

Berlin Chapel  
Brandeis University  
April 18, 19, 20  
Under the auspices  
of B'nai B'rith Hillel

IN COMMEMORATION OF SPRING

- I. IN THE DEPTHS: An evening of parables
- II. OF THE DARK NIGHT: An evening of dreams
- III. THERE IS LAUGHTER: An evening of truths

A King said to his friend: Whenever I look at the stars I see by my telescope that whoever eats this year's produce will go mad. So what can we eat?  
The King's advisor suggested: Should we perhaps prepare last year's produce and eat nothing grown this year?  
The King answered: Of what good is your remedy if everyone else is crazy and we are sane? They will all say that we are crazy, not they...We have no choice but to eat this year's produce like everyone else in this world. But we will differ from the others in this, that we shall know at least that we are crazy, while the others will be crazy without being aware of it.

Rabbi Nahman of Bratzlav

PART I. IN THE DEPTHS: An evening of parables

This village belongs to the Castle,  
and whoever lives here, or passes  
the night here does so, in a manner  
of speaking, in the Castle itself.

Franz Kafka

In every generation let each  
man look at himself as if he  
came forth out of Egypt.  
As it is said: And thou shalt  
tell thy son in that day, saying:  
It is because of that which the  
Lord did for me when I came  
forth out of Egypt.

Passover Haggadah

We can no longer  
tell tales of the  
fall of noble men  
because we do not  
believe that noble  
men exist.

Joseph Wood Krutch

What has shaken me  
is not that you lied  
to me but that I no  
longer believe you now.

Friedrich Nietzsche

When the great Rabbi Israel Baal Shem Tov saw misfortune threatening the Jews it was his custom to go into a certain part of the forest to meditate. There he would light a fire, say a special prayer, and the miracle would be accomplished and the misfortune averted.

Later when his disciple, the celebrated Magid of Mezritch, had occasion, for the same reason, to intercede with heaven, he would go to the same place in the forest and say: "Master of the Universe, listen! I do not know how to light the fire, but I am still able to say the prayer." And again the miracle would be accomplished.

Still later, Rabbi Moshe Leyb of Sasov, in order to save his people once more, would go into the forest and say: "I do not know the way to light the fire, I do not know the prayer, but I do know the place, and this must be sufficient." It was sufficient and the miracle was accomplished.

Then it fell to Rabbi Israel of Rizhyn to overcome misfortune. Sitting in his armchair, his head in his hands, he spoke to God: "I am unable to light the fire and I do not know the prayer; I cannot even find the place in the forest. All I can do is to tell the story and this must be sufficient." And it was sufficient.

God made man because he loves stories.

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If, at the end, you wish to explore further the implications of this night, please contact one of the ushers.

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PART II. OF THE DARK NIGHT: An evening of dreams

There sat down, once, a thing on Henry's heart  
so heavy, if he had a hundred years  
& more, & weeping, sleepless, in all them time  
Henry could not make good.  
Starts again always in Henry's ears  
the little cough somewhere, an odour, a chime.

And there is another thing he has in mind  
like a grave Sienese face a thousand years  
would fail to blur the still profiled reproach of:  
Ghastly,  
with open eyes, he attends, blind.  
All the bells say; too late. This is not for tears;  
thinking.

But never did Henry, as he thought he did,  
end anyone and hacks her body up  
and hide the pieces, where they may be found.  
He knows; he went over everyone, & nobody's missing.  
Often he reckons, in the dawn, them up.  
Nobody is ever missing.

John Berryman

Man, remove your garments, cover your head with  
ashes, run into the streets and dance, taken with  
madness.

André Schwarz-bart

In the lobby of this office let there be painted the representations of all the common military instruments of death; also human skulls broken bones, unveined and putrefying dead bodies, hospitals crowded with sick and wounded soldiers, villages on fire, mothers in besieged towns, eating the flesh of their children, ships sinking in the ocean, rivers dyed with blood, and extensive plains without tree or fence, or any other object but the ruins of deserted farm houses. Above all this group of woful figures, let the following words be inserted in red characters, to represent human blood:--"National Glôry."

Benjamin Rush c. 1800

Because the name of action is always murder.

Kenneth Patchen

PART III. THERE IS LAUGHTER: An evening of truths

The Jew who crawled out of the dark corners of the ghetto into the surrounding German quarters and gnawed his way into the body of the nation, like the maggot in the bacon, has been tamed.

propaganda leaflet

Thus the Jew is assimilable to the spirit of evil. His will...is one which wills itself purely, gratuitously, and universally to be evil. It is the will to evil. Through him Evil arrives on the earth.

Jean-Paul Sartre

...it is only somewhere  
between savagery  
and civilization  
that love is born

Joseph Wood Krutch

Saint, n. A dead sinner  
revised and edited.

Ambrose Bierce

Je changeais souvent de rôle;  
mais il s'agissait toujours de  
le même pièce.

Albert Camus

211 freight cars of clothes  
     3000 women's shoes  
                                     825 freight cars of clothes  
 25,580 kg copper  
     82,600 silver necklaces  
                                     167,740 kg silver money  
 343,100 kg cigarette cases  
                                     3,133 kg silver watches  
   7 complete stamp collections  
 \$ 2,515.75 Canadian money  
                                     16,795,000 zlotys  
     25 freight cars of women's hair  
   22 freight cars of dry goods  
 22 freight cars of dry goods  
                                     22 freight cars of dry goods  
 46 freight cars of drugs  
     40 freight cars of various used articles  
         one hundred dead is a catastrophe. five million  
         dead is a statistic. adolf eichmann  
     400,000 pounds sterling  
         12,000,000 Soviet rubles  
 several thousand strings of pearls  
   53,190 kg nickel  
   97,581 kg gold  
     6,640 kg gold necklaces  
   22,740 kg pearls in silver or  
 metal  
     2,892 kg gold watches \$261,589.75 dollars US money  
   231,789 paper rubles  
     2,229 English pounds  
                                     1 Irish pound  
   2 Mexican pesos  
 100 freight cars of shoes  
                                     100 freight cars of shoes  
   100 freight cars of shoes  
 249 freight cars of clothing  
                                     254 freight cars of rugs and bedding  
     2,800,000 American dollars  
                                     400,000 gold watches  
 Mens: clothing 97,000 pieces  
                                     Women's clothing: 76,000 pieces  
     Women's silk undergarments: 89,000 pieces  
                                     34 freight cars  
 Laces: 400 freight cars  
                                     Feathers: 130 freight cars  
                                     Women's hair: 1 freight car  
 total: 565 freight cars  
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