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64

Box
21

Folder
1333

Israel's Four Holy Cities III: Safed; Cleveland; Israel's Four Holy
Cities IV: Jerusalem, 1988.

THE HOLY CITIES OF ISRAEL #3 - SAFED
DANIEL JEREMY SILVER
JANUARY 31, 1988

OUR BRAINS SEEM TO HAVE TWO BASIC CAPACITIES: INTELLIGENCE AND IMAGINATION: INTELLIGENCE OPERATES IN A LINEAR FASHION: IT HELPS US MOVE LOGICALLY FROM FACT TO FACT, FROM NUMBER TO NUMBER, FROM STEP TO STEP: WHEN WE USE OUR INTELLIGENCE EFFECTIVELY IT ALLOWS US TO LIVE WITH A GREAT DEAL OF PRUDENTIAL COMPETENCE:

IMAGINATION IS ANOTHER KIND OF TALENT: IT'S UNTIDY: WE LEAP TO CONCLUSIONS: WE CLAIM TO BE ABLE TO SEE BEYOND THE SURFACE OF THINGS, WITHIN THINGS, WHAT THEY REPRESENT AS OPPOSED TO WHAT THEY PHYSICALLY ARE: WE MAKE CONNECTIONS WHICH HAVE NO ESSENTIAL, LOGICAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THEM: IMAGINATION IS THE CAPACITY WHICH GIVES US ART, POETRY AND RELIGION:

DURING THE LAST CENTURY OR SO THE IDEA DEVELOPED (AMONG JEWS) OF JUDAISM'S SUPPOSED SUPERIORITY OVER OTHER RELIGIONS BECAUSE WE DON'T BELIEVE IN MAGIC AND MIRACLE WORKERS AND HOLY MEN AND FAITH HEALING AND ALL THE OTHER PRODUCTS OF THE IMAGINATION: WE HAVE NO MYTH AND DON'T ENCOURAGE LEAPS OF FAITH.

NOW, IT'S TRUE, OF COURSE, THAT LEARNING PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN OUR TRADITION; WE ARE TAUGHT TO CULTIVATE THE MIND; WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE IMAGINATION UNTRAMMELLED, WHEN IT IS NOT REIGNED IN, CAN BE MADNESS, BUT IT IS NOT TRUE THAT JUDAISM HAS NO TRUCK WITH FAITH HEALING AND HOLY MEN, AS A HISTORY OF SAFED WILL MAKE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR;

MANY OF YOU HAVE BEEN TO SAFED AND KNOW IT AS A LOVELY, MOUNTAIN TOP TOWN IN NORTHERN ISRAEL, AN ARTIST'S COLONY; EVERY TOUR STOPS HERE; THE STREETS ARE QUAIN AND GIVE OFF THE SPIRIT OF A BYGONE AGE, THIS DESPITE THE FACT THAT THERE ISN'T A BUILDING STANDING IN SAFED WHICH IS OLDER THAN THE THIRD DECADE OF THE 19TH CENTURY WHEN SAFED SUFFERED A TERRIBLE EARTHQUAKE AND THE CITY WAS LEVELED;

WE DON'T KNOW WHEN SAFED WAS FIRST POPULATED; WE KNOW THAT IN PERSIAN AND GREEK TIMES IT WAS A LOOKOUT POINT MANAGED BY A SMALL GARRISON; IF YOU WERE IN JERUSALEM AND TOOK SOME FAGGOTS AND LIT THEM, THE FIRE OF THOSE SIGNALS COULD BE PICKED UP ON MOUNT TABOR WHICH IS THE NORTHERNMOST HILL IN THE JUDEAN RANGE; AND THEN YOU CAN LIGHT ANOTHER FAGGOT THERE AND WIG WAG WHATEVER MESSAGE YOU WANT TO CONVEY TO SAFED, WHICH IS ACROSS THE VALLEY OF JESRAEL;

A RUSH OF PIETY; SAFED BECAME THE MECCA, THE FOCUS OF PILGRIMAGE OF PIOUS, LARGELY SEPHARDIC, JEWS WHO CAME TO THE HOLY LAND TO DO HOLY ACTS IN ORDER TO BRING ABOUT THE COMING OF THE MESSIAH, JEWS WHO IN THE PREVIOUS GENERATION HAD BEEN UPROOTED FROM THEIR ANCESTRAL HOMES IN SPAIN AND PORTUGAL;

SAFED WAS USED AS A COMMUNICATION CENTER FOR ARMIES IN THE EARLY PERIOD OF OUR HISTORY: ~~THE~~ BESIDES BARRACKS, THERE WAS REALLY VERY LITTLE HERE: AND THEN IN THE YEAR 1140 THE CRUSADERS, PARTICULARLY A MAN NAMED FAULK OF ANJOU, BUILT A MASSIVE FORTRESS ON TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN OF SAFED: *IT WAS ONE OF SEVERAL ~~COMMAND CENTERS~~ ^{MOUNTAIN-TOP} ~~WERE~~ ^{THAT} THE CRUSADERS' HOPES TO ULTIMATELY POSSESS THE HOLY LAND:*

FOR THE NEXT 120 YEARS THE KNIGHT TEMPLARS GARRISONED SAFED ~~UNTIL~~ ^{UNTIL} IN THE YEAR 1260 IT WAS CONQUERED BY THE MARMALUKES WHO MADE IT A DISTRICT COMMAND CENTER: A SMALL MARKET TOWN DEVELOPED:

THERE IS NOTHING IN SAFED'S EARLY HISTORY WHICH SUGGESTS THE KIND OF RELIGIOUS HISTORY IT WOULD ENJOY: JEWISH HISTORY CAME TO SAFED IN A RUSH: WE KNOW OF A TRAVELER WHO VISITED SAFED IN 1520: HE DESCRIBES THE MARKET TOWN: HE DESCRIBES A FEW HUNDRED JEWS WHO ARE ENGAGED IN FARMING, SMALL COMMERCE AND THE CRAFTS, A SMALL TOWN OF NO PARTICULAR INTELLECTUAL OR CULTURAL CONSEQUENCE: ~~THAT YEAR~~ ^{THAT YEAR} SAFED SUDDENLY BECAME ^{BP} A BOOM TOWN: IT GREW FROM A FEW HUNDRED JEWS IN 1520 TO 10,000 BY 1530: OF WHAT DID THE BOOM CONSIST? WHAT WAS ITS BUSINESS? NOT A GOLD RUSH BUT A HOLINESS RUSH, A RUSH OF PIETY: SAFED BECAME THE MECCA, THE FOCUS OF PILGRIMAGE OF PIOUS, LARGELY SEPHARDIC, JEWS WHO CAME TO THE HOLY LAND TO DO HOLY ACTS IN ORDER TO BRING ABOUT THE COMING OF THE MESSIAH, JEWS WHO IN THE PREVIOUS GENERATION HAD BEEN UPROOTED FROM THEIR ANCESTRAL HOMES ^{IN} SPAIN AND PORTUGAL:

WHY DID THEY COME TO SAFED? SOMETIME DURING THE EARLY MIDDLE AGES LOCAL CUSTOM DECLARED THAT A CERTAIN GRAVE THREE MILES AWAY, NEAR MEIRON, WAS THE GRAVE OF A SAGE BY THE NAME OF SIMEON BAR YOHAI; SIMEON WAS A 2ND CENTURY SAGE WHO BECAME VERY MUCH CAUGHT UP IN THE BAR KOCHBA REBELLION, A MAN WHO PREACHED THAT ROME MUST BE OVERTHROWN; HE BECAME SUCH A PAIN IN THE SIDE OF THE ROMANS THAT THEY PUT A PRICE ON HIS HEAD AND SO HE HAD TO FLEE TO THE WILDERNESS WHERE HE LIVED ALONE IN A CAVE FOR, SOME SAY, 12 YEARS;

DURING THAT PERIOD IN WHICH HE WAS AN ESCAPEE IN THE WILDERNESS, LEGEND HAS IT THAT HE ENGAGED IN VIGILS, AND ~~DURING~~ THESE VIGILS HE HAD VISIONS; IT WAS BELIEVED THAT IN THE COURSE OF THESE VISIONS ~~HE~~^{HIS} SOUL HAD ~~GONE~~ GONE UP INTO HEAVEN WHERE HE STUDIED WITH ELIJAH IN THE ACADEMY THAT IS ON HIGH, AND THAT WHEN HE EMERGED FROM HIS 12 YEARS IN THE CAVE HE EMERGED NOT ONLY WITH ARTHRITIS BUT WITH KNOWLEDGE OF THE MYSTERY; KNOWLEDGE OF WHEN THE MESSIAH WOULD COME; KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT MAN MUST DO IN ORDER TO HASTEN THE COMING OF THE MESSIAH; KNOWLEDGE OF THE SECRET, DEEP INNER MEANINGS OF THE TORAH;

"MOURNFULLY AS THE OSTRICH." RABBI ADDS THAT THIS WAILING AND LAMENTATION AND THE SACRED ACTS WHICH WERE PERFORMED WOULD PRECEDE THE REDEMPTION.

IT WAS A CREDULOUS AGE; OVER TIME SIMEON BAR YOHAI BECAME THE PATRON SAINT OF ALL JEWISH MYSTICS; WHEN YOU VISIT HIS GRAVE AND PERFORM THERE THE VIGILS, THE FASTS, ^{AND} WHICH WERE SOMEHOW ASSOCIATED WITH THE CULT, YOU MIGHT SUMMON SIMEON BAR YOHAI FROM THE TOMB OR, BETTER YET, THE PROPHET ELIJAH MIGHT SPEAK TO YOU; YOU COULD GAIN THE KIND OF KNOWLEDGE OF THE MYSTERIES WHICH ARE SO ESSENTIAL TO THE IMAGINATION;

THERE IS A FEATURE OF THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE SYNAGOGUES OF SAFED WHICH IS UNIQUE, ~~AS FAR AS ANY I KNOW ANY PLACE IN THE WORLD;~~ VISITORS TO SAFED IN THE 18TH CENTURY REPORT THAT IN THE MANY VERY SMALL SYNAGOGUES OF THE TOWN, THERE HUNG FROM THE CEILING A LONG ROPE WITH A LITTLE BASKET ON THE END, AND IN THAT BASKET THERE WAS AN OSTRICH EGG; NOW, WHAT HAVE OSTRICH EGGS TO DO WITH A SYNAGOGUE? WELL, IF YOU KNOW YOUR BIBLE, YOU KNOW THAT IN THE BOOK OF MICAH, MICAH IS MADE TO PROPHECY ABOUT THE DESTRUCTION WHICH WILL PRECEDE THE COMING OF THE MESSIAH; ISRAEL WILL BE PUNISHED FOR HER SINS, AND HE SAYS, "I SHALL LAMENT AND I SHALL WAIL MOURNFULLY AS THE OSTRICH;" MICAH ADDS THAT THIS WAILING AND LAMENTATION AND THE SACRED ACTS WHICH WERE PERFORMED WOULD PRECEDE THE REDEMPTION; EXPLAINED EVERYTHING; GOD WAS NOT A DEITY WHO LISTENED TO PRAYER, A CREATOR, A MIRACLE WORKER; ^{THAT} BUT HE WAS SIMPLY A FIRST CAUSE, A LOGICAL POSTULATE INSTEAD OF THE SOURCE OF ENERGY AND OF REDEMPTIVE POWER;

THESE WERE NOT SYNAGOGUES LIKE OURS WHERE YOU SIMPLY COME TO STUDY, FOR PRAYER OR FOR EDUCATION; THESE WERE PLACES WHICH WERE PART OF THE WHOLE APPARATUS OF REDEMPTION.

~~THESE WERE PLACES WHICH WERE PART OF THE WHOLE APPARATUS OF REDEMPTION.~~

~~WHY DID THIS KIND OF PIETY SUDDENLY COME TO THE FORE AROUND 1520? BECAUSE SIMEON BAR YOHAI, WHO BECAME THE PATRON SAINT OF ALL MYSTICS, WAS BELIEVED TO BE BURIED~~

~~THESE WERE PLACES WHICH WERE PART OF THE WHOLE APPARATUS OF REDEMPTION.~~

WHO HAD BECOME
THE PATRON
SAINT
OF ALL
MYSTICS

IN THE YEAR 1260 A SPANISH JEW, MOSES DE LEON, ASCRIBED A MYSTICAL WORK WHICH HE WROTE, THE ZOHAR, TO SIMEON BAR YOHAI; THE ZOHAR BECAME THE BIBLE OF ALL THOSE WHO DEALT WITH THE MYSTERIES; MOSES DE LEON HAD PUT TOGETHER THE THEOLOGICAL, PHILOSOPHIC AND THEOSOPHIC BASIS OF MYSTICAL SPECULATION; MYSTICAL SPECULATION HAS A NOBLE INTELLECTUAL TRADITION; IT ^{INTERESTED} NOT ONLY ORDINARY SUPERSTITIOUS FOLK BUT ALMOST ALL OF THE BEST TRAINED, MOST LEARNED TALMUDISTS AND SAGES OF THE DAY, PARTICULARLY IN THE SEPHARDIC WORLD; THEY KNEW WHAT PHILOSOPHY WAS ALL ABOUT AND THEY FELT THAT ~~THE~~ PHILOSOPHY BY WHICH THEY MEANT LOGICAL FAITH, THE LOGIC WHICH ARISTOTLE HAD TAUGHT, -- DRAINED RELIGION OF ALL THAT WAS RELIGIOUS; PHILOSOPHY EXPLAINED EVERYTHING; ^{IT CLAIMED THAT} GOD WAS NOT A DEITY WHO LISTENED TO PRAYER, A CREATOR, A MIRACLE WORKER; ^{THAT} BUT HE WAS SIMPLY A FIRST CAUSE, A LOGICAL POSTULATE INSTEAD OF THE SOURCE OF ENERGY AND OF REDEMPTIVE POWER;

ONE CAN EXPLAIN ALMOST ALL OF THE MITZVOT, ALL OF GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS TO ISRAEL, FUNCTIONALLY; YOU SHOULD NOT STEAL; YOU SHOULD NOT MURDER; YOU SHOULD NOT COMMIT ADULTERY; YOU SHOULD NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS; ALL THESE RULES HAVE A PRAGMATIC SOCIAL BASIS TO THEM. SOCIETY REALLY CANNOT EXIST IN THESE TERMS WITHOUT THEM. ~~BY~~ BY EXPLAINING EVERYTHING THE SAGES HAD DRAINED RELIGION OF ITS JUICE, THAT IS, THEY HAD DRAINED RELIGION OF ITS UNIQUE CAPACITY TO GIVE PEOPLE HOPE, TO GIVE PEOPLE A SENSE THAT THE UNIVERSE CARES, THE UNIVERSE MAKES SENSE; LIFE HAS SOME MEANING;

THERE IS ANOTHER WAY OF LOOKING AT THE UNIVERSE -- ~~THIS IS HOW THE MYSTICS LOOK AT IT~~ ~~TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE MYSTERY;~~ THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT IS

WOULD HAVE US LOOK AT IT.

~~ONLY~~ ONLY THE OUTER GARMENT OF THE REAL WORLD; BEHIND THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT IS THE WORLD OF ENERGIES; THE

WORLD OF THE DIVINE; THE WORLD OF GOD; IF WE CAN UNDERSTAND THE MAKINGS OF THAT WORLD WE COME TO UNDERSTAND OUR OWN. ~~SO~~ SO THE MESSIANIST CEASES TO READ THE BIBLE SIMPLY AS TEXT; THE BIBLE ^{AS TEXT} BECOMES A SHELL BEHIND WHICH LIES THE REAL MEANING, THE MYSTERY, THE TIME OF THE COMING OF THE MESSIAH, AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE REAL PURPOSES OF VARIOUS MITZVOT; MYSTERY IS AN ATTEMPT BY THE IMAGINATION TO GET BEHIND WHAT THE INTELLECT TELLS US RELIGION IS ALL ABOUT IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THAT SENSE OF POWER AND ENERGY WHICH RELIGION CAN PROVIDE;



IN THE 14th & 15th CENTURIES JEWS SUFFERED THE WORST TRAGEDY THEY WOULD UNDERGO UNTIL OUR OWN TIME.

IN THE 11th CENTURY THE CHRISTIANS BEGAN THE RECONQUEST OF SPAIN. BY THE 14th CENTURY THEY HAD MANAGED TO RECONQUER MOST OF IT BY A CRUSADE. CRUSADES WERE NOT ALL AGAINST THE HOLY LAND. THE LARGEST & MOST CONTINUOUS CRUSADE WAS THIS CRUSADE TO RECONQUER SPAIN & PORTUGAL FROM THE ARABS. IT LASTED 500 YEARS.

THE ARABS WERE PUSHED OUT. THEIR ARMIES WERE OVERWHELMED. ARABS WHO SURVIVED WERE EITHER IMPRISONED OR SOLD AS SLAVES.

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY WAS LEFT BEHIND. JEWS PROVIDED ALMOST ALL THE INTELLECTUAL, CULTURAL, & MEDICAL SERVICES THAT THE SOCIETY REQUIRED. THESE JEWS WERE THE MOST POWERFUL JEWISH COMMUNITY IN THE WORLD.



BUT THIS SUCCESSFUL MILITARY-RELIGIOUS
CRUSADE SPREAD A KIND OF FANATIC FERVOR
AMONG CHRISTIANS WHICH TURNED THEM AGAINST
ANY AND ALL OTHER RELIGIONS WITH A TERRIBLE
ANGER. LITTLE BY LITTLE, THE CHRISTIANS
BEGAN TO BE JEALOUS ~~OF~~ OF THE STATUS OF THE
JEW---WAS HE NOT THE INFIDEL, THE PARIAH,
THE CHRIST-KILLER?



AS A RESULT OF THESE TWO ACTS, 600,000 JEWS FOUND
THEMSELVES ADRIFT ON THE SHORES OF EUROPE AND NORTH AFRICA;
WHERE DID THEY GO? THE LOCAL COUNTRIES WERE NOT YET PROTESTANT;

IN 1391 AT EASTER TIME THERE WAS A TERRIBLE SERIES OF RAIDS AGAINST THE JEWISH COMMUNITIES OF BARCELONA, SEVILLE, TOLEDO AND MADRID; DURING THE 15TH CENTURY JEWISH LIFE TRIED TO REBUILD ITSELF; AT THIS SAME TIME CHRISTIAN AUTHORITY BECAME STRONGER AND STRONGER; CHRISTIANS BECAME BETTER EDUCATED AND WERE ABLE TO TAKE OVER FROM THE JEWS THE JOBS OF THE BUREAUCRACY; JEWISH LIFE BECAME TENUOUS; IN 1492, THE SAME YEAR IN WHICH FERDINAND AND ISABELLA WERE MARRIED, THE YEAR WHICH, THEREFORE, BROUGHT TOGETHER THE ^{KINGDOMS OF} ARAGON AND CASTILE INTO A SINGLE STATE, THE LAST ARAB STRONGHOLD IN SPAIN NEAR GIBRALTAR FELL; ^{ALSO} (IT WAS THE YEAR WHEN COLUMBUS SAILED THE OCEAN BLUE.) TO CELEBRATE THE RECONQUEST THE COURT PASSED AN EDICT ^{WHO DID NOT CONVERT} THAT ALL JEWS WERE TO BE EXILED FROM SPAIN WITHIN SIX MONTHS; THE RICH AND THE POWERFUL AND MANY OF THE LEARNED CHOSE ~~CONVERSION~~ CONVERSION; THEY WERE UNWILLING TO LEAVE THEIR POSSESSIONS BEHIND; MOST ORDINARY JEWS AND A FEW OF THE RICH AND THE POWERFUL TOOK TO EXILE AND WENT TO PORTUGAL ACROSS THE MOUNTAINS; PORTUGAL ITSELF PASSED ^A ~~THE~~ RULE OF EXPULSION AND EXILE SIX YEARS LATER;

AS A RESULT OF THESE TWO ACTS, 600,000 JEWS FOUND THEMSELVES ADRIFT ON THE ROADS OF EUROPE AND NORTH AFRICA; WHERE DID THEY GO? THE LOW ~~COUNTRIES~~ COUNTRIES WERE NOT YET PROTESTANT;

ITALY, LARGELY CONTROLLED BY THE PAPACY, HAD BEEN A FAIRLY QUIET PLACE, BUT NOW THE ^{COUNTER} REFORMATION WAS IN FULL CRY; THE CHURCH WAS AFRAID OF WHAT LUTHER, ZWINGLI AND CALVIN--THE REFORMERS--WERE DOING IN NORTHERN EUROPE AND SO THE POPE BEGAN TO IMPOSE RESTRICTIONS ON ~~THE~~ JEWISH COMMUNITIES WHO WERE A POTENTIAL SOURCE OF HERETICAL ~~IDEAS~~ ^{IDEAS}.

~~REALLY~~, THE ONLY PLACE THAT JEWS COULD HOPE TO SETTLE WITH ANY CHANCE OF STARTING LIFE ANEW WAS IN THE EAST; THE TURKS HAD RECENTLY CONQUERED CONSTANTINOPLE, IN 1453, AND WERE EAGER FOR JEWISH SKILLS, CULTURE, LITERACY AND CAPITAL. ~~SO~~ IN CONSTANTINOPLE, SALONICA AND ISMIR, ALL UP AND DOWN THE TURKISH COAST, THERE WERE JEWISH SETTLERS;

ANOTHER KIND OF REFUGEE ALSO CAME TO TURKEY, SCHOLARS, PEOPLE TRAINED IN THE JEWISH MYSTICAL TRADITION; MEN WHO SAW THAT ISRAEL HAD NOT ONLY BEEN EXILED FROM ITS OWN LAND BUT ~~FROM~~ FROM CHRISTIAN LANDS; TRAGEDY ^{HAD} BEEN ~~PILED~~ UPON TRAGEDY; YET, THESE MEN FELT DEEP WITHIN THEIR BONES THAT ~~THE~~ THE TIME OF THE MESSIAH WAS NEAR;

WHY SO?

SAFED BECAME A CENTER FOR THOSE WHO MOURNED ZION AND WHO PERFORMED IN THEIR DAILY LIVES THE RITUAL ACTS WHICH IT WAS BELIEVED WOULD HASTEN THE COMING OF THE MESSIAH;

IN OUR TRADITION DESCRIPTIONS OF REDEMPTION ASSUME
 THAT THE WORLD WILL ~~BECOME A~~ ^{PLACE} TERRIBLY DIFFICULT BEFORE IT GETS
 BETTER; THERE WILL BE TROUBLE, TRAVAIL AND TURMOIL ^{OF ALL} ~~A~~ ^{HOMELY}
 KINDS BEFORE THE GREAT DAY DAWNS; THE TALMUD USES ~~THE~~ IMAGE:
 "THE BIRTH PANGS OF THE MESSIAH;" THE BIRTH PANGS SEEMED
 TO BE ^{EVERYWHERE} ~~ALL~~ ABOUT; IN 1492 THE EXPULSION OF THE ^{Jews} ~~Jews~~ FROM
 SPAIN; IN 1498 THE MASS DEPORTATION FROM PORTUGAL; IN THE
 EARLY 1500'S THE PAPACY BEGAN TO MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR
 JEWS TO REMAIN IN THE PAPAL STATES; IN 1521 VENICE
 ESTABLISHED THE FIRST GHETTO; EVERYWHERE YOU TURNED YOU
 COULD ^{FEEL} ~~SEE~~ THE BIRTH PANGS OF THE MESSIAH;

THERE WERE THOSE WHO SIMPLY EXPECTED THE DIVINE DRAMA
 TO BEGIN, AND THERE WERE THOSE WHO ^{BELIEVED} ~~THAT~~ THAT JEWS THEMSELVES
 HAD A ROLE IN THE DIVINE DRAMA, JEWS WHO WOULD GO TO THE HOLY
 LAND, TO A HOLY PLACE TO PERFORM HOLY ACTS AND HASTEN THE
 COMING THAT THEY SO DESPERATELY WISHED FOR, ~~AND~~ THEIR WORK
 WOULD BE AS CRITICAL AND AS SIGNIFICANT AND IMPORTANT TO
 JEWISH LIFE AS THAT OF ANYONE WHO ESTABLISHED A MORE
 TRADITIONAL KIND OF CITY OR COMMUNITY;

SAFED BECAME A CENTER FOR THOSE WHO MOURNED ZION AND
 WHO PERFORMED IN THEIR DAILY LIVES THE RITUAL ACTS WHICH
 IT WAS BELIEVED WOULD HASTEN THE COMING OF THE MESSIAH;

SAFED BECAME A KIND OF PERMANENT REVIVALIST CAMP; THE GREATEST OF THE KABBALISTS OF THE 16TH CENTURY, ISAAC LURIA, SETTLED IN SAFED; IT WAS A PLACE IN WHICH MEN REGULARLY HAD VISIONS; IT WAS A PLACE IN WHICH PEOPLE TALKED A GREAT DEAL ABOUT THE TRANSMIGRATION OF THE SOUL; THERE WAS A ~~DOCTRINE~~ DOCTRINE POPULAR IN SAFED, ~~THE DOCTRINE~~ KIBUTZ HA KEVIR, WHICH ASSUMES THAT THE DEAD CAN TALK WITH CERTAIN MYSTICS AND THAT ~~THESE MYSTICS~~ ^{THESE MYSTICS} WILL LEARN ^{FROM THEM} THE MYSTERIES ~~THE DEAD~~ ^{THE DEAD} HAVE LEARNED;

~~CURRENT THEN IN SAFED - THESE ARE THE 16th & 17th CENTURIES -~~
 ONE ~~THE~~ IDEA WAS THAT WHEN YOU DIE YOUR SOUL DOESN'T IMMEDIATELY GO TO HEAVEN BUT REMAINS ON EARTH AND ENTERS OTHER SOULS; PARTICULARLY IF ~~YOUR~~ ^{YOURS IS} A WICKED SOUL; IT WAS PUNISHMENT, A KIND OF PURGATORY. IT IS INTERESTING THAT THE KINDS OF SERMONS ~~PREACHED~~ PREACHED IN THE SYNAGOGUES OF SAFED DID NOT SPEAK OF ETERNAL DAMNATION AS DID ~~CHRISTIAN~~ CHRISTIAN SERMONS ~~OF THAT TIME~~ OF THAT TIME; THOSE WHO PREACHED IN THE SYNAGOGUE SAID THAT AFTER SOME PERIOD THE SINNERS WOULD BE PURIFIED AND BE ALLOWED TO HAVE THEIR REST AND ENTER HEAVEN. IT WAS A TIME WHEN RABBIS, HOLY MEN, COULD EXORCISE THE DYBBUK, EVIL SPIRITS; THERE WAS A FEELING THAT THOSE WHO WERE CHARISMATIC, HOLY MEN, HAD SECRET KNOWLEDGE, THAT IF YOU GAINED THAT KNOWLEDGE YOU GAINED PEACE OF MIND FOR YOURSELF AND THE SECRET OF ENTERING HEAVEN UPON YOUR DEATH; ~~THOSE WHO COMMITTED A SIN, HOWEVER MINOR, IF YOU HAD MALICIOUSLY GOSSIPED, YOU NOT ONLY HAD TO BEG YOUR VICTIM'S PARDON AND ASK FORGIVENESS, BUT YOU HAD TO FAST TWO DAYS A WEEK FOR TWO YEARS;~~

AND EVERY TIME YOU PASSED ~~THEM~~ ON THE STREET DURING
~~THOSE~~ AT THIS TIME, BY THE WAY, ~~THE~~ THE CUSTOM ~~DEVELOPED~~
 DEVELOPED THAT YOU SHOULD RECITE THE KADDISH FOR THE BENEFIT
 OF ^{YOUR} ~~THEM~~ DEAD; THE KADDISH WAS AN OLD PRAYER WHICH HAD LONG
 BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE GLORIFICATION OF GOD AND GRATITUDE
 FOR GOD'S LIFE, ^{CUSTOMARILY} SPOKEN ^{LAW #} AT THE END OF THE PERIOD OF STUDY
 OF ~~THE~~ RABBINIC LORE. IN THE YESHIVOT

IT WAS A ~~BIZARRE~~ BIZARRE AND MYSTERIOUS WORLD. IF
 YOU ~~AT THE END OF THE PERIOD OF STUDY~~ THE KADDISH ^{Now}
 BEGAN TO BE RECITED IN ORDER TO GUARANTEE THAT YOUR LOVED
 ONE WOULD ENTER HEAVEN; ^{IT BECAME} THE DUTY OF EVERY JEW ~~TO~~
 SPEAK THE KADDISH FOR HIS IMMEDIATE RELATIVES FOR ELEVEN
 MONTHS AND THEN ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR DEATH ^{S/} EACH YEAR;
 WHY ELEVEN MONTHS? BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T WANT YOUR DEAD TO
 FEEL THAT THEY NEED A FULL YEAR OF YOUR INTERCESSION; ^{GAINED}

IT WAS A TIME OF PUBLIC CONFESSIONS; OF ~~CONFESSING~~ FLAGELLATIONS.
 THE MYSTICS OF SAFED WOULD GET UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT
 AND HAVE NIGHT VIGILS IN THE SYNAGOGUE WHERE THEY WOULD
 STAND AND STUDY AND PRAY ALL NIGHT LONG UNTIL ~~THE~~ VISIONS
 CAME;

LURIA WAS BORN IN THE 1530'S IN ^{WERE} ~~SAFED~~ HIS FATHER
 A WHOLE SERIES OF REGULATIONS ~~WAS~~ PUBLISHED [↑]
 GOVERNING WHAT MUST BE DONE BY THOSE WHO ~~WERE~~ IN SAFED ~~WHO~~
~~WERE~~ COMMITTED A SIN, HOWEVER MINOR; IF YOU HAD MALICIOUSLY
 GOSSIPED, YOU NOT ONLY HAD TO BEG ^{YOUR VICTIMS'} ~~THEIR~~ PARDON AND
 ASK ^{AS THEIR} ~~THEIR~~ FORGIVENESS, BUT YOU HAD TO FAST TWO DAYS A WEEK
 FOR TWO YEARS;

THEM

AND EVERY TIME YOU PASSED ~~THEM~~ ON THE STREET DURING THOSE TWO YEARS YOU HAD TO BOW YOURSELF BEFORE THEM, OFFER YOURSELF TO BE BEATEN BY THEM, AND ASK PUBLIC FORGIVENESS OF THEM; AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS TWO-YEAR PERIOD AND AT ITS END YOU HAD TO APPEAR IN THE SYNAGOGUE, THERE TO BE BEATEN WITH ~~39~~ 39 STRIPES IN ORDER TO ADMIT YOUR GUILT;

INTENSE, FERVENT, AARONIAL

IT WAS A ~~SAFED~~ BIZARRE AND MYSTERIOUS WORLD: IF YOU READ ABOUT THE SALEM WITCH TRIALS IN THE EARLY 18TH CENTURY IN THE UNITED STATES YOU CAN IMAGINE ~~SAFED~~ ~~SAFED~~ THERE WERE NO TRIALS OR EXECUTIONS IN SAFED; BUT THERE WERE EXORCISMS; THERE WAS A ~~CONVICTION~~ THAT AN EVIL SOUL ~~SOMEONE'S~~ WOULD ENTER ~~AND HAD~~ BODY ~~TO BE~~ BROUGHT OUT; THERE WAS A ~~BELIEF~~ THAT ~~CHARISMATIC~~ CHARISMATIC; HOLY MEN; HAD SECRET KNOWLEDGE; IF YOU GAINED THAT KNOWLEDGE YOU COULD GAIN PEACE OF MIND FOR YOURSELF AND THE SECRET OF ENTERING HEAVEN; THE BEST WAY TO SUGGEST TO YOU SOME OF THE FEEL OF THAT WORLD IS TO TELL YOU OF THE MOST IMPORTANT MYSTIC WHO LIVED IN SAFED; A MAN NAMED ISAAC LURIA;

LURIA WAS BORN IN THE 1530'S IN JERUSALEM; HIS FATHER DIED WHEN HE WAS VERY YOUNG, SIX OR SEVEN; THE MOTHER TOOK THE FAMILY TO EGYPT WHERE HER BROTHER WAS A RICH MERCHANT AND THERE ISAAC LURIA STUDIED ^{THEM} COMMERCE AND BUSINESS WITH HIS UNCLE; THERE HE MARRIED; HE RAISED A FAMILY;

TALMUD

YET IT
SEEMED
PERFECTLY
NATURAL
FOR HIM TO
SPEND

HE REMAINED IN BUSINESS; AS A MATTER OF FACT; THE ONLY HANDWRITTEN DOCUMENT WE HAVE FROM LURIA IS A BILL OF SALE FOR AN ORDER OF PEPPER WHICH HE WAS TO DELIVER TO SOME MERCHANTS WHO WERE ON THEIR WAY TO BAGDAD; WHEN YOU WONDER HOW THE MADNESS OF KHOMEINI'S IRAN AND THE MADNESS OF THE CULT PEOPLE IS ASSOCIATED WITH A CERTAIN KIND OF PRACTICALITY; HOW THEY REMAIN ABLE TO LIVE WHAT WOULD BE CONSIDERED OTHERWISE NORMAL LIVES; THINK OF THESE JEWISH MYSTICS;

LURIA WAS A FINE TALMUDIST, ~~██████████~~ A GREAT SCHOLAR; YET; HIS INNER LIFE WAS ONE OF VISIONS; DURING HIS EARLY EDUCATION HE CAME ACROSS A COPY OF THE ZOHAR; IT FASCINATED HIM; HE WENT TO SOME TEACHERS AND HE LEARNED WHAT HE COULD FROM THEM, AND THEN HE WENT OFF TO HIS WALDEN POND, TO AN ISLAND IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NILE NEAR CAIRO WHICH ~~██████████~~ ^{OWNED} HIS UNCLE AND LIVED THERE SOME 8 YEARS BY HIMSELF EXCEPT, UNLIKE THOREAU, HE WENT BACK TO HIS WIFE AND TO HIS HOME ON THE SABBATH; HE CONTINUED AS A FATHER AND IN BUSINESS ~~██████████~~ SIX DAYS A WEEK ~~██████████~~ ON THIS ISLAND; STUDYING, MEDITATING, FASTING. ~~██████████~~ HE FELT HIS SOUL RISING ULTIMATELY UP TO HEAVEN AND FELT HE HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GREAT ACADEMY ON HIGH AND ^{TO} LEARN ~~██████████~~ SOMETHING OF THE MYSTERIES;

YET IT
SEEMED
PERFECTLY
NATURAL
FOR HIM TO
SPEND

AFTER SIX YEARS OF VIGIL ~~HE~~ HE LEFT EGYPT FOR SAFED;
 THE CHARISMA OF THIS MAN, THE SENSE OF HOLINESS WHICH ^{MADE HIM} ~~THE~~ SURROUNDED HIM, ~~THE~~ QUICKLY ~~THE~~ A CENTER FOR A
 CIRCLE OF THE PIOUS IN ^{THE} CITY OF THE PIOUS; THEY WOULD GO OUT
 OUT TOGETHER TO VISIT THE GRAVES; APPARENTLY LURIA CLAIMED,
 AND HIS PEOPLE SUPPORT ^{ED} HIM IN THIS, THAT HE COULD SPEAK
 WITH THE DEAD; HE WOULD GO OUT TO THE GRAVE OF SIMEON BAR
 YOHAI AND THERE GREAT MYSTERIES TOOK PLACE AND MUCH WAS
 REVEALED THAT HAD NOT BEEN KNOWN BEFORE. ^{WHEN} HE SPENT ALL NIGHT
 IN THE SYNAGOGUE; PEOPLE WOULD COME TO HIM AND HE WOULD
 BE ABLE TO SEE WHAT THEIR PROBLEM WAS. HE WOULD SEE WHAT
 SOUL POSSESSED THEM AND WAS ABLE TO EXORCISE THE EVIL SPIRITS;
 HE SAID THAT HE HIMSELF WAS A REINCARNATION OF SIMEON BAR
 YOHAI AND LOOKED UPON HIMSELF AS A FORERUNNER OF THE MESSIAH;

LURIA LIVED ONLY A YEAR AND A HALF IN SAFED BEFORE HE
 WAS TAKEN OFF AT 38 BY ONE OF THOSE PLAGUES WHICH PERIODICALLY
 SWEEPED THROUGH THE ^{MEDIEVAL} ~~THE~~ WORLD; DYING YOUNG ^{IS} ~~HE~~ VERY
 IMPORTANT FOR A SAINT TO FULFILL HIS MISSION ~~HE~~; IT
 DEFINED HIS CREDIBILITY: GOD HAD ~~CHOSEN~~ ^{QUICKLY REVEALED} ONE OF HIS OWN;

ESSENTIALLY THESE HOLY MEN AND THE JEWISH PEOPLE WERE THE
 AGENTS OF SALVATION.

WHAT DID THESE PEOPLE THINK THEY COULD DO TO HASTEN ^{THE} COMING OF THE MESSIAH? ACCORDING TO LURIA WHEN THE WORLD HAD BEEN CREATED A BIG BANG HAD TAKEN PLACE; IT HAD BEEN OF SUCH INTENSITY THAT SOME OF THE DIVINE LIGHT HAD SPIILLED OUT OF THE CIRCLES OF HEAVEN WHICH WERE DESIGNED AS ITS CONTAINER AND GOT LOST IN SPACE; IN SPACE THIS OVERFLOW OF GOD HAD BEEN SURROUNDED BY MATERIAL HARD AS SHELLS; THE REASON THAT REDEMPTION DID NOT COME ~~WAS~~ WAS THAT A DIMINISHED GOD WAS NOT POWERFUL ENOUGH TO BRING ABOUT,

HOW COULD GOD BE PUT BACK TOGETHER AGAIN? WHAT COULD BREAK THE SHELLS? THE PRAYERS OF THE JEWS, THE PRAYERS, SPECIFICALLY, OF THEIR HOLY MEN; THE BIBLE AND THE TORAH WERE NOT SIMPLY WHAT THEY SEEMED, A LANGUAGE, HISTORY; THEY CONTAINED THE REVELATION OF MYSTERY, OF THE MYSTERY OF THE NATURE OF THE UNIVERSE; IT TOLD MAN HOW HE COULD RESTORE THE WORLD, PUT THE WORLD BACK INTO SHAPE BY CONCENTRATING ON TIKKUN OLAM, BY BRINGING BACK GOD TO GOD, THE LOST LIGHT TO THE ^{SUPREME} LIGHT. THE MYSTICS WOULD STRENGTHEN GOD AND ULTIMATELY GOD WOULD BRING ABOUT REDEMPTION, SO ESSENTIALLY THESE HOLY MEN AND THE JEWISH PEOPLE WERE THE AGENTS OF SALVATION;

WHICH IS IMMEDIATELY RELEVANT TO OUR LIVES;

IT WAS A HANDY DOCTRINE FOR A DISPOSSESSED AND DISPERSED PEOPLE WHO HAD ^{JUST} ~~JUST~~ SUFFERED THE WORST TRAGEDY IN THEIR HISTORY, PEOPLE WHO, IN COMPARISON WITH THE GREAT POWERS OF THE WORLD, WERE OF NO ACCOUNT; IN THIS THESIS THEY BECAME THE CENTRAL ACTORS IN THE DRAMA OF REDEMPTION; NOTHING CAN HAPPEN REDEEMPTIVELY UNLESS JEWISH HOLY MEN MAKE IT HAPPEN;

JEWS FOR THE NEXT TWO OR THREE HUNDRED YEARS FOUND ~~IN THESE MYSTICAL IDEAS~~ ~~THAT WHICH IS THE ULTIMATE SANITY~~ -- DIGNITY AND A SENSE OF POWER AND PURPOSE; NO RATIONAL SYSTEM, NO PHILOSOPHY, COULD HAVE PROVIDED THIS; PEOPLE CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT A SENSE OF PURPOSE; IF THERE IS NO MEANING GIVEN TO US IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD, WE MUST FIND MEANING IN THE WORLD OF THE IMAGINATION; THE IMAGINATION PROVIDES ~~THE~~ ^{WHERE} ~~THE~~ CONTENT, AND SAFED WAS THE PLACE ~~WHERE~~ IMAGINATION WORKED OUT A MYSTICAL SCHEME WHICH ALLOWED JEWS TO SURVIVE WITH SOME DIGNITY UNTIL THE EMANCIPATION. ~~THESE IDEAS WERE THE ONLY WAY TO SURVIVE~~

I WILL NOT DEFEND THE THESIS THAT SAFED'S TEACHERS AND TEACHINGS WERE REASONABLE; THEY CERTAINLY WOULD NOT BE REASONABLE FOR US; YET, I WONDER IF THERE IS NOT SOMETHING TO BE LEARNED FROM SAFED, THE STRANGE MEDIEVAL COMMUNITY WHICH IS ~~THE~~ IMMEDIATELY RELEVANT TO OUR LIVES;

SEPARATE CAPACITIES--SEPARATE, BUT NOT EQUAL. THE INTELLIGENCE REMAINS THE PRIMARY SURVIVAL CATEGORY.

OBVIOUSLY, MANY TODAY PERCEIVE THE TIMES TO BE TRAGIC. PEOPLE HAVE ESPOUSED AN INTEREST IN MYSTICISM & IN ASTROLOGY.

EVEN PEOPLE WHO DO NOT SEE THE TIMES AS TRAGIC NO LONGER FEEL THEMSELVES IN CONTROL OF THEIR LIVES. OBVIOUSLY, THEY ARE TURNING MORE & MORE TO THE IMAGINATION, ~~AND~~ LESS & LESS TO INTELLIGENCE.

IT IS NOT SO LONG AGO THAT WE HAD A WHOLE SPATE OF BOOKS WHICH CLAIMED THAT IT WAS OUR INTELLIGENCE WHICH WAS MISLEADING US, AND URGING US TO LISTEN TO THE IMAGINATION, TO OUR FEELINGS, TO BE GENUINE. REMEMBER THE GREENING OF AMERICA, BOOKS OF THAT KIND?

BUT BEFORE WE JOIN THE PARADE ^{TO} OF THE IMAGINATION, LET US BE CAREFUL OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF TOO READY A PLUNGE INTO ~~IMAGINATION~~ ^{IT}. IMAGINATION & INTELLIGENCE ARE SEPARATE CAPACITIES--SEPARATE, BUT NOT EQUAL. ~~THE~~ INTELLIGENCE REMAINS THE PRIMARY SURVIVAL CATEGORY.

CLEVELAND

This Daniel Jeremy Silver tended along Lake Erie's February 7, 1988 New York border to

about Fremont, near Toledo, and 50 miles

A city is a living entity. Being alive, it grows and changes. Delhi, India's capital, had seven different locations in its long history, until the British in the 18th century established New Delhi for their administrative purposes.

Cleveland is a much newer town, but it has also had its growth cycles. Cleveland was founded in 1785 by the Connecticut Land Company, which sent out a party of surveyors under the leadership of Moses Cleaveland to chart the area and to determine a capital for it. The Northwest Territories, the area that they surveyed, had been sold to some Connecticut entrepreneurs who, like all real estate dealers, wanted to cash in on their ~~investment~~ investment.

This Northwest Territory extended along Lake Erie's shores, from the New York border to about Fremont, near Toledo, and 50 miles south of the ~~shore~~ ^{LAKE} the whole length of the Territory.

Cleveland was not the surveyors' first choice as the capital of the new area. The basin of the Cuyahoga River was swampy & disease-ridden. The surveyors contented themselves with mapping out a ~~land~~ future town and moving on. There were to be few permanent residents in Cleveland for some decades. Cleveland did not become the major city of this area until the 1840s.

Cleveland's development was due to geography and to the vision of one man. It was a port city, or at least had the potential of becoming one. Sand bars blocked the entrance to the Cuyahoga River until they were cut out in the 1820s.

In the first 35 years of Cleveland's existence, settlers did what most of their descendants would do 150 years later: they fled to the suburbs---or, rather, to a series of small towns which surrounded Cleveland. They left to live outside the malaria zone, but they remained in the area, because they knew that Cleveland was its natural center.

Cleveland's growth was determined almost entirely by a single decision: the decision where the northern terminus of the Ohio River canal would be located. Among the few settlers in early Cleveland there was a certain Alfred Kelley. He had read law, engaged in many businesses, and became dedicated to the proposition that Cleveland should be the terminal point of the proposed Ohio River canal. As first mayor of Cleveland, as a substantial citizen, as head of the Commercial ~~Bank~~ Bank of Lake Erie, Kelley is an intriguing figure.

Kelley is really the reason that Cleveland exists on the scale that it does today. As a member of the State Legislature, he worked hard to get the Ohio River canal legislation passed. Even then he envisaged that Cleveland would be its northern terminal--and that decision proved to be the key to Cleveland's future.

Cleveland became the great market town of the region. Agricultural goods were brought in from Michigan & Indiana for transport east. In exchange for these agricultural goods, manufactured goods came west. When the Ohio River canal became fully operative in the late 1830s, it quickly established itself as the cheapest and surest way of transporting goods to eastern & southern markets.

fewer than one thousand residents in Cleveland. By 1850, the year the Temple was founded, Cleveland was already the 18th largest city in the United States.

Important decisions leave a trail. As the terminus of the Ohio River canal, Cleveland found the will--and the federal monies--to drain the malarial swamps and to rid the harbor of the sand bars that made it difficult for ships to approach the shore.

Kelley's vision was vindicated. It had been no foregone conclusion that the canal would have its northern terminus in Cleveland. It could have ended at the Grand River basin or the Chagrin River basin or at any number of other places along the shore. But it went to the mouth of the Cuyahoa Cuyahoga because of Kelley's vision & determination.

Once the canal was open, Cleveland's growth was electric. In 1830 there were fewer than one thousand residents in Cleveland. By 1850, the year the Temple was founded, Cleveland was already the 18th largest city in the United States.

There was massive change in Cleveland's business & commercial life in the 1850s and 1860s when ships became large enough to bring sizable cargoes ~~of~~ iron ore down from the Mesabi Range. Barges brought coal up from southern Ohio and western Pennsylvania, and lime was brought in from Indiana. Cleveland was steel's marrying point. ~~Steel~~ ~~undergirded~~ almost all of the Industrial Revolution in the United States, and Cleveland became one of the great steel centers. Cleveland entered a period of steady growth, fueled equally by the riches of the Mesabi Range, by the industry of its ~~citizens~~ citizens, and by the immigrant population which came here--~~beginning~~ beginning in the ~~1880s~~ 1880s--to man the factories. Cleveland was booming.

The boom no longer depended on the canal. Its heyday had been brief. By the 1850s its monopoly over commerce had been broken by the railroads.

Railroads went to far more places than the canal did. So Cleveland became a great railroad center. Here the largest railroad repair yards of the United States were built. Here the rails themselves were built. As a halfway point between New York & Chicago, Cleveland was an ideal place for the repair & rebuilding of the sinews of the railroads.

In the seven decades between 1850 and 1920 Cleveland exploded. These were the years in which Cleveland rushed to fame. There was a population of 300 thousand or so in Cleveland in 1850. By the late 1920s, Greater Cleveland had become a metropolis of 2 million souls, the fifth largest city in the country. The iron & steel business brought heavy industry of all kinds--machine tools, manufacturing equipment--and other ancillary industry, such as dry goods and paper.

Cleveland was a town of low wages.

Cleveland also became a great ethnic center, particularly in the decades around the turn of the century. It became the "100,000 town."---100,000 Poles; 100,000 Germans; 100,000 Italians; 100,000 Hungarians--even 100,000 Jews. The work force came from two sources: domestic ~~immigration~~ immigration from the southern & eastern United States, of whites and blacks; and Europeans who came right off the boat and settled in Cleveland because they had heard of the city's ~~opportunities~~ opportunities, or because they already had relatives here.

Cleveland became a ~~prosperous~~ prosperous town, and a smug one. The business leaders felt they knew the secrets of eternal prosperity: make the best goods possible and sell them at the lowest price---by taking advantage of your workers in order to cut the price. Cleveland was a town of low wages,



a town where skilled labor was useful but was often let go as mass production systems made less skilled ~~workers~~ workers equally useful. 40 percent of Cleveland's workers were ~~skilled~~ skilled workers in 1880. By 1900, only 19 percent were.

This disdain for labor had its effect. It turned Cleveland into one of labor's strongholds.

The depression and the Second World War obscured for a time how Cleveland was sliding from its top rank. Shortly after World War II, a New York Times writer ~~marveled~~ marveled that "Clevelanders display an exuberant enthusiasm for their town and their way of life such as you don't recall ever noting in any city east of the Alleghenies. It really is remarkable, their town-boosting, their local pride & contentment."

That contentment was obscuring these things:

- Our manufactured items were no longer competitive in world markets.
- Industry had not invested in research & development during the glory days and was not, therefore, prepared for the technological and scientific revolutions

But in the 1960s the slide could no longer be obscured or denied.

Cleveland had lost half of its ~~manufacturing~~ manufacturing jobs and its sense of itself. Instead of becoming the best location in the nation, it ~~had~~ had become the mistake on the lake, the butt of innumerable jokes, a city without a personality, a city with little pride in itself, where even the river caught fire...where only the river, and the Mayor's ^{hair} ~~hair~~, caught fire.

Recent years have seen our population remain constant, or shrink, while population has been increasing in much of the rest of the country. Unemployment here runs higher than the national average. For the first 20 or 25 years after the end of World War 2, there was no concerted effort to develop new business, and less money was spent on research and development than in most other ~~urban~~ urban areas. The ~~local~~ local banks were ~~content~~ content to lend money to ~~US Steel~~ US Steel and to Jones & Laughlin and were not willing to back the bright ideas and brimming energy of young business people -- whose ideas and hopes required lesser sums.

The end result was a kind of stagnation that affected our economy & our politics. In 1978 Cleveland became the first city to default on its bank loans since the Depression of the 1930s.

Race riots were spawned by the appalling conditions in which Cleveland's leadership had ~~allowed~~ allowed its working class to survive. The Hough riots here were second only to the Watts riots in Los Angeles in their intensity & duration. And our problem didn't end with the end of the riots. After the riots we have seen a once proud school system wracked by internal dissension, unable to educate its young, a school system which drove its superintendent to suicide.

These were years of rapid demographic change. Hough, which had in 1950 a ~~population~~ population that was 48 percent white, had by 1960 a population that was 95 percent black. What happened in the city of Cleveland ~~there~~ began to happen outside its borders: East Cleveland had fewer than 3/percent blacks in 1960, and by 1970 nearly 60/percent--and a school enrollment of 92 percent.

During the mid-1970s there was no major construction in the town--in the city of Cleveland--and a great deal of demolition in the inner city, as neighborhoods fell before the ~~ravages~~ ravages of rot and time.

During all of the post World War 2 years there was a ~~continuous~~ ^{CONTINUOUS} exodus from Cleveland--some of those who left were the among the best & the brightest, many were not. But they all felt there was a better life to be found elsewhere, at least a better climate, and that it was time to move away from noise & garbage & crime--and, maybe most important, to cities where the leadership was more in tune with life in the post-industrial age.

For a while, it seemed everything was going wrong. The problems Cleveland faced boggled the imagination. Here was a great manufacturing city that lost a quarter of a million jobs--250,000 jobs--in ~~the~~ one decade. ~~that was~~ A national survey discovered we were second only to Newark in urban blight & urban crime.

Then, when things seemed to be going from bad to worse, eight or nine years ago, there seemed to be a turnaround, at least in mood. New commitments were made to building downtown--the Standard Oil building stands as a proud example. There seemed to be more young people who remained in town. The Flats, Public Square, Playhouse Square, saw development, the Art Museum & the ~~Public~~ Symphony maintained their world-class standards. Institutional growth was apparent: the Cleveland Clinic, NASA, University Hospitals, the beginning of the retooling of some of our factories.

Yet our manufacturing industries were still spending only half the national average for research and development. Our employment remain^{ed} static while it was rising elsewhere.

Racism remains a n issue. Still today a racially split school board cannot elect a president. The court has to choose for them. Housing remains an issue; Cleveland has a rotting housing core surrounded by suburbs which have most of the amenities one could desire. The city of Cleveland has lost over 400 thousand people in the last two decades.

It's during the most recent decade that things seem to be improving. The Federal Government continued to pour money into Cleveland. A new highway system was finally completed. Some public housing was built. Welfare programs were maintained.

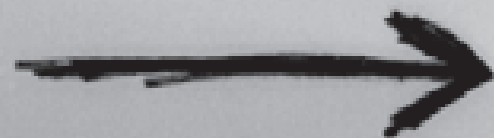
abatement programs, etc.--has been forced

to sell or
to make
Cleveland hasn't used the ~~money~~ monies coming in as wisely as it might, because the people of the area are still unwilling to organize themselves into a single governing unit. There are 89 governing entities in Cuyahoga County and nearly 30 educational districts. Authorities overlap, and the reach of any government unit ~~is~~ is small, so small that none can carry out wide-ranging programs.

ER
This balkanization is particularly severe at the county level, where 23 special agencies, numerous elected officials, and the county's commissioners spend more than \$1 billion dollars a year. But no one unit of government has any direct influence over how those funds are allocated. has been
on the These regional agencies have developed in part because the city--through its population loss, eroding tax base, tax abatement programs, etc.--has been forced

67

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~



to sell or

to make over to the county a number of its services: a regional transit authority, a regional sewer authority, regional water authority, and the like. But in each instance the city made a one-time sale, took its money, and was left with no power. And the control of these agencies and services passed to county commissioners who do not give account or report to any legislature. Case in point of how this regional and unaccountable system does not work is the recent revelation that after a multi-million dollar renovation of the rapid transit to the airport, it now takes 10 minutes longer to get there than it did before.

County ~~gove~~ government ~~has~~ has been on the agenda for 60 years. It's no closer today than it was 60 years ago.

ethnic & racial divisions, which play themselves out in the political arena.

ERB
ERS
 Cleveland seems to have an aversion to centralized government. In the 1830s there was a move to annex Ohio City, on ~~the~~ west bank of the Cuyahoga River, to Cleveland on the east bank. A bridge was built, but the Ohio City folks would have none of it. They tried to stop the bridge from being built, and when they couldn't do it by political means, they tried to saw down down the bridge.

ER
 In 1924 the first of the modern attempts at county government--to annex West Park to the City of Cleveland--went down to defeat. So has every attempt at county government since.

ER
 Why this negative attitude? In the first place, no one likes to give up office, and no group likes to give up its prerogatives. Then, too, our housing patterns reflect ethnic & racial divisions, which play themselves out in the political arena.

ERB
In the past it was Croations aganst Slavs,
today it's largely blacks against whites.
Will this be a white-ruled or a black-
dominated community---that's the way the
question is put today.

ER
Today the City Council of Cleveland
represents only about a fifth of the
citizens of the county. Among that fifth
are numbered the poorest and most handi-
capped. The City of Cleveland lacks a tax
base to meet the obligations of the center
city--to prevent crime, to keep streets
clean, to get the/garbage picked up.
Its political divisions have compounded
problems of racial unrest. Traditional
American patterns expect the center city
to educate the immigrants--blacks and
hispanics today--so that suburban schools
are clear of that responsibility and can
concentrate on teaching middle-class
ER
~~youngsters.~~ youngsters.

to be emerging in both management & labor.

But a school system is also a source of patronage. As an example: the contract to feed the students of the City of Cleveland is lucrative--which community, the white or the black, will get that order?

A major part of the problems of Cleveland have resulted from changes over which Cleveland has had no control. These are the basic economic changes throughout the nation. Steel is no longer an American monopoly but is manufactured around the world. The countries of the Asian rim can replace the methods of our big factories and effectively compete in world markets.

While some business ^{LEADERS} ~~are~~ still tend to blame unions and high wages for our problems and fail to recognize that they smugly believed that God owed them a living, fortunately a new breed seems to be emerging in both management & labor.

ERE
These men and women have been trained for the era of change which is our post-industrial age. Over the last decade such men and women have set about to do something about the City^{and} about Greater Cleveland. They have created businesses designed to invest capital in new enterprises. They have created scholarship programs to help poor students go to college.

EN
There are many problems that still cry out for attention. Cleveland's neighborhoods require continuing attention. The demographics of the people who live in the City of Cleveland suggest that the city continues to be increasingly poor, elderly, and dependent on public services. Housing stock in the City is old, with very little replacement underway. Neighborhood commerce is limited and dispersed. Industrial areas are poorly situated and lack many modern amenities. The outlook for the City itself remains in many ways distressing.

79

CLEVELAND--22

Whether Cleveland continues on the new path depends on the vision and determination of each of its citizens. A city is, really, its people. There may never again be enough of us to make Cleveland the fifth largest city in the country, but there are enough of us to make it a livable, healthy, vital place. That requires each of us to think of ourselves as citizens--not just residents--and to invest some of our time, talent, and thought in our town.

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
JANUARY 31 COFFEE HOUR 9:30 am Branch SERVICE 10:30 am Branch Rabbi Silver	FEBRUARY 1	2 TWA BRANCH 10:00 am Activities 11:00 am Bible Study 12:00 Noon Luncheon *TYA BOARD MEETING	3	4	5 SERVICE 5:30 pm Main Temple FIRST FRIDAY Albert Vorspan 8:15 pm Branch	6
7 COFFEE HOUR 9:30 am Branch SERVICE 10:30 am Branch Rabbi Silver TYA-TMC DINNER Fathers - Sons Ozzie Newsome 5:30 pm Branch	8	9 TWA BRANCH 10:00 am Activities 11:00 am Bible Study 12:00 Noon Luncheon TEMPLE BOARD MEETING 8:00 pm Branch	10 TWA BOARD - BRANCH 9:30 am Coffee 10:00 am Meeting	11	12 SERVICE 5:30 pm Main Temple	13
14 COFFEE HOUR 9:30 am Branch SERVICE 10:30 am Branch Special Music	15 PRESIDENTS' DAY No TRS	16 TWA BRANCH 10:00 am Activities 11:00 am Bible Study 12:00 Noon Luncheon SCHOOL BOARD MEETING 7:30 pm Branch	17 TMC BOARD MEETING 8:00 pm Branch	18	19 SERVICE 5:30 pm Main Temple THIRD SABBATH NEW MEMBERS COMMITTEE 7:30 pm Branch Oneg Shabbat	20 *TRS HEBREW CAMP Grades 3-6 9:30 am JCC
21 COFFEE HOUR 9:30 am Branch SERVICE 10:30 am Branch Rabbi Kamin TMC Service *TRS HEBREW CAMP Pick up at 11:30 am	22	23 TWA BRANCH 10:00 am Activities 11:00 am Bible Study 12:00 Noon Luncheon LUNCH WITH THE RABBI 12:00 Noon Uptown Sheraton Beachwood	24 TWA MAJOR MEETING Branch 12:30 pm Dessert 1:15 pm Tracey Twins	25	26 SERVICE 5:30 pm Main Temple	27 *HOT ATTEMPE

Jerusalem - 2-
The Holy Cities of Israel

Jerusalem

Daniel Jeremy Silver February 28, 1988

WHAT MAKES A CITY HOLY? WHY ARE HEBRON, TIBERIAS, SAFED & JERUSALEM HOLY CITIES WHILE, ACCORDING TO OUR TRADITION, HAIFA, JAFFA, CAESERIA & NABLUS ARE NOT?

HOLINESS, OF COURSE, IS IN THE EYES OF THE BEHOLDER. THE BEST WAY, I THINK, TO MAKE THIS POINT IS TO TELL YOU SOMETHING I HEARD ALMOST 25 YEARS AGO. A MAN NAMED ZEV VILNAY WAS ONE OF THESE SUPERB GUIDES IN ISRAEL. HE HAD WON THE ISRAEL PRIZE FOR HIS WORK RECORDING ISRAEL'S LEGENDS & HISTORY AND HAD WRITTEN BOOKS AND EVEN AN ENCYCLOPEDIA ON THE LAND OF ISRAEL. & ONCE AS A YOUNG GUIDE, AND IN A PARTICULARLY, EXPANSIVE MOOD, HE IMPROVISED THIS LEGEND ABOUT A HUGE ROCK, NEARLY 7 FEET HIGH, ON A HILLTOP IN THE MOUNTAINS OF JUDEA:

WHEN THE ROMANS BESIEGED JERUSALEM ~~IN~~
IN THE YEAR 70, THE LEADERS OF THE
BESIEGED CITY SENT MESSAGES TO EVERY JEW
IN THE SURROUNDING TOWNS & VILLAGES, ASKING
EACH TO BRING A LARGE STONE TO STRENGTHEN
THE FORTIFICATIONS OF THE CITY & THE TEMPLE.

IN THOSE DAYS ^{THERE} ~~WAS~~ LIVED IN A VILLAGE
A MIGHTY MAN DESCENDED FROM SAMSON. THE
STRENGTH OF HIS ANCESTORS FLOWED IN HIS
VEINS. LEARNING THAT JERUSALEM NEEDED
HELP, HIS SPIRIT ROSE UP IN HIM & HE TORE
A MASSIVE BOULDER OUT OF THE SIDE OF THE
MOUNTAIN, HEAVED IT ON HIS SHOULDERS,
AND BEGAN TO WALK TOWARD THE HOLY CITY.
HE WAS STILL ON THE MOUNTAIN PATH WHEN HE
SAW A THICK PILLAR OF SMOKE RISING FROM
THE HILLS IN THE EAST. HE REALIZED THAT
HE WAS TOO LATE, THE CITY HAD BEEN TAKEN,
THE TEMPLE ~~HAD~~ BEEN DESTROYED.

VILNAY & COURTEOUSLY SUGGESTED THAT THE
VETERAN GUIDE COVER HIS HEAD.

"THIS IS A HOLY SPOT," THE YEMENITE SAID, HE STUMBLED & FELL IN TEARS. HIS STRENGTH EBBED AWAY. THE MIGHTY STONE PRESSED HIM DOWN & CRUSHED HIM TO DEATH UNDER ITS WEIGHT. SINCE THEN, & UNTIL THIS DAY, THAT MASSIVE ROCK HAS BEEN KNOWN AS THE ROCK OF DESTRUCTION IN MEMORY OF THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE.

ZEVI VILNAY WAS PLEASED WITH HIS STORY & INCLUDED IT IN THE NEXT EDITION OF HIS LEGENDS OF PALESTINE ~~NOTING ONLY THAT IT WAS "ANOTHER LEGEND ABOUT JERUSALEM."~~

IT TURNED OUT THAT VILNAY HAD CREATED AN ^{MODERN} INSTANT LEGEND. MANY YEARS LATER, TAKING A ^{GROUP} ~~OF~~ VISITORS ON A TOUR OF JUDEAN HISTORIC PLACES HE DECIDED TO TAKE THEM TO THE "ROCK OF DESTRUCTION." AS THEY APPROACHED, A YEMENITE JEW WHO HAD BEEN STANDING ALONGSIDE THE ROCK CAME UP TO VILNAY & COURTEOUSLY SUGGESTED THAT THE VETERAN GUIDE COVER HIS HEAD.

"THIS IS A HOLY SPOT," THE YEMENITE SAID, AND FERVENTLY KISSED THE STONE. HOW COULD I TELL HIM, VILNAY ASKED, THAT IF HE VENERATED THE STORY, IT WAS RATHER ME THAT HE SHOULD KISS?"

ANOTHER EPILOGUE TO VILNAY'S STORY: ~~ISRAEL'S~~ ISRAEL'S MINISTER OF RELIGION, EAGER TO PRESERVE THE IDENTITY OF HOLY PLACES THAT MIGHT BE LOST & FORGOTTEN, HELD A CEREMONY DEDICATING THE "ROCK OF DESTRUCTION" AND ERECTING A PLAQUE MARKING IT AS AN OFFICIAL HOLY SHRINE. VILNAY, INCIDENTALLY, WAS NOT INVITED.

HOLINESS IS OUR SENSE OF A SPECIAL POWER. IN THE WESTERN TRADITION WE WOULD CALL IT THE PRESENCE OF THE POWER OF GOD EMANATING FROM A PARTICULAR OBJECT OR PLACE OR ACT OR EVEN HUMAN BEING. THE LATIN WORD SANCTUS IS A DIRECT TRANSLATION OF THE HEBREW KADOSH, HOLY, A PLACE WHERE WORSHIP IS HELD IS CALLED A SANCTUARY, A HOLY PLACE.

WAS ~~OVER~~ ^{OVER} ~~RECORDED~~ ^{RECORDED} WITH

Jerusalem -5-

OUR RESPONSE TO HOLINESS MAY BE SPONTANEOUS. WHEN ISAIAH WAS IN THE TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM, HE ~~HAD~~ A SENSE OF THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND HE BLURTED OUT, "KADOSH, KADOSH, KADOSH, ADONAI SEVAOT--HOLY, HOLY, HOLY IS THE LORD OF HOSTS, THE WHOLE EARTH IS FULL OF HIS GLORY." THE TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM WAS CALLED THE BET HAMIKDASH, THE HOLY HOUSE, AND AN ENTIRE SECTION OF THE TALMUD, WHICH DEALS WITH THE INSTRUMENTS & VESSELS & RITUALS & SACRIFICES OF THE TEMPLE, IS CALLED KADOSHIM. THE SUPREME ACT OF LOYALTY A JEW CAN SHOW HIS FAITH IS CALLED KIDDUSH HA SHEM--MARTYRDOM.

THE WORD KADOSH, HOLY, COMES FROM AN OLD AKKADIAN ROOT, KADASHI, WHICH MEANS TO BE BRIGHT, TO SHINE. ALMOST EVERY EMOTION HAS A PHYSICAL QUALITY ASSOCIATED WITH IT IN OUR MINDS, FOR WE ARE CREATURES OF THE SENSES. THE SENSE OF LUMINESCENCE, CHARISMA, IS WHAT WE ASSOCIATE WITH HOLINESS.

MEN HAVE ALWAYS FELT THAT ANY FAILURE TO RELATE WHEN MOSES COMES DOWN FROM THE MOUNTAIN AFTER HE HAD BEEN WITH GOD RECEIVING THE COMMANDMENTS, HIS FACE IS ALIGHT WITH THE SENSE OF THE HOLY. HE HAS BEEN IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD. ARTISTS IN NEARLY EVERY CULTURE PICTURE THEIR SAINTS OR HOLY MEN WITH A NIMBUS OR HALO AROUND THEM, TO IDENTIFY THEIR HOLINESS & THEIR POWER.

ONE WHO IS HOLY HAS POWER-- A POWER WHICH CAN BE BOTH USEFUL TO MANKIND AND AS DANGER. WHEN MOSES COMES DOWN FROM THE MOUNTAIN HE CAN NO LONGER LIVE WITHIN THE ENCAMPMENT BUT MUST, AS A HOLY MAN, LIVE OUTSIDE THE CAMP, IN A TENT SET APART.

THAT'S GENERALLY TRUE, BY THE WAY, OF SHAMANS AND HOLY MEN IN AFRICAN & INDIAN TRIBES--A RECOGNITION THAT IN MOMENTS OF NEED THEY CAN PLEAD WITH THE ELEMENTS OR WITH GOD, BUT THAT ~~THEY~~ ^{THEY} MUST BE KEPT AT A DISTANCE, THEY & THE FEARFUL POWER THEY REPRESENT.

MEN HAVE ALWAYS FELT THAT ANY FAILURE TO RELATE PROPERLY TO WHAT IS HOLY CAN BE A CAUSE OF DANGER. JUST AS THOSE WHO TODAY OPERATE NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS ARE PRECISE & CAREFUL WITH THE PROCEDURES THEY USE, SO THE PRIESTS WHO ENTERED THE HOLY OF HOLIES IN THE TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM DID SO WITH FEAR & TREPIDATION. INDEED, IN 2nd TEMPLE DAYS, ONLY THE HIGH PRIEST WAS ALLOWED ~~TO~~ ONCE A YEAR TO ENTER THE DEVIR, THE HOLY OF HOLIES, AND ~~THEN~~ THEN ONLY AFTER SEVERAL NIGHTS OF INSTRUCTION FROM OTHER PRIESTS AS TO THE EXACT STEPS HE SHOULD TAKE, THE GENUFLECTIONS HE SHOULD MAKE, THE CONFESSIONS HE SHOULD SPEAK. IF HE MADE A SINGLE MISTAKE WHILE IN THE HOLY OF HOLIES IT MIGHT BE A FATAL MISTAKE FOR HIM AND FOR HIS COMMUNITY.

THE SAME SENSE OF AWE & REVERENCE AS A TRUE PROPHET. WHO TO MOVE BECAUSE PEOPLE
HOLINESS, THEN, IS NEITHER BENEFICIAL NOR HARMFUL, NEITHER GOOD NOR BAD. ARDS OR AMULETS.

A BIBLICAL MYTH DESCRIBES THE SENSE OF POWER WE INSTINCTIVELY ASCRIBE TO HOLY THINGS. DURING THE WARS BETWEEN THE PHILISTINES & THE ISRAELITES, THE PHILISTINES ~~ONE~~ CAPTURED THE HOLY ARK & TOOK IT TO THEIR CAPITAL. THERE THE HOLY ARK CAUSED SUCH CONFUSION ~~AMONG THEM~~ THAT THE PHILISTINES SENT AN EMISSARY TO THE HEBREWS DEMANDING THAT THE HOLY ARK BE TAKEN BACK--THEY COULDN'T HANDLE ITS WILD, DESTRUCTIVE ENERGY.

HOLINESS IS NOT NECESSARILY TO MAN'S BENEFIT. IT DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT BECAUSE WE ARE IN THE PRESENCE OF WHAT SEEMS HOLY WE WILL BE BLESSED BY THAT PRESENCE. A FALSE PROPHET EXUDES THE SAME SENSE OF AWE & REVERENCE AS A TRUE PROPHET.

--LIKE HOLINESS, THEN, IS NEITHER BENEFICIAL NOR HARMFUL, NEITHER GOOD NOR BAD. AMULETS.

HOLINESS EVOKES A NATURAL AND INSTINCTIVE RESPONSE, ~~SOMETIMES EVEN~~ LEADERS ~~IN OUR CYNICAL & SECULAR AGE.~~ REMEMBER THE SECULAR JEWS WHO WENT TO JERUSALEM RIGHT AFTER THE '67 WAR, WHEN FOR THE FIRST TIME IT WAS POSSIBLE TO VISIT THE WESTERN WALL OF ~~THE ANCIENT~~ TEMPLE, AND WHO CAME BACK, ONE BY ONE, TO TELL US THAT VISITING THE WALL HAD BEEN ONE OF THE MOST MOVING AND POWERFUL SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES OF THEIR LIVES? WHAT COULD IT POSSIBLY MEAN TO THEM? IT WAS THE FIRST TIME THEY HAD SENSED SOMETHING OF ~~THE HOLINESS~~, THE HOLY HISTORY, OF JERUSALEM AND OF THE TEMPLE. / IT WAS A SIGN OF THE RENEWAL OF JEWISH LIFE IN OUR TIMES. / WHATEVER IT WAS, THE WALL GAVE OFF VIBRATIONS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO MOVE ~~DEVELOPED~~ PEOPLE --LIKE US--WHO ARE NOT ACTIVELY CAUGHT UP IN THE HOLINESS OF ROCKS OR GRAVEYARDS OR AMULETS.

BECAUSE HOLINESS IS SUCH A BASIC AND POWERFUL EMOTION, WISE RELIGIOUS LEADERS HAVE ALWAYS TRIED TO FILL THE TERM AND THE EXPERIENCE WITH SOMETHING MORE THAN PURE AWE, ~~SOMETHING MORE THAN FEAR~~, TO GIVE IT MEANINGFUL CONTENT. THE BIBLE SET THE ^{PATTERN} ~~STANDARD~~. THAT ~~WAS~~ WONDERFUL SECTION OF LEVITICUS WHICH WE READ ON YOM KIPPUR--"HOLY SHALL YE BE, FOR I THE LORD YOUR GOD AM HOLY"--TELLS US IN WHAT HOLINESS CONSISTS. BE FAIR IN RENDERING JUDGMENT. REMOVE THE STUMBLING BLOCK FROM IN FRONT OF THE BLIND. LEAVE THE GLEANINGS OF THE FIELD FOR THE POOR. USE JUST WEIGHTS & JUST MEASURES. LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.

993 B.C.E., 250 YEARS AFTER THE BEGINNING OF THE CONQUEST, WAS DAVID FINALLY ABLE TO CONQUER JERUSALEM. ~~AT THAT TIME~~ HE MOVED HIS CAPITAL FROM HEBRON A FEW MILES NORTH TO JERUSALEM & MADE IT HIS CITY.

JERUSALEM BEGINS ITS HISTORY AS A RATHER UNDISTINGUISHED TOWN DURING THE SECOND MILLENNIUM B.C.E., A CANAANITE TOWN RULED BY PRIEST-KINGS WHO SPOKE ONE OF THE CANAANITE TONGUES. IN ABRAHAM'S TIME IT WAS CALLED SHALEM--WHICH DOES NOT, DESPITE THE PIOUS HOMILIES YOU'VE HEARD OVER THE YEARS, COME FROM THE SAME ROOT AS SHALOM, PEACE. ~~SHALOM MEANS~~ JERUSALEM MEANS THE CITY OF SHALAMU, ~~ONE OF THE~~ CANAANITE ^{AND} GODS.

JERUSALEM SEEMS TO ~~BE~~ ^{HAVE} ESCAPED CONQUEST BY THE ISRAELITES LONGER THAN ANY OTHER MAJOR TOWN IN THE JUDEAN HILLS, ~~ALTHOUGH~~ ~~WE DON'T KNOW WHY~~. NOT UNTIL THE YEAR 993 B.C.E., 250 YEARS AFTER THE BEGINNING OF THE CONQUEST, WAS DAVID FINALLY ABLE TO CONQUER JERUSALEM. ~~HE~~ HE MOVED HIS CAPITAL FROM HEBRON A FEW MILES NORTH TO JERUSALEM & MADE IT HIS CITY.

JERUSALEM WAS THEN A SMALL TOWN, LIKE ALL CANAANITE TOWNS, IT HAD A HIGH PLACE, THE THRESHING FLOOR OF ARUNA, WHICH DAVID PURCHASED FROM ITS OWNER. SOME YEARS LATER SOLOMON BUILT ON THIS HIGH PLACE A ROYAL SHRINE. ~~THE~~ IT BECAME ONE OF THE SHRINES THE ISRAELITES SERVED DURING THE ~~10~~ 10th, 9th, and 8th CENTURIES B.C.E., BUT IT WAS NOT THE ONLY SHRINE. THE GREAT ~~SHRINE~~ SHRINES THEN WERE SHILOH, BETH-EL, AND SAMARIA. JERUSALEM OWES ITS VERY SPECIAL POSITION TO THE DAVIDIC DYNASTY WHICH ESTABLISHED IT AS THE NATION'S CAPITOL.

ALTHOUGH JERUSALEM WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A SMALL CITY-STATE, IT SURVIVED.

JERUSALEM ~~ALSO~~ BECAME HOLY BECAUSE A MIRACLE SEEMED TO TAKE PLACE THERE. IN THE 8th CENTURY B.C.E., THE ASSYRIAN EMPIRE AROSE ~~BETWEEN THE TIGRIS & THE EUPHRATES RIVERS~~, IN WHAT IS NOW IRAQ. ITS CAPITAL WAS NINEVEH. ^{IT WAS} THE MIGHTIEST EMPIRE OF THE AGE, ASSYRIA SUBDUED THE LANDS EAST OF IT AND THEN ~~DETERMINED~~ TO MOVE WESTWARD ACROSS SYRIA AND LEBANON TO THE MEDITERRANEAN. THEIR ULTIMATE ~~AIM~~ AIM WAS TO MOVE SOUTH ACROSS ISRAEL AND CONQUER EGYPT, TO ABSORB THE GREAT WEALTH OF THAT COUNTRY. FOR ABOUT 20 YEARS THE ASSYRIANS SYSTEMATICALLY DESTROYED, ONE BY ONE, THE SMALL COMMUNITIES OF SYRIA OF LEBANON, INCLUDING THE LARGEST OF THE HEBREW KINGDOMS, THE NORTHERN KINGDOM OF ISRAEL. SAMARIA WAS CAPTURED IN 722 BCE. ALTHOUGH JERUSALEM WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A SMALL CITY-STATE, IT SURVIVED.

ANOTHER 15 YEARS PASSED & THE ASSIRIANS DECIDED THAT BEFORE THEY COULD MOVE DIRECTLY AGAINST EGYPT THEY HAD TO TAKE THE FEW, SMALL, OUT-OF-THE-WAY CITY-STATES ~~THAT~~ THAT LAY BEHIND THEIR FRONT LINES, SO THERE WOULDN'T BE ANY DANGER FROM THE REAR. JERUSALEM WAS ONE OF THESE STATES. IN THE YEAR 701 BCE, ~~THE~~ THE KING OF SYRIA, SENNACHERIV, LAY SIEGE TO JERUSALEM. THE CITY & ITS KING, HEZEKIAH, HAD NO CHANCE, BUT THEN A STRANGE ~~THING~~ THING HAPPENED.

OVER THE PRECEDING YEARS ISAIAH THE PROPHET HAD BROUGHT GOD'S JUDGMENT AGAINST JERUSALEM FOR THE ~~SINS~~ SINS OF THE COMMUNITY. HE HAD TOLD THE PEOPLE THAT THEY HAD ~~VIOLATED~~ VIOLATED THE COVENANT & THAT A DESERVED ATTACK WOULD COME.

THEN, SURPRISINGLY, HE BEGAN TO SPEAK CONSOLING WORDS IN THE NAME OF GOD: ~~"I, GOD,~~ "I, GOD, WILL BE A SHIELD AROUND THE CITY TO DELIVER IT."

NO SOONER HAD ISAIAH SPOKEN THESE WORDS THAN SENNACHERIV LIFTED THE SIEGE OF JERUSALEM AND RETR~~E~~ATED TO THE EAST.

THE BIBLE EXPLAINS THIS MIRACLE BY SAYING THAT THE ANGEL OF GOD HAD APPEARED AT NIGHT IN THE ASSYRIAN CAMP & HAD DESTROYED 185,000 THO~~U~~AND MEN.

ARCHAEOLOGISTS HAVE FOUND ONE OF THE GREAT ~~RECORD~~ ^{MONUMENTS} STELE TESTIFYING TO SENNACHERIV'S VICTORIES, WHICH SAYS THAT KING HEZEKIAH PAID A GREAT RANSON TRIBUTE IN ORDER TO LIFT THE SIEGE.

MODERN HISTORIANS TEND TO BELIEVE THAT A MESSAGE SUMMONED SENNACHERIV BACK TO HIS CAPITAL, SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE RISE OF THE POWER OF THE BABYLONIANS, A MUCH MORE POWERFUL DANGER THAN ANYTHING THE JUDEANS REPRESENTED.

WHATEVER THE EXPLANATION, JERUSALEM WAS SPARED. GOD HAD PROTECTED HIS CITY. PARTICULARLY HE HAD PROTECTED HIS ~~TEMPLE~~ TEMPLE. JERUSALEM HAD BECOME A HOLY CITY.

^{in 150^m} Jerusalem - 16-

SINCE AT LEAST ⁷²¹ B.C.E., ^{Jerusalem} THE TEMPLE
HAD BEEN THE ONLY SURVIVING JUDEAN SHRINE,
~~THE ROYAL SHRINE.~~ THE TEMPLE'S COMPLEX
OF BUILDINGS & ITS HOLY OBJECTS BECAME
THE MAIN PREOCCUPATION OF OUR FATHERS
~~DURING THE SUBSEQUENT CENTURY.~~ NEARLY A
CENTURY AFTER THE ASSYRIAN MIRACLE, WHEN
THE BABYLONIANS, ^{in 586 B.C.} IN THEIR TURN WERE READY
TO MOVE WEST TOWARD THE MEDITERRANEAN AND
TO TRY TO ~~CONQUER~~ CONQUER EGYPT, THEY, TOO,
BESIEGED JERUSALEM.

THERE WAS THEN A NEW CROP OF PROPHETS
IN JERUSALEM. JEREMIAH HAD BEEN SAYING MUCH
THE SAME THINGS THAT ISAH ^{had} ~~BEFORE HIM~~ HAD
SAID: 'THIS TRAGEDY HAS COME UPON YOU BECAUSE
YOU HAVE BEEN UNJUST AND UNRIGHTEOUS.
YOU DESERVE YOUR FATE.' ^{BUT} AND JEREMIAH NEVER
^{never} ~~SAID~~ SAID THAT GOD ^{has} ~~WAS~~ FORGIVING. RATHER, HE
SAID, THE CITY WOULD BE DESTROYED.

IN ONE OF HIS MOST POWERFUL SERMONS, JEREMIAH ~~1~~ ATTACKS DIRECTLY THE ILLUSION THAT ~~there~~ THERE ARE PLACES SO HOLY THAT THEY CANNOT BE HARMED. JEREMIAH SPOKE: "DO NOT PUT YOUR TRUST IN ILLUSIONS AND SAY, THE TEMPLE, O LORD, THE TEMPLE, O LORD, ARE THESE BUILDINGS. THEY ARE INVIOLETE."

NOT SO, THEY WILL BE DESTROYED / AND THEY WERE.

NOT ONCE IN THE BIBLE IS HOLINESS DEFINED BY WHAT MOST PEOPLE THINK OF AS HOLY BEHAVIOR: LIVING A ~~monst~~ MONASTIC LIFE, MAINTAINING LONG VIGILS, WITHDRAWING FROM THE WORLD, ADOPTING CELIBACY & SELF-FLAGELLATION. ^ETHAT KIND OF HOLINESS, ~~which~~ TO A LARGE DEGREE, MADE FOR THE AUTHORITY OF THE CHRISTIAN SAINTS.

NOT ONCE DOES JUDAISM DESCRIBE HOLINESS IN THOSE TERMS. JUDAISM SAYS THAT HOLINESS HAS TO DO WITH RIGHTEOUS LIVING AND ALL THAT WE ASSOCIATE WITH THE WORD RIGHTEOUS.

YET MANKIND HAS NEVER FOR A MOMENT ABANDONED ITS ILLUSION^s-- THAT THERE ARE HOLY OBJECTS, HOLY THINGS WE CAN WEAR AROUND OUR NECKS TO PROTECT US FROM DANGER, HOLY IMAGES WE CAN PUT ON THE DASHBOARD OF OUR CARS TO PROTECT US FROM ACCIDENTS, MAGICAL ACTS WE CAN PERFORM THAT WILL PROTECT US FROM EVIL, EVEN THE ILLUSION THAT THERE ARE HOLY PEOPLE. THESE ILLUSIONS ONLY PROVE THAT WE ARE FALLIBLE, AND MORTAL, AND ANXIOUS, AND THAT THERE ARE TIMES WHEN MIRACLES SEEM TO OCCUR--AND WE WOULD LIKE EVERY CHANCE FOR ONE TO HAPPEN TO US.

OF DAVID'S TOMB IS NOT KNOWN, BUT IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN BELIEVED TO BE NEAR JERUSALEM.

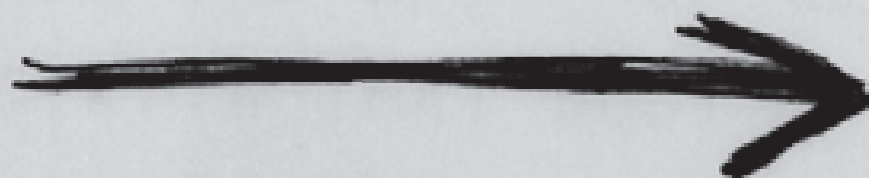
WHEN THE TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM WAS
REBUILT AFTER THE EXILE, PEOPLE ~~BRING~~
BROUGHT THEIR SACRIFICES & PRAYERS,
THEIR NEEDS AND FEARS AND HOPES. HOLY
ACTS WERE PERFORMED THERE, TO WHICH
PEOPLE ASCRIBED HOLY SIGNIFICANCE.
SOMETIMES THEIR NEEDS AND HOPES WERE
ANSWERED. ULTIMATELY, IF YOU ARE WILLING
TO SUSPEND DISBELIEF, THINGS CAN HAPPEN
THAT WOULD NOT ~~OTHERWISE~~ OTHERWISE HAPPEN
--FAITH HEALING IS A CASE IN POINT.

THE MAJOR HOLINESS OF JERUSALEM
IS ITS ROLE IN THE DRAMA OF THE COMING
OF THE MESSIAH. IN JERUSALEM THEY WILL
POINT OUT TO YOU A CHURCH, THE CHURCH OF
THE REMISSION, AND BENEATH IT, THEY WILL
TELL YOU, LIES THE TOMB OF KING DAVID.
THE TALMUD READILY ADMITS THAT THE LOCATION
OF DAVID'S TOMB IS NOT KNOWN, BUT IT HAS
ALWAYS BEEN BELIEVED TO BE ~~NEAR~~ ^{IN} JERUSALEM.

"YOU CAN BE HARBINGERS OF THE MESSIAH,
 BUT YOU MUST DO EXACTLY AS I TELL YOU.
 TAKE THIS SEALED CRUSE OF OIL WITH YOU
 TO JERUSALEM. GO TO A CERTAIN MOUNTAIN
 TO A CERTAIN ROCK. BEFORE THAT ROCK,
 REPEAT THIS MAGIC FORMULA," AND HE GAVE
 THEM THE FORMULA. "THE ROCK WILL OPEN
 & INSIDE THE ROCK YOU WILL SEE KING DAVID'S
 GOLDEN THRONE, & HIS GOLDEN HARP. BUT
 YOU MUST PASS THEM BY & GO DOWN INTO THE
 CAVE & THERE YOU WILL SEE A BIER. KING
 DAVID IS IN THE SLEEP OF DEATH ON TOP OF
 THE BIER. HIS HANDS ARE FOLDED. WHEN YOU
 COME BEFORE THE BIER YOU MUST RECITE,
 EXACTLY, ANOTHER MAGIC FORMULA," AND HE
 GAVE ~~THEM~~ ^{THEM} A SECOND FORMULA. "KING DAVID WILL
 BEGIN TO MOVE. HIS HANDS WILL UNFOLD.
 THEN YOU MUST TAKE THIS CRUSE OF OIL &
 POUR IT ON HIS RIGHT HAND. HE WILL COME
 TO LIFE, & ISRAEL'S TRAVAIL WILL BE OVER."

THE TWO YOUNG MEN TOOK THE CRUSE OF OIL AND BEGAN THE LONG JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM. THEY FOUND THE ROCK AND WITH FEAR & TREPIDATION RECITED ~~THE~~ FORMULA, EXACTLY AS ELIJAH HAD GIVEN IT TO THEM. THE ROCK OPENED, & THERE BEFORE THEIR EYES WERE THE GOLDEN THRONE OF DAVID & HIS GOLDEN HARP. BUT THEY CONCENTRATED ON THEIR MISSION AND WENT DOWN INTO THE CAVE. THERE WAS THE BIER. THERE WAS DAVID IN HIS SLEEP. ~~XXXXXX~~ THEY RECITED THE 2nd MAGIC FORMULA, EXACTLY AS ELIJAH HAD GIVEN IT. DAVID BEGAN TO STIR, TO OPEN HIS HANDS. OVERWHELMED, THE MEN TOOK THE CRUSE OF OIL AND POURED IT--BUT ON HIS LEFT ~~XXXXXXXX~~ HAND, NOT HIS RIGHT HAND. AND DAVID'S HANDS FOLDED & HE WENT BACK TO SLEEP. AND WE ARE STILL AWAITING THE COMING OF THE MESSIAH.

THIS CITY, JERUSALEM, WHERE THE MESSIAH WILL FIRST APPEAR, IS THE CITY WHERE THE RESURRECTION WILL BEGIN. ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE CITY IS THE MOUNT OF OLIVES, WHICH IS PRINCIPALLY A GIANT GRAVEYARD. WHY IS THE GRAVEYARD ON THE MOUNT OF ~~OLIVES~~ OLIVES? BECAUSE THE MOUNT IS THE EXACT PLACE WHERE THE RESURRECTION WILL BEGIN. WHY? BECAUSE THE BIBLE SO STIPULATES, IN THE LAST GREAT APOCALYPTIC ~~VISION~~ VISION OF THE PROPHET ZACHARIAH, WHO WROTE:



"ON THAT DAY, THE DAY OF JUDGMENT,
I WILL SET HIS FEET ON THE MOUNT OF OLIVES
NEAR JERUSALEM ON THE EAST. THE MOUNT OF
OLIVES SHALL SPLIT ACROSS FROM EAST TO WEST.
THE LIVING WATERS SHALL COME FORTH FROM
JERUSALEM. THE LORD SHALL BE KING IN
ALL THE EARTH." ~~THE MOUNTAINS WILL SPLIT,
WATER WILL COME TO THE SURFACE. LIVING
WATERS WILL COME FORTH.~~

AND ~~THE~~ RESURRECTION WILL TAKE PLACE HERE.
JEWS WERE BURIED WITH LITTLE BURLAP BAGS
OF EARTH GATHERED FROM THE MOUNT OF OLIVES.
SOMEHOW BEING BURIED WITH THAT DUST
REASSURED THEM THAT THEY, TOO, WOULD REST
IN THE EARTH OF THE MOUNT OF OLIVES AT
THE TIME OF THE RESURRECTION, & WOULD BE
AMONG THE FIRST TO BE RESURRECTED.

~~I CAN STILL REMEMBER AN ELDER OF THIS
TEMPLE, WHO WAS BORN IN THE UKRAINE, TELLING
ME THAT HIS FATHER HAD TAKEN HIM TO MILLSIDE
GARDENS NEAR THE LITTLE TOWN & TOLD HIM THAT
THESE~~

~~92~~ THE MOUNT OF OLIVES ACQUIRED ITS OWN HOLINESS. THROUGHOUT THE MIDDLE AGES SMALL BAGS OF EARTH TAKEN FROM THE MOUNT WERE AMONG THE MAJOR GOODS CARRIED BY THE SHELECHIM, THOSE MEN WHO WENT OUT FROM JERUSALEM TO RAISE MONEY FROM DIASPORA JEWS TO MAINTAIN THE JEWS WHO LIVED & PRAYED IN ISRAEL FOR THE COMING OF THE MESSIAH. ~~THROUGH~~^{IN} EVERY VILLAGE IN EUROPE, AND I SUPPOSE EVEN HERE IN ~~AMERICA~~^{AMERICA}, PIOUS JEWS WERE BURIED WITH LITTLE ~~BAGS~~ BAGS OF EARTH GATHERED FROM THE MOUNT OF OLIVES. SOMEHOW BEING BURIED WITH THAT DUST REASSURED THEM THAT THEY, TOO, WOULD REST IN THE EARTH OF THE MOUNT OF OLIVES AT THE TIME OF THE RESURRECTION, & WOULD BE AMONG THE FIRST TO BE RESURRECTED.

~~I CAN STILL REMEMBER AN ELDER OF THIS TEMPLE, WHO WAS BORN IN THE UKRAINE, TELLING ME THAT HIS FATHER HAD TAKEN HIM TO HILLSIDE CAVES NEAR THEIR LITTLE TOWN & TOLD HIM THAT THESE~~

Jerusalem -27-

I CAN STILL REMEMBER ONE OF THE OLDER MEMBERS OF THE TEMPLE, WHO WAS BORN IN THE UKRAINE, TELLING ME THAT HE'D BEEN TAKEN AS A CHILD TO SOME HILLSIDE CAVES OUTSIDE HIS LITTLE TOWN. HIS FATHER TOLD HIM THAT THESE WERE THE CAVES THROUGH WHICH THE BODIES OF JEWS WOULD BEGIN TO ROLL TOWARD JERUSALEM WHEN THE MESSIAH WOULD COME.

SO RESURRECTION & IMMORTALITY HAVE ALSO BEEN PART OF THE HOLINESS ASSOCIATED WITH JERUSALEM. ARABS SHARE THIS SENSE OF THE CITY'S HOLINESS WITH US--THEY CALL IT AL KUTZ, THE HOLY CITY--AND MADE SURE THAT THEIR CEMETERY ON THE MOUNT OF OLIVES WAS CLOSER TO THE EASTERN GATE THAN THE CEMETERY OF THE JEWS.

Jerusalem - 27 -

X. r. z
DIPLOMATS FROM NEUTRAL COUNTRIES
-- SWEDEN, FRANCE, THE UNITED STATES -- MET
TODAY THE CITY'S HOLINESS SEEMS CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE WESTERN WALL. DESPITE ALL YOU'VE HEARD, THE CUSTOM OF COMING TO PRAY AT THE WESTERN WALL IS RELATIVELY RECENT. IT IS NOT MENTIONED IN ^{the} LITERATURE BEFORE THE 16th CENTURY, WHEN THE TURKS ~~CONQUERED~~ CONQUERED JERUSALEM, AND ~~BEGAN TO CLEAN UP THE CITY.~~ ~~THEY~~ REMOVED DEBRIS FROM THE WALL AND MADE A NARROW ENTRANCE TO IT. DURING MOST OF TURKISH TIMES, JEWS WERE ALLOWED VERY LIMITED ACCESS THROUGH ^{the} THAT NARROW ALLEYWAY. MUSLIMS WHO CONTROLLED ~~THE~~ THE CITY AND THE JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUGHT OVER THE RIGHT OF JEWS TO COME TO THE WALL. THIS LASTED WELL INTO THE 20th CENTURY. AT LEAST A DOZEN INTERNATIONAL COMMISSIONS WERE FORMED DURING THE FIRST 30 YEARS OF THIS CENTURY TO TRY TO DEAL WITH THE ISSUE OF THE JEWS & THE WESTERN WALL.

DIPLOMATS FROM NEUTRAL COUNTRIES --SWEDEN, FRANCE, THE UNITED STATES--MET SOLEMNLY FOR DAYS ON END ~~■~~ TRYING TO DECIDE WHETHER A JEW COULD OR COULD NOT BRING A SACRED TORAH TO THE WALL ON YOM KIPPUR, WHETHER JEWS WERE ALLOWED TO TOUCH THE WALL, ~~WHICH ALL AGREED WAS ARAB PROPERTY~~, OR WHETHER THEY COULD BY ANCIENT RIGHT COME INTO THE COURTYARD IN FRONT OF THE WALL.

SOMEHOW THE WALL ~~HAD~~^S BEC^AOME A SYMBOL OF THE ~~RENEWAL~~ RESTORATION OF JERUSALEM--THE SYMBOL THAT SAID THAT NO MODERN ROME COULD DESTROY ISRAEL. LEGENDS HAD GROWN UP THAT ROMAN CONQUERORS IN THE YEAR 70 HAD BEEN ABLE TO PULL DOWN EVERY ^{TEMPLE} WALL ~~IN JERUSALEM~~ BUT THIS ONE, WHICH RESISTED ON ITS OWN AND WAS, THEREFORE, LEFT STANDING. IT BECAME PROOF THAT GOD STOOD BY HIS CITY AND PROTECTED HIS TEMPLE --AND THAT HE WOULD IN TIME REBUILD HIS SHRINE.

~~NEAT~~
Jerusalem -29-

ACTUALLY, THE ROMANS LEFT THE WESTERN WALL FOR A VERY PRACTICAL REASON. ~~THE~~ IT WAS A RETAINING WALL, BUILT BY HEROD IN ORDER TO ENLARGE THE PLAZA AT THE TOP OF THE TEMPLE MOUNT. ~~THE~~ ROMANS WANTED TO KEEP THE PLAZA AND TO KEEP THE WALL THAT HELD UP THE HILLSIDE. THE WALL ITSELF HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE BUILDINGS OR FABRIC OF THE TEMPLE.

WHATEVER THE ~~ORIGINAL PRACTICAL~~ ^{REAL} REASON ~~THAT~~ THE WALL SURVIVED, MEDIEVAL LEGEND HAD IT THAT GOD ^{had} PROTECTED THIS WALL--INDEED, THAT HE WAITED BEHIND THE WALL TO HEAR YOUR PRAYERS. PRAYERS RECITED THERE WOULD BE HEARD & ANSWERED. THE CUSTOM GREW OF WRITING LITTLE KVITTEL, PRAYER PETITIONS, AND STICKING THEM INTO THE CREVICES OF THE WALL.

THIS PIOUS LEGEND OF GOD WAITING
PATIENTLY BEHIND THE WALL IS BASED ON
A ~~THIS~~ LOVELY TEXT FROM THE SONG OF SONGS.

^{which} ~~it~~ BESPEAKS THE CERTAINTY THAT GOD HEARS
YOUR PRAYERS, THAT GOD WAITS BEHIND THE
WALL FOR ~~ISRAEL'S~~ ISRAEL'S REPENTANCE, FOR THE
TIME WHEN HE COULD SEND THE MESSIAH:

"WAIT MY BELOVED, THERE HE COMES,
DIPPING OVER THE MOUNTAINS,

BOUNDING OVER THE HILLS,

THERE HE STANDS BEHIND THE WALL.

MY BELOVED SPOKE: HE SAID,

MY FAIR ONE, COME AWAY, FOR THOUGH

THE WINTER HAS PASSED, THE RAINS

ARE OVER & GONE, BLOSSOMS ARE

AGAIN ABROAD IN THE LAND."

THERE IS A CITY WE KNOW, WHICH IS BELOW, AND
THE CITIES WE DO NOT KNOW, THE CITY WHICH
IS IN THE FUTURE AND IN HEAVEN. ^{The city} WHICH IS THE
VERY MODEL OF WHAT A GREAT CITY CAN BE.

JERUSALEM IS THE ONE OF THE FOUR ANCIENT CITIES WHOSE HOLINESS REMAINS INTEGRAL TO JEWISH LIFE TODAY. MORE THAN ANY OTHER FACTOR, IT IS THE WALL THAT WILL PREVENT THE CITY OF JERUSALEM FROM EVER BEING RE-DIVIDED. THE WALL SPEAKS OF THE PAST AND, MORE IMPORTANT, IT SPEAKS OF THE FUTURE. IT SPEAKS OF ALL THE IMMEMORIAL HOPE OF THE JEWISH NATION. IT SPEAKS TO THE SECULAR JEW IN ONE WAY, TO RELIGIOUS JEWS IN ANOTHER. TO ALL JEWS IT BEARS A COMFORTING MESSAGE.

THERE IS HOLINESS TO THE EAST OF JERUSALEM AND A HOLINESS TO THE WEST OF JERUSALEM, AND A HOLINESS ABOVE JERUSALEM. JERUSALEM HAS ITS HEAVENLY COUNTERPART. THERE IS A CITY WE KNOW, WHICH IS BELOW, AND THE CITIES WE DO NOT KNOW, THE CITY WHICH IS IN THE FUTURE AND IN HEAVEN. ^{The city} WHICH IS THE VERY MODEL OF WHAT A GREAT CITY CAN BE.

WHENEVER JERUSALEM HAS BEEN IN JEWISH HANDS, JEWS HAVE TRIED TO ESTABLISH RULES FOR THE CITY WHICH WOULD, IN FACT, MAKE IT A MODEL CITY. THE TALMUD CONTAINS MANY OF THESE RULES. MANY OTHERS GO BACK AS FAR AS THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS. THEIR PURPOSE IS TO DISTINGUISH JERUSALEM FROM ALL OTHER ANCIENT CITIES:

THERE WOULD BE NO DUNG HEAPS IN ~~JERUSALEM~~ JERUSALEM. ANCIENT CITIES HAD GREAT DUNG HEAPS & WHEREVER THEY WERE, THERE VERMIN & INSECTS MULTIPLIED. GARBAGE WAS TO BE COLLECTED IN JERUSALEM EVERY DAY.

THERE WOULD BE NO KILNS IN JERUSALEM AND NO FURNACES. NO SMOKE WOULD POLLUTE THE AIR.

A CORPSE IS NOT ALLOWED TO REMAIN IN JERUSALEM OVERNIGHT.

THE STREETS OF JERUSALEM ARE NOT TO HAVE BALCONIES BUILT OVER THEM, SO THAT CITIZENS COULD NOT, AS THEY DID IN OTHER ANCIENT CITIES, SIMPLY PITCH THEIR DIRTY WATER & GARBAGE OUT ONTO THE STREETS.

THERE WERE TO BE NO ORCHARDS OR GARDENS OR CHICKEN COOPS IN JERUSALEM-- A STRANGE RULE AT FIRST READING, BUT REMEMBER THAT GARDENS & ORCHARDS REQUIRE FERTILIZER--DUNG--AND THAT CHICKENS ARE NOISY.

JERUSALEM SHOULD BE, IN SHORT, A MODEL OF GRACIOUS LIFE ON EARTH.

JERUSALEM TO THIS DAY REMAINS A REMARKABLY CLEAN CITY. TEDDY KOLLEK'S BEAUTIFICATION PLANS ARE IN AN OLD & HONORABLE TRADITION.

THE MIDDLE EAST IS HARD TO TELL. IT CERTAINLY MEANS THAT JERUSALEM MUST REMAIN UNITED.

WHEN YOU WENT TO JERUSALEM, YOU WENT UP, you YOU MADE ALIYAH. YOU SANG ONE OF THE PILGRIM'S SONGS OF ASCENT. JERUSALEM IS ON THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN, THE HIGHEST PLACE ON EARTH, CLOSEST TO HEAVEN--THE PLACE, THEREFORE, WHERE PRAYERS ARE MOST LIKELY TO BE HEARD.

THE HOLINESS OF JERUSALEM TO THE MAJOR WESTERN FAITHS MAKES POLITICAL SOLUTIONS HARD TO COME BY. WHAT SHOULD JEWS & CHRISTIANS & MUSLIMS GIVE UP? IT IS TO THE JEWS THE CITY OF GOD. IT IS TO THE MUSLIM AL KUTS, THE HOLY PLACE. IT IS TO CHRISTIANS THE PLACE ~~WHERE~~ WHERE JESUS WALKED AND DIED, THE PLACE OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE. WHAT THIS MEANS FOR THE FUTURE OF ~~JERUSALEM~~ THE MIDDLE EAST IS HARD TO TELL. IT CERTAINLY MEANS THAT JERUSALEM MUST REMAIN UNITED. THAT MOST OF THE WORLD HAS YET TO LEARN.

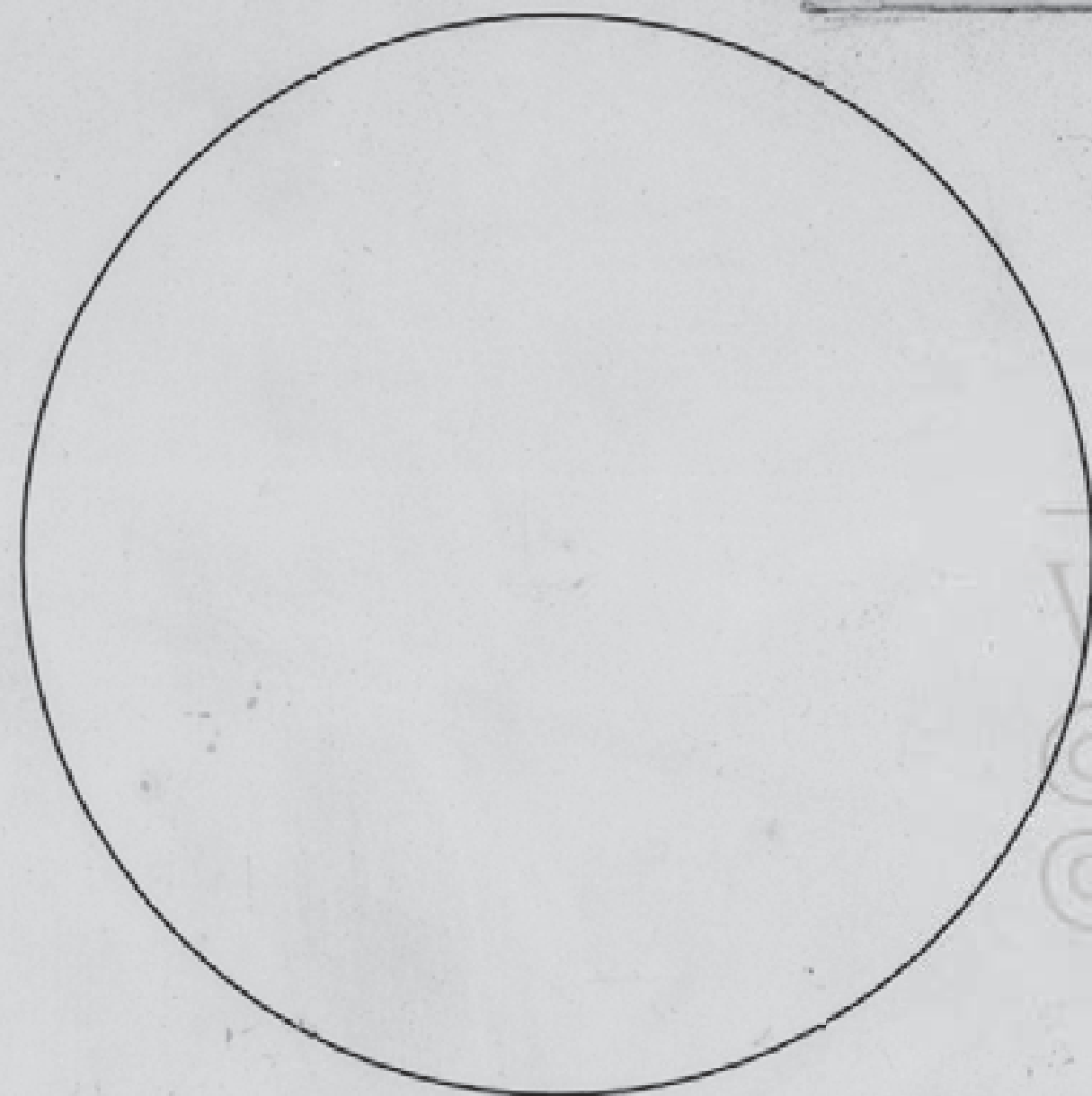
SINCE THE RISE OF CHRISTIANITY AND THEN OF ISLAM, WHENEVER EITHER CHRISTIANS OR ~~CHRISTIANS~~ MUSLIMS HAVE HAD THE POWER TO DO SO, THEY HAVE LOCKED JEWS AND EACH OTHER AWAY FROM EVERYTHING SACRED TO THEM. THAT IS NOT A CONTROL THAT JEWS WILL EVER LIKELY GIVE BACK TO OTHERS, NOR ARE JEWS LIKELY TO RELAX JEWISH SOVEREIGNTY. WHEN JEWS CONTROL JERUSALEM, NON-JEWS ARE WELCOME THERE. WHEN CHRISTIANS & MUSLIMS CONTROLLED JERUSALEM, LIFE WAS MADE VERY DIFFICULT FOR JEWS.

SINCE 1967 THE SHRINES OF MUSLIMS & CHRISTIANS HAVE BEEN PROTECTED, INVIOLEATE AND OPEN. ^{JEWS ARE} ~~ARE JEWS~~ THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO HAVE PROTECTED THE FAITHS OF THOSE WHO BELIEVE OTHER THAN WE DO--AND TO RECOGNIZE THAT HOLINESS CAN BE SHARED EVEN THOUGH IT OPERATES IN DIFFERENT WAYS. THIS IS ONE OF THE CONSIDERATIONS WHICH THE JEW KNOWS DEEP IN HIS HEART AND THAT MOST OF THE WORLD HAS YET TO LEARN.

**CONTINUED ON
NEXT ROLL**



THE WESTERN RESERVE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Cleveland, Ohio 44106



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SHOULD MEASURE .25" AT REDUCTION

REDUCTION RATIO:

REDUCTION
RATIO 13X