

Ahad Ha'am: posited super-ego, conformity to ethical system 'NITS' 2011
NTB: put the Id back into kid; true source of renewal nah = revolt against conformity

HAYYIM NAHMAN BIALIK (1873-1934)

A. LOSS

age 15-16 Volozhin, way station to secular ed.
had no quarrel w/religion, observance; wanted to enter Hildesheimer's Seminary in Berlin next but had to have a secular degree

B. REBELLION

1891 manifesto to combine Ahad Ha'am + Zev Yavetz thru Netsah Yisrael (secret fellowship); leaves the yeshiva for ODESSA

drawn to Ahad Ha'am; avoids Mendele whose Hebrew credentials not yet firmly reestablished (Fichman: we considered him a classicist from another age); elitist; Hebraist; cannot support himself & leaves for Zhitomir

How Shall Renewal Be Wrought?

< Ben-Amos, 9 >

1896 Te'udat Hashiloah (Ahad Ha'am; irony of his persona!)
repudiation of the Haskalah
replaced by program for internal renewal
thru scientific inquiry, criticism and journalism
belles lettres, only insofar as it serves a utilitarian purpose {5}
if they really must, let 'em read it in European langs.

- absolutely opp. to kid., folklore, fantasy, Hasidism

1897-99 passionate rebuttal by M. Y. Berdichevsky
Nietzschean transvaluation of values
nature, poetry, paganism = primal sources of renewal
primacy of the individual over the collective, esthetics over ethics

later joined by Frischman who wants everything translated into Hebrew

C. RETURN

fin-de-siècle * (1899) Razei lailah: subjectivity + radical individualism; allowing for world of myth, wherever it takes you

1900 moves back to Odessa, co-founds Moriah; launches major projects

1903-4 Kishinev, mantle of national poet (age 30!)

Odessa vs. Warsaw

Warsaw: home of Peretz, Frischmann; European, romantic, Yiddishist; populist; center of the folklore revival since 1890s

spent 1 yr there (Dec. 1903-Feb. 1905);

later toasted Peretz: 3 pillars of halachah (Ahad Ha'am), aggadah (Mendele) and Kabbalah (Peretz)

program of trans. European lit. into Hebrew/Yiddish

1908 Megillat ha'esh; Mishirey am; manifesto, "Lekinusa shel ha'aggadah ha'ivrit" in Hashiloah; begins Safiah

1908-11 Sefer ha'aggadah in 3 vols. = 1st & most successful effort to create a classic folk lit. in Hebrew to rival European collections; rescue it as folk epic, art

1910 Before the Bookcase/Lifnie aron hasfarim: recognized that his all-consuming passion for the aggadot had sapped him of his own creative powers

1915 Revealment & Concealment in Language, influenced by Russian Symbolism

1916 Halachah and Aggadah (pub 1917 due to censorship)

1921 dramatic escape from Soviet Russia, aided by Gorky

1921-24 Germany, then Tel-Aviv-Jaffo (restorations on his house almost complete)

1925 The Short Friday