

The Modern State of Israel: Is Redemption Possible Through a Natural Process?

Source Materials
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והקב"ה מורייד אומות העולם לניגנים, לכך נאמר ימשו כל עובדי פסל וגוי (תהלים צז ז). והיה בכל הארץ נאום ה' פי שניים בה יכתרת (וינעו) [ינעו] והשלישית יותר בה (וכירה ג' ח), אלא ישראלי שהם משילושתו של עולם בני שלשת אבות, ד"א והשלישית יותר בה] **שאין מתישבען** בארצם אלא בוגאליה של לישית, גואלה ראשונה זו גואלת מצרים, שנייה זו גואלת עזרא, שלישית אין לה הפסק.

(בג)

Ramban בחקותי

(בג)

ולקרא פרק כ' לב) ושםמו עליה אויביכם, היא בשורה טובה מבורת בכל הגלויות שאין ארצנו מקבלת את אויבינו, וגם זו ראייה גוזלה והבטחה לנו, כי לא תמצא בכל היישוב ארץ אשר היא טובה ורוחבה ואשר היתה נושבת מעולם והיא חרבה כמוותה, כי מאז יצאנו ממנה לא קבלה אומה ולשון, ומלים מושתדים להושיבה ואין לאל זעם.

Similarly, that which He stated here, and your enemies that shall dwell therein shall be desolate in it¹³⁷ constitutes a good tiding, proclaiming that during all our exiles, our Land will not accept our enemies. This also is a great proof and assurance to us, for in the whole inhabited part of the world one cannot find such a *good and large Land*¹³⁸ which was always lived in and yet is as ruined as it is [today].¹³⁹ for since the time that we left it, it has not accepted any nation or people, and they all try to settle it, but to no avail.¹⁴⁰

Sanhedrin 98a

(בג)

— אין לך קץ מוגלה מזה — זאCKER רבוי אמר And R' Abba said: There is no clearer indication of the "End" than this, ... אמרתני רבי זעירא לך קץ מוגלה מזה ור' רבוי אמר שזאcker — as it is stated: ... אונטן רבי זעירא לך קץ מוגלה מזה ... But you, O mountains of Israel, you shall shoot forth your branches and bear your fruit for My people Israel, etc. /when they are about to come/.¹⁴¹ R' Elazar says: There is also no clearer indication of the "End" than this,¹⁴² — שזאcker says: There is also no clearer indication of the "End" than this,¹⁴³ as it is stated: ... כי לפני ימי סיסוס (אולין) (בג) שבר אחים לא היתה ... For before those days, there was no wage for man and no wage for animals, ... שבר הגדודים קחנה ... ולוינא ולבא אין שלום ... ופָרְעֹמֶר ... — and to him that leaves or enters there was no peace from the adversary.¹⁴⁴

לט"ז

מוגלה מזה - כשהתנו הארץ ישראל פריה בעין יפה אז יקרב הקץ, ואין לך קץ מוגלה יותר.

(בג)

Yermeyahu Chapter 30

ז' כי אעללה ארכה לך ומפעתיך ארפאך נאם-ירעה כי נזנחה קראו לך ציון היא דריש אין לה. (ז') כה | אמר יתולה הנני-שב שמנת אתיי יעקוב ומשכנתיו אלחוט וונבנתה עיר על-תלה וארמן על-משפטו ישב **ט** ויצא מהם הוצאה וקול משתקים וחרבותים ולא ימיטו והכבדים ולא יצערו כ והי בני בקדם ועצמות לפניהם וכפודם ופקודתי על כל-לחציו כה ותלה אדיחו מטבחו ומשלו מקרבו יצא והקברתיו ונגע אליו כי מי הוא זה ערבות את-לט לנטת אליו נאם-ירעה כב ויהיתם לי לעם ואנכי אותה לכם לאלהים:

17. For I will restore health to you, and I will heal your wounds, says the Lord; because they called you an outcast, saying, This is Zion, for whom no man cares.¹⁴⁵ Thus says the Lord; Behold, I will bring back the captivity of Jacob's tents, and have mercy on his dwelling places; and the city shall be build upon her own mound, and the palace shall stand where it used to be.¹⁴⁶ And out of them shall proceed thanksgiving and the voice of those who make merry; and I will multiply them, and they shall not be few; I will also glorify them, and they shall not be small. 20. Their children also shall be as before, and their congregation shall be established before me, and I will punish all who oppress them. 21. And their nobles shall be of themselves, and their governor shall proceed from their midst; and I will cause him

רבי חייא רבא ורבי שמעון בן חלפთא היו מהילכין בהדא בקעת ארבל בקמיצתה וראו אילת השחר שבקבע אוריה אמר רבי חייא רבה לר' שמעון בן חלפთא בירמי כך היא גואלתו של יש' בתקיילה סימאה קימאה כל מה שהוא הולכת היא רבה והולכת

The Gemara discusses a verse that refers to the redemption –
הַיְלָדֶת בְּעֵת תִּשְׁאַל לִפְנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ וְאַתָּה תִּשְׁאַל
I, HASHEM, in its time I will hasten it (Isaiah 60:22);

— רבי יהושע בן לוי אמר — R' Alexandri said: — אCKER רבי אלכסנדרי
בחדב עכחה R' Yehoshua ben Levi noted a contradiction:
— On the one hand it is written: *in its time*, which implies that
the redemption will occur in its preordained time. בחדב עכחה
— But on the other hand it is written: *I will hasten it*,
which implies that God will bring the redemption before its
preordained time! R' Yehoshua ben Levi resolved this contradic-
tion as follows: *lf the Jews are deserving, I
will hasten it. If they are not deserving, the*

Sanhedrin 98a

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Ramban Parshat Ha'Azinu 32:40

זהה דבר בחור כי על הగולה העתידה יבטיח, כי במבנה בית שני לא הרניינו גוים עמו, רק לעגו עליהם (נחמהה ג' לד) מה היהודים האמללים עשוים, והיו גזולייהם עבדים בהיכל מלך בבל וכולם משועבדים לו, ובמים הרים לא השיב נקס לצריו ולא כפר אדמתו עמו:
והנה אין בשירה הזאת תנאי בתשובה ובעמלה, רק היא שטר עדות שנעשה הרעות ונכל, ושוא יתברך יעשה בנו במצוות חימתה, אבל לא ישיבת זכרנו, יישוב ויתנחים ויפרע מן האויבים בחרבם רकשה והגדרה וחזקה, וכיכפר על חטאינו למען שמו.
אם כן, השירה הזאת הבטחה מפוארת בנאولة העתידה על כrhoן של מניין.

Ohr ha'Chaydm
1696-1743

מבחן (תבונת שאלות ב)

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ספר מלכים ב פרק ח Melachim ב פרק ח

ג ארבעה אנשים היו מցיעים פותח השער ויאמרו איש אל-רעוז מה אנחנו ישבים פה עד-מתנו ד אם-אמרנו נבוא העיר והריבע בעיר ומתנו שם ואמ-ישבנו פה ומתנו עתה לנו נופלה אל-מתנה ארים אם-ימינו נחיה ואם-ימיתנו נמתנו ה ניקומו בשוף למועד אל-מתנה ארים ויבא צד-קצת ממנה ארם והזאת אין-שם איש וואדי השמייע את-מנה ארים קול

ספר מלכים ב פרק יד Melachim ב פרק יד

כג בשנת חמש-עשרה שנה לאמצינו בן-יעש מלך יהודה מלך ירבעם בן-יעש מלך-ישראל בשמרון ארבעים ואחת שנה כד ויעש הרע בעני יהוה לא סר מקל-חטאות ירבעם בן-יעש אשר הפטיא את-ישראל כה והוא השיב את-נובל ישראל מלובא חמת עד-ים החרבה כדבר יהוה אלהי ישראל אשר דבר ביד-עבוז יונה בן-אמפי הגביה אשר מגת החפרכו כי-ראה יהוה את-אני ישראל מריה פאד ואפס עזוב ואפס יושיעם ביד-ירבעם לישראלכו ולא-דבר יהוה למחות את-שם ישראל מתחת השמים יושיעם ביד-ירבעם בן-יעש.

א

גאולת ישראל ומשיח זדקו אשר אנחנו חוכם לו כל יום - אל יחשובי החשוב כי פתאום ירד ה' לתברך שמו שלמים ארץ, כאמור לעמו: צאן, או ישלח משיחו בהתאם מן השם לתקוע בשופר גדול על מדינת ישראל, ועשה לה [לירושלים] חומת אש סביב, כאשר תבוחה לנו על ידי עבדיו הנבאים. לא כן / אדוני / {הקורא המשיכו!} וחזי כל הייעודים / תקדים / תקינו באחרית הימים בשלימות הנאולה, אך לא במונתה נלך ולא בחיפזון יום אחד, רק [= אלא] מעט מעט תבוא גאולת ישראל, לאט לאט תצמיח קון ישועה, עד ישראל יעשה חיל ישנה [= ישנא] מאד באחריתו, בקיום כל הייעודים והבטחות של הנביאים הקדושים, כאשר אברור בעזרת ה' מן הנבאים ■ ■ ■ מון המושכל.

ראשית הנאולה תחיה על ידי סיבת
טבעית מבני אדם, ועל ידי רצון
המלחויות {לקבץ מעת מני} פורוי
ישראל לאדמות חדש, כמו שתכטב
הרוד"ק בתהילים, במחמור 'הלי נפשי'
(קמ"ז), על פסוק 'שאין לו תשועה',
זה לשונו: "אם לה' בלבד התשועה
הוא יסובבنا על יד בני אדם, כמו שישיב
(תשועת) גנות בבל על ידי מושך, וכן
עתה יסובב גאולת ישראל (על יד) מלכי

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R. Tzvi Hirsch Kulischer

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Talmud - Mas. Sukkah 52a

Our Rabbis taught, The Holy One, blessed be He, will say to the Messiah, the son of David (May he reveal himself speedily in our days!), Ask of me anything, and I will give it to thee, as it is said, I will tell of the decree etc. this day have I begotten thee, ask of me and I will give the nations for thy inheritance. But when he will see that the Messiah the son of Joseph is slain, he will say to Him, Lord of the Universe, I ask of Thee only the gift of life. As to life, He would answer him, Your father David has already prophesied this concerning you, as it is said, He asked life of thee, thou gavest it him, [even length of days for ever and ever].

ישעיהו פרק נז

(יא) עניה סורה לא נחמה הנה אני מרביץ בפק אבןיך ויסתתק בسفرיהם: (יב) ושמתי כרך שמתתק ושריך לאבני אקדח וכל גובלך לאבני חוף:

בבא בתרא דף עה Baba Batra

+ישעיה נד+ ושמתי ככך שמשותך - א"ר שמואל בר נחמני: פליני תמי מלacci ברקיעא, גבריאל ומיכאל, ואמרי לה: תמי אמרואי במערבא, ומאן איננו? יהודה וחוקיה בני רבי חייא, חד אמר שותם, וחדר אמר ישפה, אמר לחו הקב"ה: להז כדין וכדין.

שניהם דיני פרק שלשה עשר כתובות קיא

ԳԵՐԱԿԱՆ ԱԽՏԱ ՀԱՅՈՒԹՅԱՆ ՎԵՐԱԿՐՈՆԻ ԱՐԴՅՈՒՆՈՒԹՅՈՒՆՆԵՐ

אלו.

או לאו. וו רעלן לא צלאה טרא טרא אנד גאנט זאַל גאנט זאַל

卷之四

ବୁଦ୍ଧିମତ୍ତା କରିବାରେ ଏହାରେ ପରିଚାଳନା କରିବାରେ ଏହାରେ ପରିଚାଳନା କରିବାରେ

ଏହି କାଳେ ଆମ ଏହି କାଳେ କିମ୍ବା ଏହି କାଳେ କିମ୍ବା ଏହି କାଳେ

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ט.ט. ט.ט.

卷之三

ՀԱՅ ԱՆԴ ԿՈՎԱ ԵՐԵՎԱՆԻ ՏԵՂՄԱՆԻ ԽՈՎ

ପ୍ରକାଶକ ମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ପାତ୍ର

שוו מהומות געלו לארץ.

לְאַתָּה מִתְּבָנָה אֶת־מִזְבֵּחַ הַזֶּה וְעַל־כֵּן

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16

THE CULTURE OF

ପାତ୍ରଙ୍କିର ଜୀବ ଦୟା ନାହିଁ ଏହାର ମହା ପାତ୍ରଙ୍କିର
ମହା ଦୟା ଏହାର ମହା ପାତ୍ରଙ୍କିର ଜୀବ ଦୟା

ଶ୍ରୀ ପାତ୍ରକାଳୀ

ପ୍ରାଚୀକ ପାଦମଣି ପାଦମଣି ପାଦମଣି ପାଦମଣି
ପାଦମଣି ପାଦମଣି ପାଦମଣି ପାଦମଣି ପାଦମଣି

କାଳେ ପରିମାଣ କରିଲୁ ଏହାରେ କାହାରେ କାହାରେ କାହାରେ

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stilled, her dreams, extinguished. The maiden refused to descend from her bed. She did not open the door of the tent to her some beloved. A cruel madness swept her into an abyss of oblivion and indifference. The maiden proved stubborn and lazy and rained down a multitude of excuses and rationalizations to account for her peculiar behavior: "I have put off my coat; how shall I put it on? I have washed my feet; how shall I soil them?" (Song of Songs 5:3). The beloved knocked again and again, and the more insistent his knocks, the louder they grew, the more her icy, defiling madness increased in intensity. As the whispered entreaties of the beloved pierced the silence of the night, the heart of his darling became harder and harder—like stone. The beloved continued to knock, pleading patiently, and together with his knocks the clock sounded the minutes and hours. The maiden paid no heed to the voice of her beloved; the door to her tent remained shut up tight. The moment was lost; and the vision of an exalted life faded away. It is true that after a brief delay the maiden awoke from her slumber and, confused and startled, leapt from her bed to welcome her beloved: "I rose up to open to my beloved" (Song of Songs 5:5); but she arose too late. Her beloved had stopped knocking and vanished into the darkness of the night—"My beloved had turned away and gone" (Song of Songs 5:6). Her life's joy was fled; her existence—a desolate wilderness, an empty waste. The saga of her passionate quest began anew. She is still wandering amidst the shepherds' tents—searching for her beloved.

for the Beloved—in that very night the Beloved appeared. "God who conceals Himself in His dazzling hiddleness" suddenly manifested Himself and began to knock at the tent of His despondent and disconsolate love, twisting convulsively on her bed, suffering the pains of hell. As a result of the knocks on the door of the maiden, wrapped in mourning, the State of Israel was born!

How many times did the Beloved knock on the door of the tent of His love? It appears to me that we can count at least six knocks.

First, the knock of the Beloved was heard in the political arena. No one can deny that from the standpoint of international relations, the establishment of the State of Israel, in a political sense, was an almost supernatural occurrence. Both Russia and the Western countries jointly supported the idea of the establishment of the State. This was perhaps the only proposal where East and West were united. I am inclined to believe that the United Nations organization was created specifically for this purpose—in order to carry out the mission which divine providence had set for it. It seems to me that one cannot point to any other concrete achievement on the part of the U.N. Our sages, of blessed memory, already expressed the view that at times "rain" descends "for a single person," or for a single blade of grass. I do not know whom the journalists, with their eyes of flesh and blood, saw sitting in the chairman's seat during that fateful session when the General Assembly decided in favor of the establishment of the State. However, someone who at that time observed matters well with his spiritual eye could have sensed the presence of the true chairman who presided over the discussion—i.e., the Beloved! It was He who knocked with His gavel on the podium. Do we not interpret the verse "That night the sleep of the king fled" (Esther 6:1) as referring to "the sleep of the King of the universe" (Megillah 15b). Were it Ahasuerus alone who could not sleep, it would have been of no consequence, and the salvation of Israel would not have blossomed forth on that night. However, if it is the King of the universe who, as it were, does not slumber, then the redemptron will be born. If it had been John Doe who called the session of the United Nations to order, the State of Israel would never

SIX KNOCKS

Eight years ago, in the midst of a night of terror filled with the horrors of Maidanek, Treblinka, and Buchenwald, in a night of gas chambers and crematoria, in a night of absolute divine self-concealment (*hster panim mshlat*), in a night ruled by the satan of doubt and apostasy which sought to sweep the maiden from her house into the Christian church, in a night of continuous searching, of questioning

have come into being—but if the Beloved knocked on the chair-man's podium, then the miracle occurred. It is the voice of my Beloved that knocketh!

Second, the knocking of the Beloved could be heard on the battlefield. The small Israel Defense Forces defeated the mighty armies of the Arab countries. The miracle of “the many in the hands of the few” took place before our very eyes. And an even greater miracle occurred at that time. God hardened the heart of Ishmael and enjoined him to do battle against the State of Israel. Had the Arabs not declared war against the State, and, instead, agreed to the Partition Plan, the State of Israel would have lacked Jerusalem, a large part of the Galilee, and several areas of the Negev. Had Pharaoh, thousands of years ago, allowed the Israelites to depart from Egypt immediately, in accordance with Moses' original request, Moses would have been bound to keep his promise and would have had to return after three days. However, Pharaoh hardened his heart and did not hearken to Moses. The Almighty took the Israelites out of Egypt with a strong hand and an outstretched arm. Consequently, Moses' pledge that they would return to Egypt was no longer binding. A bilateral contract cannot bind one party if the other party refuses to fulfill his obligations. It is the voice of my Beloved that knocketh!

Third, the Beloved began to knock as well on the door of the theological tent, and it may very well be that this is the strongest knock of all. I have often emphasized, when speaking of the land of Israel, that all the claims of Christian theologians that God-deprived the Jewish people of its rights in the land of Israel, and that all the biblical promises regarding Zion and Jerusalem refer, in an allegorical sense, to Christianity and the Christian church, have been publicly refuted by the establishment of the State of Israel and have been exposed as falsehoods, lacking all validity. It requires a comprehensive knowledge of Christian theological literature, from Justin Martyr down to contemporary theologians, to properly appreciate the great miracle which so clearly invalidated this central premise of Christian theology. We ought to take note of the “learned” explanation of our

Secretary of State, Mr. [John Foster] Dulles, who also serves as an elder in the Episcopal Church, at a meeting of a Senate committee, that the Arabs hate the Jews because the Jews killed the founder of their religion. This “explanation” possesses profound, hidden symbolic significance. I am not a psychologist and certainly not a psychoanalyst; however, I do have some acquaintance with the Talmud, and I remember well what our sages said about Balaam: “From his blessing . . . you may learn what was in his heart” (Sanhedrin 105b; cf. Rashi on Numbers 24:6). When a person speaks at length, the truth may, at times, slip out. When one of the senators asked the Secretary of State: “Why do the Arabs hate the Jews?” he really wanted to reply: “I myself, as a Christian, don't bear any great love for them, for they killed our Messiah and, as a result, lost their share in the inheritance of Abraham.” However, an angel intervened or a bit was placed in the Secretary's mouth (as happened to Balaam, according to the sages' interpretation of the verse “and He put a word into his mouth” [Numbers 23:16; cf. Rashi ad loc. and Sanhedrin 105b]), and instead of uttering the words “our Messiah” and “I myself,” alternative terms slipped out of his mouth, and he said “the Arabs” and “Muhammed.” In his subconscious he is afraid of the “terrible” fact that the Jewish people rule over Zion and Jerusalem. I find special pleasure in reading articles about the State of Israel in Catholic and Protestant newspapers. Against their will they have to use the name “Israel” when they report the news about Zion and Jerusalem which are now in our hands. I always derive a particular sense of satisfaction from reading in a newspaper that the response of the State of Israel is not as yet known, since today is the Sabbath and the offices of the ministries are closed, or from reading a news release from the United Press on Passover eve that “the Jews will sit down tonight at the Seder table confident that the miracles of Egypt will recur today.” It is the voice of my Beloved that knocketh!

Fourth, the Beloved is knocking in the hearts of the perplexed and assimilated youths. The era of self-concealment (*hastarat panim*) at the beginning of the 1940s resulted in great confusion among the

Jewish masses and, in particular, among the Jewish youth. Assimilation grew and became more rampant, and the impulse to flee from Judaism and from the Jewish people reached a new height. Fear, despair, and sheer ignorance caused many to spurn the Jewish community and board the ship "to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord" (Jonah 1:3). A raging, seemingly uncontrollable, torrent threatened to destroy us. Suddenly, the Beloved began to knock on the doors of the hearts of the perplexed, and *His knock, the rise of the State of Israel*, at the very least slowed the process of flight. Many of those who, in the past, were alienated from the Jewish people are now tied to the Jewish state by a sense of pride in its outstanding achievements. Many American Jews who had been semi-, demi-, or hemi-assimilated are now filled with fear and concern about the crisis overtaking the State of Israel, and they pray for its security and welfare, even though they are still far from being completely committed to it. Even those who are opposed to the State of Israel—and there are such Jews—are compelled to defend themselves, without letup, against the strange charge of dual loyalty, and they loudly proclaim, day in day out, that they have no share in the Holy Land. It is good for a Jew not to be able to hide from his Jewishness, but to be compelled to keep on answering the question "Who art thou? and what is thine occupation?" (cf. Jonah 1:8), even if, overcome by cowardice, he lacks the strength and courage to answer proudly: "I am a Hebrew; and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven" (Jonah 1:9). This persistent question, "Who art thou?" binds him to the Jewish people. The very fact that people are always talking about Israel serves to remind the Jew in flight that he cannot run away from the Jewish community with which he has been intertwined from birth. Wherever we turn we encounter the word "Israel"; whether we listen to the radio, read the newspaper, participate in symposia about current affairs, we find the question of Israel always being publicly discussed.

This fact is of particular importance for Jews who are afflicted with self-hatred and wish to escape from Judaism and flee for their lives. They, like Jonah, seek to hide in the innermost part of the ship

and wish to slumber, but the shipmaster does not allow them to ignore their fate. The shadow of Israel pursues them unceasingly. Buried, hidden thoughts and paradoxical reflections emerge from the depths of the souls of even the most avowed assimilationists. And once a Jew begins to think and contemplate, once his sleep is disturbed—who knows where his thoughts will take him, what form of expression his doubts and queries will assume? It is the voice of my Beloved that knocketh!

The fifth knock of the Beloved is perhaps the most important of all. For the first time in the history of our exile, divine providence has surprised our enemies with the sensational discovery that *Jewish blood is not free for the taking, is not hefker!* If anti-Semites wish to describe this phenomenon as "an eye for an eye," so be it; we will agree with them. If we wish to heroically defend our national-historical existence, we must, at times, interpret the verse "an eye for an eye" (Exodus 21:24) literally. How many eyes did we lose during the course of our bitter exile because we did *not* return blow for blow. The time has come for us to fulfill the law of "an eye for an eye" in its plain, simple sense. I am certain that everyone who knows me knows that I am a believer in the Oral Law and, consequently, that I do not doubt that the verse refers to monetary compensation, in accordance with the halakhic interpretation. However, with regard to Nasser or the Mufti I would demand that we interpret the phrase "an eye for an eye" in a strictly literal sense—as referring to the removal of the concrete, actual eye. Pay no attention to the fine phrases of well-known Jewish assimilationists or socialists, who continue to adhere to their outworn ideologies and think that they are living in the Bialystok, Minsk, or Brisk of 1905, and who publicly proclaim that it is forbidden for Jews to take revenge at any time, any place, and under all circumstances. Vanity of vanities! Revenge is forbidden when it serves no purpose. However, if by taking revenge we raise ourselves up to the plane of self-defense, then it becomes the elementary right of man qua man to avenge the wrongs inflicted upon him.

The Torah has always taught us that a person is permitted,

indeed, that it is his sacred obligation, to defend himself. The Biblical law about the thief breaking into a house (*Exodus 22:1-2*) indicates that it is a firmly fixed halakhic principle that a person is permitted to defend not only his life but also his property? If the thief who comes to steal the money of the householder is capable of murdering the householder if he does not accede to his demands, then the householder is permitted to rise up against the lawbreaker and kill him. It is not for naught that the Torah informs us that its two great heroes, Abraham and Moses, both took up arms in order to defend their brethren—“and he [Abraham] armed his trained men” (*Genesis 14:14* and cf. *Rashi ad loc.*); “and he [Moses] smote the Egyptian” (*Exodus 2:12*). Such behavior does not contradict the principles of mercy and lovingkindness. On the contrary, a passive attitude, renouncing self-defense, is likely, at times, to give rise to the worst types of cruelty. “And I will get Me honor through Pharaoh and through all his hosts; and the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord” (*Exodus 14:4*). God did not seek honor and fame; He wanted Pharaoh, Moses’ contemporary, to know that he would have to pay a high price for the decree, “Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river” (*Exodus 1:22*). And now, as well, it is God’s wish that the blood of the Jewish children who were murdered while reciting the *Shemonah Eshet* be avenged. When God smote Egypt, He wished thereby to demonstrate that Jewish blood always has claimants. Today, also, it is necessary to convince not only the current Egyptian tyrant but also the self-declared saint, Nehru, the British Foreign Office, and the “moralists” in the United Nations that Jewish blood is not ownerless. Therefore, how grotesque is the attempt to convince us that we ought to rely on the declaration of the three great powers guaranteeing the status quo. We all know from experience how much value there is to the promises of the British Foreign Office and to the “friendship” of certain well-known officials in our own State Department. And, in general, how absurd it is to demand of a people that it be completely dependent upon the good graces of others and that it relinquish the ability to defend itself. The honor of every community, like the honor of every individual,

individual, resides in the ability to defend its existence and honor. A people that cannot ensure its own freedom and security is not truly independent. The third phrase in God’s promise of redemption is: “And I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments” (*Exodus 6:7*). *Blessed be He Who has granted us life and brought us to this era when Jews have the power, with the help of God, to defend themselves!*

Let us not forget that the venom of Hitlerian anti-Semitism, which made the Jews like the fish of the sea to be preyed upon by all, still infects many in our generation who viewed the horrific spectacle of the gassing of millions with indifference, as a ordinary event not requiring a moment’s thought. The antidote to this deadly poison that envenomed minds and benumbed hearts is the readiness of the State of Israel to defend the lives of its sons, its builders. It is the voice of my Beloved that knocketh!

The sixth knock, which we must not ignore, was heard when the gates of the land were opened. A Jew who flees from a hostile country now knows that he can find a secure refuge in the land of his ancestors. This is a new phenomenon in our history. Until now, whenever Jewish communities were expelled from their lands, they had to wander in the wilderness of the nations and were not able to find shelter in another land. Because the gates were barred before exiles and wanderers, many Jewish communities were decimated. Now the situation has changed. If a particular people expels the Jewish minority from its midst, the exiles can direct their steps unto Zion, and she, like a compassionate mother, will gather in her children. We have all been witness to Oriental Jewry’s settling in the land of Israel in the past few years. Who knows what might have befallen our brethren in the lands in which they had settled had not the land of Israel brought them by boats and planes to her? Had the State of Israel arisen before Hitler’s Holocaust, hundreds of thousands of Jews might have been saved from the gas chambers and crematoria. The miracle of the State came just a bit late, and as a result of this delay thousands and tens of thousands of Jews were murdered. However, now that the era of divine self-concealment (*hester pan-*

im) is over, Jews who have been uprooted from their homes can find lodging in the Holy Land. Let us not view this matter lightly! It is the voice of my Beloved that knocketh!

THE OBLIGATION OF TORAH JEWRY TO THE LAND OF ISRAEL

What was our reaction to the voice of the Beloved that knocketh to God's bounteous kindnesses and wonders? Did we descend from our couches and immediately open the door? Or did we, like the Shulammite maiden, continue to rest and tarry rather than descend from our beds? "I have put off my coat; how shall I put it on? I have washed my feet; how shall I soil them?" (Song of Songs 5:3).

All of the trepidation and concern for the geographical integrity of the State of Israel, on the one hand, and all of our enemies' proposals that are designed to exact territorial concessions from the State of Israel, all of the brazen demands of the Arabs for boundary changes, on the other hand, are all based on one and only one fact: the Jews have not colonized the Negev and have not set up hundreds of settlements there. Were the Negev settled by tens of thousands of Jews, then not even Nasser would dream of the possibility of wresting it from the State of Israel. Desolation, from time immemorial, endangers political tranquillity. The Torah has already emphasized this truth. "Thou mayest not consume them [the nations of Canaan] quickly, lest the beasts of the field increase upon thee" (Deuteronomy 7:22). The fact that Jews conquered the Negev does not suffice; the main thing is to settle it. Maimonides, the great eagle, ruled that the first sanctification of the land, wrought by Joshua, was not permanent because it derived from military conquest, which was nullified by the invasion of the enemy, whose army was mighty and weapons many, who conquered the land and seized it from us. The second sanctification, wrought by Ezra, which derived from taking possession of the land and settling it—in accordance with the divine command—with the toil of one's hands and the sweat of one's

brow, was not nullified.⁸ The holiness grounded in settling the land—settling, plain and simple—remains in effect for its time and for eternity! We have been remiss and our guilt is great. American Jewry could certainly have accelerated the process of colonization. But why should we search out the faults of others and seek to place the blame on the shoulders of secular Jews? Let us examine our own flaws and confess our own sins. It is precisely Orthodox Jews, more than all other American Jews, who bear the burden of guilt for the slow place of conquest through taking possession. The obligation to pay close attention to the "voice of my Beloved" that knocketh and to respond to Him immediately with mighty deeds and undertakings devolves precisely upon us who are faithful to traditional Judaism. Rashi, basing himself upon the *Sifra*, in his commentary on the verse "And I will bring the land into desolation" (Leviticus 26:32) states: "This is a good dispensation for the Israelites, for the enemies will not find any gratification in their land, since it will be desolate of its inhabitants." The land of Israel cannot be built by just any people or group. Only the Jewish people possesses the capacity to transform it into a settled land and to make the desolate waste bloom. This divine promise became a miraculous fact in the history of the land of Israel during various periods. We must not forget, even for a moment, that the land of Israel drew the nations of the world—Christian and Muslim alike—to it like a magnet. The medieval Crusades were undertaken for the purpose of conquering the land of Israel and colonizing it with a Christian population. All of the efforts of the crusaders were in vain, and they did not take root in the land. Even the Muslims, who were already in the land, did not succeed in colonizing it properly. It remained a desolate waste. "And your land shall be a desolation" (Leviticus 26:33). Even later, in the modern era, when the European nations in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries settled and colonized entire continents, the land of Israel remained desolate and in a more primitive state than its neighboring Arab countries—Egypt, Syria, and Lebanon. Had the land of Israel been settled by a capable, enterprising, powerful, and cultured nation, had it been properly colonized and

developed, then our tie to it would, in the course of events, have been obliterated, and no Jewish presence would have established itself there. Strangers would have consumed its goodness and its fruit, and our rights and claims would have been completely nullified. However, the land of Israel did not betray the people of Israel; she remained faithful to them and during all those years awaited her redeemer. It stands to reason, then, that when the possibility arose for the Jewish people to return to its land, the land which had withheld its treasures from strangers and guarded them for us, Orthodox Jews would eagerly bestir themselves to perform this great and important commandment and would plunge, with joy and enthusiasm, into the midst of this holy task—the building and settling of the land. Alas, we did not act thus! When the “desolate wife,” who had awaited us with such yearning and for so long, invited us, her sons, to come and redeem her from her desolate condition, and when the Beloved, who had watched over the desolation for almost nineteen hundred years, and who had decreed that not a tree would flourish there, that no springs would fructify its ground, knocked on the doors of His love, the maiden—we religious Jews—did not rush to descend from her couch and let in the Beloved. Had we built a dense network of settlements throughout the entire length of the land, from Eilat to Dan, then our situation would be entirely different.

Let us be honest and speak openly and candidly. We are critical of certain well-known Israeli leaders because of their attitudes to traditional values and religious observances. Our complaints are valid; we have serious accusations to level against the secular leaders of the land of Israel. However, are they alone guilty, while we are as clean and pure as the ministering angels? Such an assumption is completely groundless! We could have extended our influence in shaping the spiritual image of the *Yishuv* if we had hastened to arouse ourselves from our sleep and descend to open the door for the Beloved who was knocking. I am afraid that we Orthodox Jews are, even today, still sunk in a very pleasant slumber. Had we established more religious kibbutzim, had we built more houses for reli-

gious immigrants, had we created an elaborate and extended system of schools, our situation would be entirely other than it is. Then we would not have to criticize the leaders of other movements so severely. We Orthodox Jews suffer from a unique illness which is not to be found among nonreligious Jews (with a few exceptions); we are all misers! In comparison with other American Jews, we do not excel in the attribute of *hesed*. We are content to give a few pennies, and in return for our paltry contributions we demand a hefty worldwide reward and a place at the head of the line. Therefore, our honor has declined to a new low, and we are not able to exercise the proper influence on Jewish life here and on events in the land of Israel. America, the great and the free, is a land of *tzedekah*, of charity. The American government itself, during the years 1945 to 1956, disbursed over \$55 billion in foreign aid. (The numbers are simply unimaginable.) And it is only philanthropists, who know how to give, who are accorded honor in a land which knows how to give and help on such a scale. Consequently, we Orthodox Jews in America are not entitled to any position of eminence, and such positions are occupied by others. Recently, we have become specialists in criticism and in the detection of plagues—“and the priest shall look on the plague . . . and pronounce him unclean” (*Leviticus* 13:32). This task—to search out blemishes and offer our expert opinions—we know how to do very well. However, we have overlooked one point, namely, that the priest who declares a person unclean must go outside the camp to the leper, the afflicted individual, the sufferer, in order to purify him. “And the priest shall go outside the camp . . . and the priest shall command . . .” (*Leviticus* 14:3-4). We have to build not just small, isolated corners whose influence is not discernible, but major institutions throughout the length and breadth of America and Israel. It is incumbent upon us to purify those who are “outside the camp,” those who dwell in the great camp of ignorance. For this end we require great sums; and we Orthodox Jews are very far from being generous and liberal, open-hearted and open-handed, in matters of charity. This is why our institutions, both here and in the land of Israel, are so poverty-stricken. In particular, the

religious *shvat ziyyon* (return to Zion) movement must, perforce, be content with meager sums. Because it is deprived of adequate financial means, it lacks the capacity to operate on a proper scale. Indeed, it is true: the faithful maiden is very lovely, her eyes are like doves, her face shines with grace and charm. She is much more beautiful than the nonreligious maiden. But "grace is deceitful and beauty is vain" (Proverbs 8:130) if the faithful maiden is miserly and slothful. "I have put off my coat; how shall I put it on? I have washed my feet; how shall I soil them?" (Song of Songs 5:3). If one telephones a rich Jew and asks that he contribute to a worthy cause, he replies: "I am going to Florida, and this year have decided to stay in a luxury hotel. I am, therefore, unable to give the amount requested of me."

What did the rabbi say to the King of the Khazars? "This is a justified reproach, O King of the Khazars! . . . and that which we say, 'Bow to His holy hill' (Psalms 99:9), . . . is but as the chattering of the starling and the nightingale."⁹

Can we not hear, in our own concern for the peace and security of the land of Israel today, the knocking of the Beloved pleading with His love that she let Him enter? He has already been knocking for more than eight years and still has not received a proper response; nevertheless, he continues to knock. We have been fortunate. The Beloved did not show any special regard to His own cherished darling, but He continues to favor us. On that fateful night, the maiden's Beloved knocked on the door of her tent for only a brief moment and then disappeared, while He treats us with extreme patience. It is eight years now that He has been knocking. Would that we not miss the moment!

ants with the Israelites. The first covenant He made in Egypt: "And I will take you to Me for a people, and I will be to you a God" (Exodus 6:7); the second covenant, at Mount Sinai: "And he took the book of the covenant . . . and said: 'Behold the blood of the covenant, which the Lord hath made with you in agreement with all these words'" (Exodus 24:7-8). (The third covenant, "These are the words of the covenant . . . beside the covenant which He made with them in Horeb" [Deuteronomy 28:69], is identical in content and goals with the covenant at Sinai).¹⁰ What is the nature of these two covenants? It seems to me that this question is implicitly answered at the beginning of our essay. For just as Judaism distinguishes between fate and destiny in the personal-individual realm, so it differentiates between these two ideas in the sphere of our national-historical existence. The individual is tied to his people both with the chains of fate and with the bonds of destiny. In the light of this premise, it may be stated that the covenant in Egypt was a covenant of fate, while the covenant at Sinai was a covenant of destiny.

THE COVENANT OF FATE

What is the nature of a covenant of fate? Fate in the life of a people, as in the life of an individual, signifies an existence of compulsion. A strange necessity binds the particulars into one whole. The individual, against his will, is subjected and subjugated to the national, fate-laden, reality. He cannot evade this reality and become assimilated into some other, different reality. The environment spits out the Jew who flees from the presence of the Lord, and he is bestirred from his slumber in the same manner as the prophet Jonah, who awoke upon hearing the voice of the ship's captain demanding that he identify himself in both personal and national-religious terms.

This sense of a fate-laden existence of necessity gives rise to the historical loneliness of the Jew. He is alone both in life and in death. The concept of a Jewish burial-plot emphasizes the Jew's strange isolation from the world. Let the sociologists and psycholo-

THE COVENANT AT SINAI AND THE COVENANT IN EGYPT

When we probe the nature of our historical existence we arrive at a very important insight, one that constitutes a fundamental element of our world-view. The Torah relates that God made two coven-

the Arabs are directed not just against the political sovereignty of the State of Israel but against the very existence of the *Yishuv* in the land of Israel. They wish to destroy, heaven forbid, the entire community, "both men and women, infant and suckling, ox and sheep" (Samuel 15:3). At a Mizrachi convention I cited the view expressed by my father and master [R. Moses Soloveitchik] of blessed memory that the proclamation, "The Lord will have war with Amalek from generation to generation" (Exodus 17:16) does not only translate into the communal exercise of waging obligatory war against a specific race, but includes as well the obligation to rise up as a community against any people or group that, filled with maniacal hatred, directs its enmity against Keneset Israel. When a people emblazons on its banner, "Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance" (Psalms 83:5) it becomes, thereby, Amalek.²² In the 1930s and 1940s the Nazis, with Hitler at their head, filled this role. They were the Amalekites, the standard-bearers of insane hatred and enmity during the era just past. Today their place has been taken over by the mobs of Nasser and the Mufti. If we are silent now as well, I know not the verdict that will be issued against us by the God of justice. Do not rely on the "liberal" world's sense of equity. Those same righteous liberals were around fifteen years ago, and they looked with indifference upon the extermination of millions of people; they did not even lift a finger. If, heaven forbid, yet a second spectacle of blood were to take place before their very eyes, it is likely that they would not even lose a night's sleep over it.

Let us, like Job, learn to pray on behalf of our friends. Let us feel the pain of the *Yishuv*. We must understand that *the fate of the Yishuv in the land of Israel is our fate as well*. The Arabs have declared war not only against the State of Israel but against all of Keneset Israel. They now are the leaders of the international anti-Semitic movement and are among its main financial supporters, lavishing vast sums upon it. Let us overcome that foolish and unworthy fear of "dual loyalty," that our enemies have managed to infect us with. First, we will never be able to acquit ourselves in the eyes of anti-Semites, and whatever

we do will not satisfy them. Second, as was stated above, this is not just a matter of ensuring the existence of the State but involves coming to the rescue, the physical rescue, of masses of Jews. Is it not our sacred obligation to come to their aid? Are we to be forbidden to demand that the *Yishuv* be properly defended? We find ourselves confronted with the very same type of test that confronted Job—the need to offer prayer on behalf of one's friends, prayer comprised of deeds and self-sacrifice. And in our case, *our* friends are the entire *Yishuv* in the land of Israel. We have to do but one thing—open the door to the Beloved who is knocking—and immediately all the dangers will cease.

*THE VISION OF THE RELIGIOUS
"SHIVAT ZIYYON" MOVEMENT:
ISOLATION AND SOLITUDE*

What attitude ought the religious *shvat ziyon* movement adopt vis-à-vis secular Zionism? It seems to me that political, nonreligious Zionism has committed one grave and fundamental error, an error based upon a false premise that secular Zionism introduced into the concept of the covenant in Egypt, the covenant of fate. With the establishment of the State of Israel, secular Zionism declares, we have become a people like all peoples, and the notion of "a people that dwells alone" (Numbers 23:29) has lost its validity. The extremists in the movement even wish to undermine the idea of one common fate—the fate of the camp-people—shared by the Jews in the Diaspora and the Jews in the land of Israel. This entire line of thought is not just a philosophical-historical error but also a practical mistake. Under the influence of this spirit of indiscriminate amity, this doctrine of the sameness of all peoples, the representatives of the State of Israel have oftentimes displayed an embarrassing naivete, improperly evaluated particular circumstances and situations, and failed to discern the hidden intentions of certain individuals. As a result of their childlike innocence, they trust the promises