

Experience & imagination

Levine

survivor point of departure - why?

the *אשכול* *אשכול* package is falling apart
hasn't brought Israel & diaspora ~~at~~ closer
premature foreclosure

The Hol. has supplanted ~~the~~ Israel among Am. Jew. intellectuals
swallows the energies
touchstone of identity until the intellectuals try to eliminate it too

Friedlander

Map of interpretations
Israel

survivors are not at center of Israeli consciousness
& private world

a) official - backward mythologizing CONTINUITY
אשכול → *אשכול*
causality, end of Galut
even makes sense of *אשכול* as precondition

b) unofficial

rejection of this image

(i) cognitive dissonance

ideal image of Israeli collective totally at odds
with collective image of *אשכול*

how can they mourn something which is despised?

(ii) the normalcy of their lives interferes with the
morbid abnormality of the *אשכול*

(iii) living in Israel obviates need for interpreting
Jew. history

DISCONTINUITY

recent politicization, mystification
more sensitivity

Diaspora

more vocal role for survivors

search for new Jew. identity

why the Hol. as focus?

Israel exogenous; Hol. is self-identification

it happened in our *אשכול*!

cf. Neusner's point on vicarious existence

Non-Jewish world

1945-1969

unprecedented event

manichean division of good/evil fostered by Allies

∴ all evil events subsumed as Nazism

- a) more recently: universalization, banalization
- b) exploitation, aestheticization; personal feticism to make an event more intense
banalization of moral choices
- c) inversion of images
Jew again symbol of evil
Nazis were tricked by us

Measures of demeaning

1. historical truth
2. respect for the dead
3. sincerity

Nicoletier

Historical analysis as shaping political policy

is our politics paralyzed by our knowledge of the past?

history \rightleftharpoons memory

historical consciousness

difference

specific events

change

collective memory

similarity

typological

repetition

promotion of fact \rightarrow norm

1648 conflated with crusades

Chaim Brisker on Amalek - establishes eternal type

Amalek exempted from Babel!

Jews undoing themselves by being too clever

Chaim Kaplan recognized the difference July 11, 1942

not for ^{historian} ~~person~~

rememberer

begin with event

begin with precedent

present \rightarrow past

past \rightarrow present

Zionism accepted Herzl's theory
culture must abandon history
politics " " memory

Brenzitz

1. denial of threat
2. " " personal relevance predicated upon psych. distance: me / them
3. " " urgency; so far away; of vulnerability
4. " " responsibility for action → thought
5. " " affects, emotion, feeling
easier to harm many than to harm one
infantry soldier far more traumatized than a fighter pilot
6. " " information; those in intensive care who deny the danger
have greatest chances of survival but once they're out, they
must accept the situation
7. " " reality

Klein

Survivors reject the term; its implication of being a sacrifice
a double bind

survival guilt is really the projection of non-survivor's guilt
guilt is a humanizing agent, not a repression
reestablishes link with the living
pioneers left their families behind!

Ben Gurion embodies the incapacity to mourn, channeling all
psychic energies to struggle for the State

Yom Kippur War unleashed the stifled mourning for the H.
we are now working through the unresolved mourning

Davidson

Psychiatrization of the survivor

reparations put additional burden

have to put a ~~the~~ price tag on your suffering

Har-Even

Survival = desertion of family, friends

primacy of the yishuv

rejection of every immigrant group

Tal

No rejection of mourning

Ben Gurion acting on Jewish traditional response

shape reality in light of future

only exception 11.3 1946 who were ostracized

Hatzcha imposed constructive solution

11.3 1946 ←

* Primordial past ארץ > ארץ > ארץ
disaster & constructive event in Jew. history
 mourning transformed into building

איננה ר"ב

// Israeli society continues normative Judaism while religious
 fanaticism represents anti-Jew stance
 apocalyptic stance profoundly anti-Jewish

Rosenfeld

Survivors seem to have eternal status while other "survivors" outgrow it;

Wielter

picks up on this; we cannot date their biography from H. itself; their reaction shaped by their prior experience
 great psychological continuity

Breznitz

Freudian psych. as inadequate model
 What is sufficient cause of breakdown
 witnessing parents in sex act → neurosis
 of what children witnessed in H & still come thru!
 ∴ clinicians must learn humility

Ben Gurion dilemma

mourning no necessary process?
 is this so?
 psychic trauma of past events will lay dormant if there is nothing in the present to trigger it off
 goes against regnant Freudian theory of constant turmoil
 ∴ Yom Kippur War is too familiar & we respond both to present + past
 activates past memory
 ∴ mourning will not rob the event of its energy
 TRANSFORMATION OF ENERGY - still unknown
 redefinition of the problem is an active process
 how worry → anger (why?)

Now ~~that~~
 would be good
 as a shrink
 if you suffer
 from
 insomnia
 2nd
 evidence

Kaniuk's play

reducing H to pathological context
 potential disturbers of the peace
 ∴ we let the psychiatrists take care of them

Gene Wiener

personal trauma ≠ public issues

Evil - ontological status or behavior by groups of people (Wiener)?

Van Leer 16

Czernon

Gradations of human evil as central argument
in late adolescence

Auschwitz as polar extreme on the continuum

- ① no imagination
- ② no developmental sense
- ③ no mention of the culture destroyed

Ofer

1. History
2. Literature

① No imagination Tel's reply: moral ambiguity is inspiration!
even in the Soviet Union

~~What is~~ history may not be the best vehicle
do you remember anything from your education?

interviewing Yosi

- a) Yiddish curriculum
- b) Agadah

② no developmental sense

early childhood - life/death, sense of loss
adolescence - identity central

ניסיון ניד לר איקסטרס personalizing the experience

atrocities is pornography, dirty pictures

③ no mention of culture destroyed - barking up wrong tree

convenient to study documents
to deal with Evil

but what about songs, folklore, stories.

esp. given profound gap between religious/secular
Salonika

④ no comparative educational framework

Japan, Hungary, USA
classical education

- Adolescent experience da-sein
- History: haven't tried anything else yet.

July 3, 2018 NLS
Van Leer / 7

Appelfeld

The limits of memoir

- episodic, chronological
- personal → renders total identification impossible
- impossibility of reading it

Borders

- can only approach it from the moment before
- can never enter directly into the event
- time of prior consciousness
- only in these prior states is speech permitted
- feeling, consciousness exist the tinge of the *Flaneri*

Understatement

- how to control it, limit it
- make it manageable

Witnessing

- hard enough to do it from within
- to do it from without requires genius

Rosenfeld

Cinema

Differential Impact of Eichmann Trial

Sidra

Palestine

- the guilt of the death wish come true
- *ליל נסך נסך*
- novel of human deformities
- prophecy → mourning
- bifurcation of self

America

- impact of social science
- reductionism
- preempted moral lang.
- eg Arendt on Eichmann
- focus on his mind
- Eichmann as Everyman
- evil → banal
- suffering → pathology

Israel

- focus on witness
- Gelman / Amalek - impenetrable

lit as lit - never considered itself as pure lit

- ① symbolic dimension
poets put has to go beyond reality
- ② aesthetic form - center of its purpose

Lit. as Theology - Wiesel

theologians of the H use him uncritically

leaving the collective = secret of survival = source of their attraction
again: only write poetry because their adolescence

desertion as paradigm

which collective was abandoned

Klein makes the connection between adolescence & writing poetry

Tal

יצחק יצחק : ~~arrives~~ joins me in rejecting this division of the universe

I Spring 1944 Chief ed officer of German Army

The Volkish Ideal, Idea of Political Populism

by Gottfried Griesmeyer

head of Youth Division

1. Nazism = fulfillment 19th Romanticism

being a Volk = religion of our time
worship of state

2. Reich embodies this service/worship

Reich = ~~polity~~ ~~no/NA~~ → internalized eschatology
Kingdom is in us → ~~apostrophe~~ Third Reich →
secularized

~~is~~ structured by eternity

boundless space

creating order out of chaotic Europe

3. sacralized politics

4. this mythic frame made struggle with Jew a
necessity

politics is applied religion

II Application

1. Hol. Perspective

duality of juxtaposed concepts

a) on the Hol. in light of other phenomena

b) other phenomena thru perspective of Hol.

אליס; פילבר

lays great stress on this

otherwise becomes metaphysical event

∴ experiential phenomenon

∴ discernible thru comparative studies

Eg.

a) Robert Lifton comp. psych studies

studies of political religion in Nazi art etc.

comparing structures, not content

Nazi's commemorated death of 12 SS in 1923

event → אלוהים, sacrifice

their death proves immortality of Reich

b) Saul Friedlander on Nazi leadership

obsession to purify things (Ricoeur) → final purification

Lebenswelt (Schutz) contextual organy in reality

2. Political Religion

1938 - refers to function, not to content

∴ not realm of transcendence but reality sacralized

separation of religion / politics → religion of citizens

III Political Religion prior to Hol.

1. SPACE

Himmler 1921: decline of the West, rise of East

∴ we must conquer, settle the East

political Darwinism

bonds to blood & soil →

urgent need for space

quest for roots;

∴ no place for Jew

2. TIME

Himmler et. al.

sanctification of past thru archeology

evidence of primordial virtues

some sites consecrated
Time + Place → Reich

IV Functional

1. From religion → politics
 theological concepts → anthropological
 what Nietzsche warned against
 God → man in political sense
 as member of Party, State
 ∴ communication with Führer → communion
 relative → absolute
 Sin, redemption → administrative regulations
 Party converts man into loyal subjects
 from Luther's Two-Swords Theology
2. From politics → mystique
 by magnifying man's alienation → need for Führer
 Jew as anti-Christ
 political myth substitutes society → cosmos
 this world → transcendence
 Führer → savior
 Party → Temple
 after instilling primordial anxiety
 reduce them to dichotomies
 finally embodied in the Jew
 symbol → substance

Mankowitz
Simon

Answer the terrible indignity we suffered with affirmation of life
 part of that indignity is that they fooled us

Rabbinate didn't have the nerve to decree a fast day
 but look at how many people observe יום כיפור!
 shouldn't deflate את אדם עם שבת שלום

TB: יאבן יאבן

YH: cannot accept our sin as unmeasurable with
 our total destruction

this would hasten vulgar theologization

only Rashi interpreted לן ירע literally
 because he lived during Crusades נב נננ נננ