. Peoples are coming to understand that they are being duped, how Anti-semitism is being used as a trick to rob them of their independence. Even in Nazi Germany, occasionally one comes across some evidences of this new attitude toward the Jews. One reads in the Konigsberger Zeitung of July, 1942, that five German peasants were arrested and sentenced to from three and a half to six years in prison because they tried to pass off eight little Jewish children as their own in order to save them.

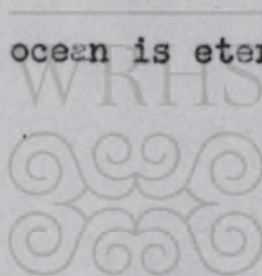
European leaders are coming to believe that Anti-semitism is is a Boomerang!, that it ultimately acts as a boomerang against the nation. That is what the Poles learned! By and large they indulged in violent anti-semitism against the Jews, almost from the last days of the last war to the day of the Second World War. We remember stories about restricting rights Jewish professionals and of Jewish citizens although Poland respected Jewish rights. The Poles thought that they could discriminate against a minority in their own country, but that they as a nation would remain immune. Now the Poles, too, have tasted every form of persecution to which they submitted the Jews before the war. And in the Black Book of Poland, Poles and Jews occupy chapters one after another on how the Germans persecuted Jews with Poles -- one black page after another. People in Europe are coming to understand that.

When the Germans began to hunt down the Jews in France like beasts in order to send them to forced labor camps, the Frenchmen said to themselves: Too bad for the Jews. We are sorry. But we can do nothing about it. From time to time some would speak, the clergy particularly, but the average Frenchman wrote it off as something concerning only the Jews - only they were hunted down. Well, today,

a few short months later, it is the Frenchmen who are hunted down by the Gestapo and sent into forced labor. It is the Frenchmen who have to hide.

People are coming to understand that you cannot tolerate intolerance as applied to one group without endangering your own people and your own life. Men are relearning the essential unity of mankind, essential sharing in all good and evil of the world and the necessity for defending all rights if one's own rights are to be safe-guarded.

As far as Israel is concerned, Israel in Europe -- there is also dawn on the horizon. Purim brings these thoughts to mind for Purim is so characteristic of this mood, of our people. I close with one phrase of the Rabbis: "God said to Haman: 'You remind me of a little bud that got angry at the ocean ~~and~~ for washing away its nest, and decided to dry it up with bits of sand.'" The ocean can not be dried up. The ocean is eternal. Israel is eternal.



1) Elijah - long period of Drouth + Famine - Mt. Carmel - put his face bet. his knees - Servant - "Go up now - look toward the Sea". "There is nothing!" - "Go again seven times" - At 7th time "Behold there ariseth a cloud out of the Sea as small as a man's hand" Elijah Knew! In a little while the heavens grew black with clouds and wind, and there was a great Rain. The long Drouth was over!

2) I believe that without being overly optimistic - we are justified in saying that deliverance is on the horizon - and even tho it is as yet no bigger than a man's hand - the promise of it is unmistakable. The long war will certainly end before very long in Victory! Hard fighting still to be faced. The costliest battles, as far as our country is concerned, ^{are} still to be fought. But the Great Infamy is doomed! On the steppes of Russia, on the sands of Africa, it is bleeding to death.

The Shamblers of the Ages is fighting desperately to stare off inevitable Doom.

The Nazi-Fascist Gangsters know themselves to be beaten.

They no longer strut abt. insolently and boast of conquering the world - 1000 yrs. - dance like dervishes under the sun.

The "Heaven rassi" must now be scared into a last desperate resistance by the fear of being conquered, and being treated in same manner as they treated peoples whom they ^{had} conquered.

The invincible Wehrmacht displays its greatest triumphs now against helpless civilians - But mass-murdering Jews will not save them! Only piling up a heavier score which will have to be settled when the Day of Retribution arrives.

3) Great Deal of Talk abt. how to treat the Germans after the War. There is a good deal of picturesque delamations about superheroes fighting without hate, and how the German people are not to be blamed.

(1/4 = Kaiser)
In the deeds, Hitler ^{Son}, it is sincere - altho it would be ¹²
more convincing, if some people who are so concerned with treatment
of Jew after the war, would be equally concerned ^{about} treatment
of Jews by Germans during the war: Sum, this angelic
talk is a cover up for a negotiated peace. Rel. sentiment
are being exploited to spare this sinful nation the rod of
punishment for a gross crime against humanity.

Of Amalek, it was ~~so~~ decreed, "thou shalt blot out ~~at~~ his
remembrance from under heaven, thou shalt not forget."

As a rule - Religion advises men to Forget & Forget then Enemies

Amalek was a particularly dastardly and cowardly enemy.
He waged war on the weak & the helpless. "Remember what Am.
did unto thee by the way as ye came forth out of Egypt: how
he met thee by the way, and smote the hindmost of thee, all that
were feeblest in thy rear, when thou wast faint & weary -
and he feared not God"

On the weak & the feeble! & then Hate was a loser -
a proud-loss hate.

Such must be annihilated! like a cancer!

No peaceful society can ever endure as long as there
remain alive people who waged unpunished war on weak -
& hate for joy of hating.

This is not vengeance! There is ^{manhood} self-deplore!

Nazis are Amalekites of our day! Just as Haman was
a descendant of Am. Haman, too, sought to annihilate a
whole people with ~~Torture~~ ^{any} Persian thoroughness &
efficiency - art of sheer hate & ^{regal} ~~white~~ ^{regal} vanity.
And just as Haman and his entire evil kind had been destroyed -

and Anal. of old - the prototype of all subsequent Enemies of Jew & Humanity -
2) must the Nazi criminals be ~~not to further~~ destroyed from the
face, the earth. They ~~criminals~~ ^{enemies} must be not to justice - and
the criminals are far more numerous than the handful ^{men}
around Hitler. A people which permits - lives in a 1/4 of a
century - its govt to plunge perpetrate with its knowledge -
help and current unchallengeable crimes - Holland etc ^{hide a} cannot
wash its hands clean of the unsent blood thus shed - ~~absolve~~
+ say - Hitler's fault! It is not as simple as that! ^{TP} Either
it has a will of its own which it can exercise - morally re-
sponsible for acts - or has no will - cannot be trusted with
any part - of govt. ~~by~~ of any kind. Must remain a subject
people - ^{with} ~~not~~ educated into disciplines & respect. of interest.
life.

whole people must be made to realize that was desert
Naz! Jew people cannot get what they think they want by
war, a at expense of other people. ^{Day of blood or war is over. Part of America - last} Cannot dominate world, or
even Europe. Legitimate place for them in family of nations -
+ full of opportunity for cooperation not exploitation being.
World intends to be a peaceful & organized place - no room
for pirate nations - for ^{pirates} ~~barbarians~~ & bandits

World will hereafter deal ^{as combatants} ~~sternly~~ with nations who disturb
the peace - ~~not according to rules of warfare~~ ^{but as lawless gangsters} to be uprooted
from off the face of the earth - like Amalek.

4) Dawn on the Horizon. Promise of approaching Defeat of these Evil.
Promise of a better day - and our faith ^{in civilization} is being revived after
many, bitter years of Doubt & disorder on Earth.

Recall the "Song of Doubt", the poet (Jonah Holland)

"The day is quenched, and the sun is fled;
God has forgiven the world!"

The moon has gone, and the stars are dead
God has forgotten the world."

Evil has won in the horrid bend
Of ages with the throne;

Evil stands on the neck of Good
And rules the world alone.

"Song of Faith"

Day will return with a fresher brow;
God will remember the world!

Light will come with a newer moon.
God will remember the word!

On the body of an Australian soldier was found this song. (209)

A better world will emerge - not immediately but definitely
 Having sampled new types of despotism as the way to salvation
 & failed - having again resorted to war to achieve nat. objectives
 & failed, nations will turn to the classic techniques of
human progress - freedom & cooperation.

To-morrow will not be the Perfect Day! Not the consumma-
tion of our hearts' desire - but an approximation - a getting
nearer to it - The way will be cleared for a march for-
ward! We have been descending into Valley of Death - We will
begin our ascent to the hills where there is light & life
& breacing winds & open vistas.

5) There is Dawn on the Horizon for Israel - too -
Night is still dark - as I speak - mass-praves - synagogues -
cattle-cars - market-places .

And yet - first, faint glimmers of light - not only in prospect
of Victory for United Nations . Attitudes of people in order
Nazi domination turns of neighbors .

- Friendships towards J. ^{has been} is their way ; expressing their hatred, the Nazis

- Every where - manifestations of sympathy - good-will - at great risk

- All classes - going out ; this way - will shelter - help
them to escape - feed them - public demonstrations

- Nazi Germany - "Königsberger Zeitung" - July 15-'42 - 5 peasant
women - tried & sentenced 3 1/2 - 6 yrs - Tried to
pass off 8 small J. children as their own

- Austria is being "disincorporated" - Duped - Used as bait
by Nazis to trap them .

Austria is a Bomberman (Planet)

Hateful aggression knows no boundaries - (France)

6) There are re-learning the essential Unity of mankind . -
their inescapable share in all the good & in all the evil
of the world ;

To defend your own rights you must defend rights of your
neighbors .

7) "You remind me of a little bird that got angry at the
Ocean for washing away its nest, and decided to dry it
up with bits of sand"

VICTORY

(Found on the body of an Australian soldier)

Ye that have faith to look with fearless eyes
Beyond the tragedy of a world at strife,
And know that out of death and night shall rise
The dawn of ampler life:
Rejoice, whatever anguish rend the heart,
That God has given you the priceless dower
To live in these great times and have your part
In Freedom's crowning hour,
That ye may tell your sons who see the light
High in the heavens -- their heritage to take --
"I saw the powers of darkness take their flight;
I saw the morning break."

