

The Lord
Giveth . . .

The Commentator

Sponsored By Students Of Yeshiva A nd Yeshiva College

. . . The Lord
Taket h Away.

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“For thou shalt see the land from afar; but
thou shalt not go thither into the land...”

—Deuteronomy 32:52

The Commentator

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THE PRESIDENT

*"O weep for us who live to mourn
And not for him whom we have lost!
For HE has to his rest been born,
WE—in a sea of grief are tossed."*

—(Moed Katan 25 b)

Nearly a week has transpired since the passing of our president, and our thoughts are yet wholly with him.

Perhaps we are not possessed of the clarity to visualize the shape of things to come, but our limited vision permits an appreciation of the president's majestic greatness which Death, in its sullen morbidity, has all too clearly revealed.

We cannot eulogize the president, for the mouthings of man are grossly inadequate. We can only regard him as a symbol, a spirit of surging and unbounding inspiration. To this generation he is the proponent of a new age—an age in which Man is raised from the lower depths and is given the opportunity to act and live in accord with his will and *penchant*. All the eulogies of and dulcet tributes to the "intrepid commander-in-chief" and "sagacious president" in essence were indicative of one fact: the waging of war and the inauguration of domestic measures are means to his one end of the universal freedom of man.

Were we assured that the idealism of the president would pervade the minds of men in time to come, then our grief would be somewhat mitigated. If posterity will remember these words of our departed guide, then his spirit shall have transcended the borders of mortality and all terrene limitations: "We are a nation of many nationalities, many races, many religions—bound together by a single unity, the unity of freedom and equality. Whosoever seeks to set one nationality against another, seeks to degrade all nationalities. Whoever seeks to set one race against another seeks to enslave all races. Whoever seeks to set one religion against another seeks to destroy all religion. I am fighting for a free America—for a country in which *all* men and women have equal rights to liberty and justice. I am fighting as I have always fought, for the rights of the little man as well as the big man—for the weak as well as for the strong, for those who are helpless as well as for those who can help themselves."

We, as Jews, felt a singular, egregious hurt for in the president we had a champion of human rights. We do not venture to say that the solution of Jewish problems would have certainly been effectuated by the president had he been granted a longer stay. All we know is that the president had an understanding of and was sympathetic to our cause. He was the most firm crutch among the powers-that-be upon which we could lean. We can but hope that his successor will be imbued with equal understanding.

That consummate interest and understanding of our president was not the passive concern ordinarily exhibited by those men of great place. His was a sincere desire to liberate the shackled and oppressed—and the very existence of countless refugees is a living testament to his beneficence. Little wonder that so many the world over virtually worshipped him as a divinely-inspired personage, almost a Moses.

To those for whom he secured a sheltered haven, as well as to us for whom he laid the foundation of a tranquil future, he signified the flouter of the Pharaohs, the guide through the walled sea, the leader through the wilderness. And now the time had come for The Promised Land,

"And the Lord spoke unto Moses, saying, get thee up into this mountain of Abarim, unto Mount Nebo . . . and behold the land of Canaan. . .

"And Moses went up from the plains of Moab unto the mount of Nebo . . . and the Lord showed him all the land . . . And the Lord said unto him, This is the land which I swore to Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, saying, Unto thy seed will I give it; I have let thee see it with thine eyes, but thither thou shalt not go over.

"And Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the order of the Lord."

The Book Of Books

And the victory that day was turned into mourning unto
all the people

Though I would take comfort against sorrow
My heart is faint within me

Oh that my head were waters
and mine eyes a fountain of tears

Call for the mourning women that they may come!
And send for wise women that they may come!
And let them make speed and take up a wailing for us .

How are the mighty fallen in the midst of battle

How is the gold become dim

Fallen is the crown of our head

For these things do I weep

And then were ended the days of mourning

And it shall come to pass in the end of days . . . and
they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their
spears into pruning hooks.

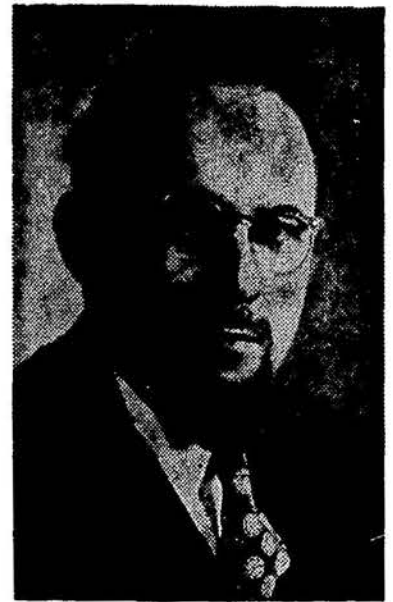
School Officials Echo Grief Of Nation At Death Of President Roosevelt

DR. SAMUEL BELKIN,
President, Yeshiva and Yeshiva College

With the death of our distinguished President, America lost its greatest leader and the World its greatest humanitarian. He was truly not only the first citizen of our republic but of the entire world. He was a staunch advocate of freedom, a warrior for the free spirit, and a champion of the religious aspiration of mankind. His magnetic and dynamic personality, his sterling character and above all his profound vision will be remembered and cherished by freedom-loving people for many centuries to come.

Our generation will be recorded in history as the most unfortunate because it produced a tyrant like Hitler, but at the same time as the most fortunate because it also produced a man like our late President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt who could meet the challenge of his time.

World Jewry with other suffering and persecuted people will mourn the loss of the most pre-eminent liberal spirit of our age—may his memory be blessed.



DR. PINCHOS CHURGIN
Dean, Teachers' Institute

The loss of President Roosevelt will be felt for long years to come. He was taken away from us at one of the most critical moments in the history of human civilization. His idealism, his vision, his courage and his faith will not be present at the time when they are most needed in the reshaping of humanity's destiny.

Roosevelt was the only leader of world stature who voiced, in times of moral turmoil and spiritual discomfiture, sentiments of humanity's most exalted passions and aspirations. He, out of all the leaders of nations, warned against the storms that were gathering to attack every noble foundation of human society. He, out

of all heads of governments, dared to remind the world of the higher principles of human freedom, justice and dignity which were in jeopardy of annihilation while national leaders of other nations were absorbed in their own narrow, selfish interests. Even while attacked by a mortal enemy, Roosevelt made the ideal of a safer, better, juster world the keystone of this bloodiest struggle among nations.

He was famed as a statesman and politician, but he conducted his great skills, not for narrow nationalistic designs, but for the attainment of an ideal of life which humanity in its deepest recesses sought to reach, but to which statesmen and politicians blocked the road. He had to mas-

ter great powers to conduct the struggle against enslavement by a brutal enemy and to reawaken humanity to its higher tasks. He succumbed. It was too great a struggle for his body. His spirit was too strong for his physical substance.

While alive he was attacked. He was suspected. He was railed. His intentions and his ideals were distorted. Life, as usually happens, darkens even the sun itself. Human emotions which form it breed a distrust of the noblest of human urge. Dead, Roosevelt's real stature will shine forth as the embodiment of a struggle for a human society decreed by G-d and proclaimed by His prophets and the hope for its final triumph.

Roosevelt's Administration Humanitarian Record

Consistently Favored Jewish National Home In Palestine

Realizing the sincere humanitarianism and love for democracy on the part of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, his sympathetic attitude and positive actions on behalf of the Jews are readily understood. The President understood that racialism and anti-Semitism must inevitably undermine the foundations of democracy and enduring peace. Therefore, throughout this past decade that has seen such an unbelievable calamity befall the Jewish people, President Roosevelt reiterated his denunciation of the Nazis for their terrible crimes against the Jews.

In November 1938, while the world still slumbered peacefully unaware of impending doom, Hitler let loose a wave of pogroms against the Jews. People were murdered, synagogues burned and stores plundered throughout the Third Reich.

Roosevelt Denounces Nazis

Without hesitation the President indicted the German Government in the sharpest of terms despite the fact that diplomatic relations were still in force.

"The news of the past few days from Germany has deeply shocked public opinion in the United States. Such news from any part of the world would inevitably produce a similar reaction among the American people in every part of the nation.

"I myself could scarcely believe that such things could occur in a twentieth-century civilization.

"With a view of gaining a first-hand picture of the situation in Germany I asked the Secretary of State to order our Ambassador in Berlin to return at once for report and consultation."

Shortly afterwards when word reached the President in the "little White House" in Warm Springs, Georgia, that the immigration quota for Jews entering Palestine would be increased, he said:

"It is reported that the number of refugees to be permitted entry into Palestine will be materially increased and in particular that many children and young people will be given refuge there.

"I have no means of knowing the accuracy of this report, but I hope that it is true."

President Praises Zionists

Throughout his years in public office President Roosevelt continuously expressed his desire to see the creation of a Jewish Homeland in Palestine. He praised the wonderful accomplishments of the Zionists and pointed out how the welfare of Arabs in Palestine was bettered. It was in October 1932 when he said:

"Out of the World War came a matter of great spiritual significance, the establishment of a Homeland for the Jewish people recognized as such by the public law of the world. In the realization of this aim the United States played a leading role.

"Jewish achievement in Palestine since the Balfour Declaration vindicates the high hope which lay behind the sponsorship of the Homeland. The Jewish development in Palestine since the

Balfour Declaration is not only a tribute to the creative powers of the Jewish people but by bringing great advancement into the sacred land has promoted the well-being of all the inhabitants thereof."

Advocates Jewish Commonwealth

In October 1944 when the eyes of American Jewry were turned towards the President asking support for their aspirations in Palestine he did not hesitate. He sent a letter to Senator Robert F. Wagner of New York asking him to express his support for a Jewish Commonwealth to the Atlantic City Convention of the Zionist Organization of America. "Dear Bob,

Knowing that you are to attend the 47th Annual Convention of the Zionist Organization of America I ask you to convey to the delegates assembled my most cordial greetings. Please express my satisfaction that in accord with traditional American policy and in keeping with the spirit of the Four Freedoms, the Democratic Party at its July convention this year included the following plank in its platform:

"We favor the opening of Palestine to unrestricted Jewish immigration and colonization, and such a policy as to result in the establishment there of a free democratic Jewish Commonwealth."

"Efforts will be made to find appropriate ways and means of effectuating this policy as soon as practicable. I know how long and ardently the Jewish people have worked and prayed for the establishment of Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth. I am convinced that the American people give their support to this aim; and if reelected I shall help to bring about its realization.

With cordial regards and best wishes,

Franklin Delano Roosevelt."

Warns Germans On Atrocities

In the summer of 1942 when the Germans perpetrated their hideous crimes of mass murder against the Jews of Europe, and the world was so shocked that it could hardly believe its eyes, the President warned the Germans of future retribution.

"The Nazis might have learned from the last war the impossibility of breaking men's spirits by terrorism. Instead they developed their 'Lebensraum' and 'New Order' by depths of frightfulness which even they have never approached before. These are the acts of desperate men who know in their hearts that they cannot win. Frightfulness can never bring peace to Europe. It only sows the seeds of hatred which will one day bring fearful retribution."

Reprimands Argentine Fascists

President Roosevelt was equally forthright in his dealing with anti-Semitism in this hemisphere. In 1943 when the Peron Government suspended the Jewish publications in Argentine, the President's sharp reprimand caused the withdrawal of the suspension. "...While this matter is of

course one which concerns primarily the Argentine government and people, I cannot forebear to give expression to my own feeling of apprehension at the taking in this hemisphere of action obviously anti-Semitic in nature and so closely identified with the most repugnant features of Nazi doctrine. I believe that this feeling is shared by the people of the other American republics."

In recognition of his devotion to the creation of good will and brotherhood among people, the President was presented with the American Hebrew Magazine medal in the Spring of 1939. President Roosevelt acknowledged his award with a message on brotherhood and tolerance.

Brotherhood of Mankind

"After all, the majority of Americans, whether they adhere to the ancient teachings of Israel or accept the tenets of the Christian religion, have a common source of inspiration in the Old Testament. In the spirit of brotherhood we should, therefore, seek to emphasize all those essential things in which we find unity in our common biblical heritage.

"If we labor in that spirit, may we not hope to attain the ideal put forth by the prophet Micah: 'And what doth the Lord require of thee but to do justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with thy G-d?'"

On the eve of last Rosh Hashonah the President greeted the Jews of America. He expressed his sympathy for the Jews in view of their great tragedy.

"Upon this celebration of the New Year, I extend to my fellow citizens of the Jewish Faith most cordial greetings, mindful of the tragedy in which so many of their faith still live and die abroad, and determined withal to persevere until justice, tolerance and peace are reestablished."

Creates Oswego Camp

One of the most notable acts of Franklin Delano Roosevelt as President of the United States was the creation of the refugee camp in Oswego, New York. Although by 1944 the tide of war had turned definitely in favor of the United Nations, the Nazis relentlessly persisted in carrying out their plans to totally eradicate the Jewish people in Europe. Those Jews who managed to escape could not find a haven since few countries were favorably inclined towards immigration. Therefore President Roosevelt, acting by executive decree, set aside a place to accommodate a group of one thousand refugees who would be permitted to find safety in the United States until such time as they could return home. And so in July 1944 nearly one thousand Jewish refugees arrived at the Oswego camp to find safety from Nazi persecution.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt by fighting to preserve freedom, democracy and tolerance did more than any other man in the world to protect the Jewish people from anti-Semitism. He recognized that the world can not be half slave and half free, and for that he has won the everlasting love and gratitude of Jewry.

Yeshiva Mourns Pres. Roosevelt

Speakers Pay Final Tribute To F. D. R.

Yeshiva and Yeshiva College joined a grief-stricken world in paying tribute to the memory of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt at a memorial meeting held in the Nathan Lamport Auditorium, 11 A.M. Sunday, April 15.

Rabbi Jacob M. Iesin, spiritual advisor at the Yeshiva opened the memorial services with the chanting of Psalms sixteen and twenty-three before an audience of approximately a thousand mourners. Dr. Samuel Belkin then eulogized the memory of the late President, and spoke of him as being the first citizen of the world, master of his own destiny and one who used his own physical misfortune for better and greater leadership.

Dead Before His Time

"This generation is most fortunate in that it produced a new star, a great humanitarian, a great leader who challenged the doctrines of Fascism.

"As Jews, we more than any other people appreciate the greatness of the President who died before his dreams could be fulfilled. Morally and spiritually he knew how to live his own life. Having suffered so much he appreciated all the more what it means to suffer.

F. D. R.'s Foresight Praised

After commending the social legislation initiated by F. D. R. and the principles of international justice proclaimed by him in the Atlantic Charter, President Belkin spoke of his foresight in "warning the nation of the outcome of the paganism and barbarism that was spreading over the world. He asked not only for rights, but demanded justice for all men regardless of creed or race."

Rabbi David Lifschitz, Rosh Yeshiva, addressed the audience in Yiddish, giving a poignant and graphic picture of the place Roosevelt held in the hearts of European Jewry. At the same time that the president took his first oath of office, the barbarism that later swept over Europe had begun to appear. European Jewry realized that Roosevelt was fighting their battle.

The Almighty's Shield

"He said openly that the United States could not remain a passive onlooker while a whole people was being liquidated only because it was the people of the Book. He was the shield that the Almighty had provided for us.

"In the name of the four million victims of our martyred people let our voice be heard. Let his grave be an eternal monument not only of his mortal body but also of his immortal soul, and a warning to those who would try to undo what he has done."

Speaking in the name of the student bodies of Yeshiva and Yeshiva College, Milton Furst '43, president of the S. O. Y., pointed out that "the world had lost a master planner of a workable and permanent peace. But now is not the time for despair and despondency. This is a time for faith and unswerving trust in the Almighty."

"Oh Captain, My Captain"

The concluding message was delivered by Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein, assistant professor of Jewish sociology and homiletics. Beginning with a moving reading of Walt Whitman's "Oh, Captain, My Captain", Rabbi Lookstein traced the tragic anomaly of life implicit in the biography of the late Commander-in-Chief.

"The one who can emancipate from slavery cannot lead into the Promised Land. The one who cannot stand without support can yet have the world lean on his shoulders.

Conquered Grave Difficulties

"It is not enough, however, to merely mourn President Roosevelt, but from the tapestry of his life to learn certain lessons. If it is true that the times produce the personality it is also true that the man molds his time. That man is great who does not live only in his times but who changes and molds his times to his ideas. That is real greatness, and the fullest measure of it was possessed by President Roosevelt. He taught us that one can rise from a wheelchair to a throne."

Rabbi Lookstein characterized F. D. R. as "that prophetic soul who in spite of every infirmity possessed the great characteristic that his eye remained unclouded. The world will remember the man of universal vision, the man of solid integrity that our President was."

Friend of Youth

Pointing to the N. Y. A. and C. C. C. programs, Rabbi Lookstein emphasized that Roosevelt was the friend of youth...he indicated his "at-one-ment" with them. Young people will remember him most and pass on his memory to countless generations of the young.

Returning in conclusion to Whitman's poem, Rabbi Lookstein indicated the immortal place that our beloved President had gained in the hearts of the American people. "Whitman's lament was that of a grief-stricken poet, not that of a prophet. For Franklin Delano Roosevelt is not dead. It can be said of him as it was said of Moses, 'and no man knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day'."

The memorial services ended with a K'el Moleh Rahamim read by Rabbi Sidney B. Hoenig of the Teachers' Institute.

ADMINISTRATION, FACULTY RECORD REACTIONS TO PRESIDENT'S DEATH



DR. BERNARD FLOCH
Prof. of Latin and Greek

To a European, Roosevelt was not only the usual type of statesman but the bright symbol of progress and humanity on a dark continent. My first feeling on arriving in this country was that this is the land of President Roosevelt. In my five years in America my admiration grew steadily from day to day, particularly for his sympathy with our

DR. MOSES L. ISAACS
Dean, Yeshiva College

The loss of our country's president has stunned the faculty and student body of Yeshiva College and has left us in deep mourning. He was to us a forceful and guiding example of a man who lived to better the lot of his fellow man, but even in death his inspiration will continue to lead us.



suffering people. The way that he and his beloved wife gave us comfort in our darkest hours deeply affected me.

The following is a quotation from Cicero that might express the views of a scholar who has devoted his lifetime to the investigation of the relative and absolute significance of ancient culture:

"Just as laws for the common welfare take more than the welfare of the individual into consideration, so an outstanding man is wise and obedient to the laws, a man who is cognizant of the duties of public office takes care rather for the benefit of all than for his own interest; and hence it is obvious that that man must be extolled who is ready to face death for the sake of the commonwealth, since it is proper and fitting to love one's homeland more than oneself."

DR. ALEXANDER BRODY,
Professor of History

A century ago, an American religious thinker thus suggests the life and personality of President Roosevelt.

"There are seasons in human affairs of inward and outward revolution, when new depths seem to be broken up in the soul, when new wants are unfolded in multitudes, and a new and undefined good are thirsted for. There are periods when the principles of experience need to be modified, when hope and trust and instinct



claim a share with prudence in the guidance of affairs, when in truth, to dare is the highest wisdom." (W. H. Channing)

The life and leadership of F.D.R. best expressed the mission of America and the rhythm of American life. He was heir to the funded capital of American experience. He combined the intellectualism of Jefferson, the idealism of Wilson, the zeal of Theodore Roosevelt, and the humanity of Lincoln.

RABBI DR. LEO JUNG
Professor of Ethics

Franklin Delano Roosevelt has now entered on his olam haba, and has become part of the American tradition which he has enriched. His death has stunned America, has deeply grieved the Jewish people, has saddened the world.

By environment and heredity he should have been merely one of the formal righteous presidents, not quite forgetful of the privileges of aristocracy, correct in the evaluation of the middle way, promoting the interests of the nation, and not unaware of democratic problems everywhere.

The usual interpretation of President Roosevelt's career reads thus: He came from stock that offered him every opportunity. He suffered a grievous handicap. He recovered and achieved outstanding success. But his true history is altogether different: He was born with the great handicap of a silver spoon in his mouth, a highly successful career beckoning him as a matter of course. But the Lord threw him on a sickbed,



taught him for many weary years the abyss of hopelessness, the meaning of affliction, aroused in him a passionate understanding of what the poor and the sick have to face. When he conquered his affliction he became a great man. He deliberately ignored the cribbed scene and interests of aristocracy, and in the words of Isaiah

DR. IRVING LINN
Professor of English

The unprecedented grief which we all feel in the death of President Roosevelt can be ascribed largely to the fact that he has been for us for a period of many years now, our symbol for life it-



self and the figure around whom we have built our hopes and aspirations. Small wonder then that we see in his loss a parallel to the death of Moses on Mount Neboah. But we must remember that the story of Moses is not only the story of the Deliverer of the Jews, but also the story of the Jews themselves who under the leadership of Joshua made their way into the Promised Land.

So we, too, must rally around President Truman and be led by him to a complete victory over our enemies. The plan of action and the idealism of President Roosevelt have been woven so deeply into the fabric of current

preferred to advance the cause of "those who are crushed and of lowly spirit." He taught an incredulous America that this country was in truth established to advance the welfare of the common man, not by political formula, nor by well-formulated platforms, but by permeating the whole life of the nation with a constructive scheme meant to help those who are underprivileged. America will never forget his warmheartedness, his genuine personal interest in the illiterate share-cropper, in the negro bowed down by Jim Crowism, in every minority abused by demagogues and by mobs misled by the nefarious schemes of would-be dictators.

President Roosevelt had great vision. He said: "I see a plague in this country, made in Germany, afflicting and affecting large masses of our people. Compromise with it would be treason to America! We must fight it within the country and without." He overcame selfish isolationism as he battled narrow sectionalism, by focussing the attention of the people to the danger confronting them. Our sainted President forged out of a discordant congress and a divided nation the mightiest instrument for the perpetuation of justice and the re-establishment of democracy.

With Lincoln he shared the love for the common man. With Wilson he shared great ideals. But like Samuel of old, "he knew not only the course of the stars, but also the meanest alleys of the metropolis. He prayed to God out of the depth of his misery, and the Lord had answered him with enlargement."

"Forever blessed be his name; sure as the sun itself his fame. All peoples enjoy his high bliss; all nations hail him as a happy man."

PROF. JACOB I. HARTSTEIN
Director, Graduate School

Freedom-loving people throughout the world have suffered an irreparable loss and the cause of justice, a sturdy champion. Franklin Delano Roosevelt will be remembered to the end of time for his farsighted vision, infinite courage, broad and profound understanding, and self-sacrificial service to mankind. Like the very great who preceded him, it was not given to him to enter "The Promised Land," which he was



permitted to see, but like them, he will continue to inspire posterity to strive on to ever greater spiritual heights.

history that our will as a people to see them remain will be strong enough to maintain them as our present policy.

Lookstein To Be At Frisco Conference

Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein, assistant professor of Jewish sociology at Yeshiva College and professor of homiletics at Yeshiva has been delegated to attend the San Francisco conferences by the American Jewish Conference. Rabbi Lookstein was appointed to the delegation by virtue of his position as chairman of the Palestine Commission of the Conference.



The Conference is one of forty-two organizations authorized to send consultants to the official American delegation. The San Francisco deliberations are expected to last from six to eight weeks and during that time three members of the American Jewish Conference panel of nine consultants will constantly be on hand in their advisory capacity.

As far as The Commentator was able to determine, this will be the only Jewish group with official accreditation at the council. The office of the Jewish Agency informed this reporter that they expect David Ben-Gurion and Dr. Chaim Weizman to leave for San Francisco following their arrival in America, and that Dr. Nahum Goldman is also expected to attend the sessions. It should be pointed out that world Jewry has absolutely no official status at the conference.

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