

THE SHEPHERD OF ISRAEL

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The Elephant and the Jewish Problem

Are we Jews too touchy? Do we carry a chip on our shoulder? Do we have an inferiority complex?

Or is it just plain downright sin? Read on and find out.

THE teacher had finished the lesson in Zoology. She asked how many boys would like to write an essay on the elephant. One lad raised his hand and said that he would write on the subject, "The Elephant as Compared to the Other Wild Animals of the Jungle." Another boy raised his hand and said he would like to write on the subject, "The Elephant in his Native Environs." Then little Isidor raised his hand and called out, "Teacher, my subject will be 'The Elephant and the Jewish Problem.'"

We never saw little Isidor's essay, and so we have no idea just how he handled the subject. But we might give Isidor a few suggestions. We could take the elephant and compare his various traits and characteristics with the various features of the Jewish problem. Or we could take the elephant and adopt exactly the opposite course, making a study of the contrasts between the elephant and the Jewish problem. For instance:

COLOSSAL AND ETERNAL

The elephant is certainly a huge animal, perhaps the biggest in size and shape in all the wide areas of the jungle, unless it be that the hippopotamus gives him a close run on this point. And so indeed is the Jewish problem huge and ponderous and reaching out over the whole earth. Just think, there is not a nation under the sun today which is not in some way or other affected, or disturbed, or even excited, over the Jewish problem.

And then there is the fact that the elephant lives a very long time; zoologists tell us that the elephant lives longer than any other animal. But the Jewish problem has lived longer than any elephant. We think the Jewish problem began away back in the slave yards of Egypt, which would make the problem some 3,500 years old. But, to be conservative, let us assume that the problem did not begin until the year 135 A.D. when the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and scattered our Jewish people over the wide, wide world. Even on that basis, the Jewish problem is 1900 years old, and that is longer than the alleged longevity of the elephant, and the Jewish problem is still going strong, and seems to have no solution in view—which really has the world by the ears.

RUNWAYS AND TREADMILLS OF EUROPE

And of course the elephant is a fast runner. You would not think so to see him lumber along in the sawdust arena of a circus. But we are told that when the elephant really gets started in the jungle, he goes like the wind, and very few animals can keep up with him. And now think how much running our poor Jewish people have done through the centuries of massacres, and exiles, and drownings, and robberies, and confiscation of property, and burnings at the stake! Some of the most poignant and heart-breaking pictures we have seen, have been of these poor Jews—men, women and children—one dragging the other by the hand, and running in a mad rush

to escape the tortures of their persecutor. So, we might say as a further comparison, that the elephant can run, and so can the Jew!

In this vein we could continue almost indefinitely to discover the **likenesses** between these two entities. But let us now enlarge the view of our essay and take up some of the **contrasts** between the Jew and the elephant. Of course, we realize that we are slipping a cog when we mix up the Jew with the elephant instead of sticking to the original title, "The Elephant and the Jewish Problem." But after all, is not the Jew the very embodiment and essence of the Jewish problem? And if you had no Jews, would you have a Jewish problem? But now to the contrasts:

OH, FOR A TRUNK!

The elephant has a trunk. But, alas and alack, very few Jews have trunks. Over the hills, through the vales, and into the forests of Europe these poor, homeless, exiled, hated Jews track their way, dragging their children behind them. But they have no trunks! Instead, there is slung across their poor tired shoulders, a gunny sack, at best, in which they have jammed in their few poor belongings. What wouldn't those poor Jews over in Eastern Europe have given to have a trunk to carry away their possessions in!

And then the elephant has a long, long memory. Moreover, he is extremely grateful, and has been known to show his gratitude many times and in strange places and in various ways. A story is told of an American doctor who went over to India as a missionary surgeon. Into his compound one day there came led by his keeper, a great big lumbering elephant, his front left knee evidently broken and bleeding. The surgeon got to work at once and did a most skillful piece of work, keeping the elephant there three or four days. He took very good care of him, and, lo and behold, in this short time the knee had healed up, and the elephant went away rejoicing.

THE WONDERFUL GOD OF ISRAEL

The Word of God tells of four ways in which the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob still keeps His hand upon His covenant people, the Jews, since our deliverance from Egyptian bondage to the present hour, when so many of us have lost our faith in Him and put it in social and political idols. Are you interested enough in this matter to write to us for a free copy of our leaflet, "The Wonderful God of Israel"?

THE SHEPHERD OF ISRAEL, 236 West 72nd Street, New York 23, N. Y.

MEMORIES OF THE JUNGLE

Twenty years passed, and now the scene changes. The doctor has returned to Chicago and has settled in his practice of surgery. The Barnum and Bailey circus came to town and was exhibiting in the Coliseum; it was its annual visitation to Chicago. So the doctor went to see the circus, for he was very fond of the jungle animals. He got a seat down in the lower section, which in those days cost very little, only 75¢. Soon began the blare of the trumpets, the huge curtains opened, and in came the Grand Parade with all of its dazzling sparkle and prancing horses, their riders clad in cloth of gold, and gay with all the colors of the rainbow. Suddenly, the doctor saw a large herd of elephants coming down the runway. Elephants always fascinated him; so he gazed on these elephants with great interest. As they came nearer to him, he noticed one with a slight limp. Then he looked more closely, and suddenly exclaimed to himself, "By George, that is the elephant upon which I operated back in India twenty years ago." And, lo and behold, as the elephant came thumping down the sawdust arena, his eyes turned upon this doctor. Suddenly he stopped and with every sign of recognition, he stretched out his huge trunk, and encircling the doctor, lifted him from his 75¢ seat and put him up in a \$5.00 box!

THE OX AND THE CRIB

But you know, strange as it may sound, our poor Jewish people truly lack this so blessed virtue of gratitude or of memory. Just see what God Himself has to say about this in Isaiah 1:2,3:

"Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the Lord hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me. The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider."

The accusation given to Isaiah, "The ox knoweth his owner . . . but Israel doth not know," could just as well have been written, "The elephant knoweth his benefactor . . . but Israel doth not know."

What shall be said of a people for whose redemption God sent into the world His only begotten Son, to suffer such agony of torture and death as never mortal man had ever known before, and then to have this people reject the greatest sacrifice of all history, and refuse to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ? And not only that, but our Jewish people are always seeking some new sophistries and philosophic schemes to invalidate and ridicule the solemn record of the New Testament and of God's undying love for them. If this is not ingratitude, and if this is not a short memory, then we do not know what the English language

means. Is it any wonder that God with breaking heart calls out in Hosea 5:15, "I will go and return to my place till they acknowledge their offense, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early."

IS PUNISHMENT THE ONLY LANGUAGE WE KNOW?

What God is telling us is that our poor blinded Jewish people will never turn to God as a nation until they go down to the deepest hell of affliction and punishment and world agony. Why should we show such ingratitude to God for having sent His only begotten Son for our salvation? What harm did the Christ ever do to us? What gratitude do we show when we express hate for Him who is really the lover of our souls?

And then we might make the observation that the elephant is thick-skinned. But we Jews, are we not too thin-skinned? An elderly Jewish couple landed in New York not so long ago, as refugees from the terrible savageries of the Nazis. They had suffered all the tortures of Jew hate. And now they were in free America, in fabulously rich New York. One evening they were walking up Broadway and passed by a fruit store. Out in front there was a large assortment of oranges. In one section, the fruitman had set aside a lot of small oranges, rather pulpy, intended for making juice, with a sign over them advertising the fact that they would be good for juice. Alongside of these, he had another assortment of much more attractive-looking oranges and larger in size. The poor Jewish woman said to him, "How much are the oranges?" And he asked her, "For juice?" When she heard that, she turned to her husband in fright, seized him by the arm, and said, "let's go away quick, Morris. See, even in America, there are anti-Semites."

This tragic mental condition is found foreshadowed in a melancholy and startling chapter of our Scriptures:

"And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the Lord shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind: In the morning thou shalt say, Would God it were even! and at even thou shalt say, Would God it were morning; for the fear of thine heart wherewith thou shalt fear, and for the sight of thine eyes which thou shalt see." *Deuteronomy 28:65,67.*

Leviticus 26 is another terrifying chapter. Here are a few verses which are an astonishing preview of today's sorrows:

"And I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste. Then shall the land enjoy her sabbaths, as long as it lieth desolate, and ye be in your enemies' land; even then shall the land rest, and enjoy her sabbaths, And upon them that are left alive of you I will send a faintness into their hearts in the lands of their enemies;

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and the sound of a shaken leaf shall chase them; and they shall flee, as fleeing from a sword; and they shall fall when none pursueth." *Leviticus 26:33,34,36.*

If we Jews have that eternal inferiority complex, if we are so thin-skinned that we carry a chip on our shoulder just looking for an insult here and an insult there, what is the trouble with us? Is it not time we stopped fooling ourselves about "Anti-Semites," "psychoanalysis" and all the other mad ideologies that we drag out from the skeleton closet, so as to pat ourselves on the back and excuse ourselves for our wrong-doing? Is it not yet plain to every thinking Jew that there is no hope for us until we turn to Jehovah Who redeemed us from the lashes of the Egyptian overlords, and Who finally sent the Lord Jesus Christ, our Messiah? Is it not time that we examined all over again that final warning which the Lord Jesus Christ Himself gave us in Matthew 23:37-39:

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord."

So here is our answer, and we do not need any psychoanalysts, or charlatans, or political demagogues, Arabs, or Egyptians, Great Britain, or even America. All we have to do is to turn with penitent heart and soul to Him whom our forefathers in their ignorance rejected and concerning Whom they cried out, "We will not have this man to rule over us!" We need now to turn to Him and confess the sins of our forefathers. And then, He will break through the clouds of heaven and come down for our deliverance. Why should we be so stupid and so stubborn that we refuse to try this cure? We have tried everything else. We have tried the most foolish things and they have all failed. Why not try this real cure?

אנכי
הוא
הרעה
הטוב
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רעה ישׂראל

והקמתי
עליהם
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א מאנאטליך בלאט צו ערקלעהרען צו ישראל דעם אמת'דיגען משיח

— THE SHEPHERD OF ISRAEL —

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דער עלפאנט און דאס אידישע פראבלעם.

פון פאנאָמען, פון אכזריות, פון שחיטות און פון פארברענט צו ווערען אויף די שייטער-הויפענס. איז דאָס נישט די אורזאך פארוואָס אונזערע אָר- מע אידען זיינען איבערגעלאָפּען גאנץ אייראָפּאַ? אייניגע פון די שמערצליכסטע און האַרץ-ברעכענדע מאַלערייען, וואָס מיר האָבען ווען עס איז געזען, טוען פאַרשטעלען דיזע אָרימע אידען — מענער, פרויען און קינדער — שלעפענדיג איינער דעם אַני- דערען ביי די הענט און אַנטלויפּענדיג אין אַ וויל- דער אילענשיט פון זייערע פאַרפאַלנער און פייני- גער. און אזוי קענען מיר זאָגען, אַלס אַ ווייטערע פאַרגלייכונג, אַז דער עלפאַנט קען לויפּען; און אזוי קענען אויך די אידען!

אין דיזער ריכטונג קענען מיר פאַרטזעצן, כמעט אויף אַן אומבאַגרענעצטען אופן, די פאַרגלייכונגען און ענליכקייטען צווישען דיזע צוויי וועזענהייטען. אָבער לאָמיר איצט פאַרגרעסערען דעם אָנבליק פון אונזער אָבהאַנדלונג און לאָמיר אויפנעמען אייניגע פון די געגענזאַצען צווישען דעם אידן און דעם עלפאַנט.

מיר ווייסען, אַז מיר נייען זיך אַפּ אַ ביסעל, ווען מיר טוען צוזאַמענמישען דעם אידן מיט'ן עלפאַנט אַנשטאַט צו האַלטן זיך ביי דעם נאָמען פון דער אָפהאַנדלונג: „די אידישע פראַבלעמע און דער עלפאַנט.“ אָבער, נאָך אלעמען, איז נישט דער איד די פאַרקערטערונג און דער תּמצי'ת פון דער איד- ישע פראַבלעם? און איצט לאָמיר אויפנעמען די געגענזאַצען.

דער עלפאַנט האָט אַ לאַנגען, לאַנגען זכרון און ער איז אויך, ביי'ן העכסטן גראַד, דאַנקבאַר. ער איז באַוואוסט מיט זיין אַרויסצייגן דאַנקבאַרקייט אויף אַ זונדערבאַרען אופן און אין פאַרשידענע וועגען. אַ געשיכטע ווערט דערציילט פון אַן אַמע- ריקאַנעם דאַקטאָר, וועלכער איז אוועקגעפאַרען קיין

פּאָלק אונטער דער זון, וועלכעס, אויף אַזאַ אָדער אַנדער אופן, איז נישט בעיאַינפלוסט, אָדער בע- אונרוהיגט, אָדער אפילו אויפגערעגט איבער דער אידישער פראַבלעם.

ס'איז אויך אַ פּאַקט, אַז דער עלפאַנט לעבט אַ לאַנגע, לאַנגע צייט. די זאָפּלאַניסטען דערציילען אונז, אַז דער עלפאַנט לעבט איבער אַ טויזענד יאָר. אָבער די אידישע פראַבלעמע לעבט לענגער ווי דאָס. מיר דענקען, אַז די אידישע פראַבלעם האָט זיך אָנגעפאַנגען לאַנג צוריק אין די שקלאַפּען-הויפּען אין מצרים, וואָס מאַכט די פראַבלעמע ביי 3500 יאָר אַלט. אָבער צו זיין קאָנסערוואַטיוו, לאָמיר אָננע- מען, אַז די אידישע פראַבלעם האָט זיך נישט אַני- געפאַנגען ביז דעם יאָר 70, נאָך דער טריסטליכער צייטדעכנונג, ווען טיטוס הרשע האָט צושטערט ירושלים און פאַרטריבען אונזער פּאָלק, וואָס איז צושפּרייט געוואָרען איבער דער ווייטער, ווייטער וועלט. אפילו אזוי, איז די אידישע פראַבלעם 1900 יאָר אַלט; און דאָס איז כמעט צוויי מאָל אזוי פיל ווי דער אָנגעגעבענדער לעבענס-דויער פון דעם עלפאַנט. און די אידישע פראַבלעם האָט זיך נישט פאַרענדיגט מיט די 1900 יאָר, נאָר זי ווערט נאָך שטאַרקער און שטאַרקער, און עס זעט אויס, אַז ס'איז נישטאָ קיין אויסזיכט אויף איר אויפ- לעזונג אין דער נאָענטער צוקונפּט.

דער עלפאַנט איז אויך אַ שנעלער לויפּער. איר וועט נישט דענקען אזוי, ווען איר וועט אים זען זיך שלעפען אין דער, באַשפּרייטער מיט זענאַכץ, אַרענאַ פון דעם דעם אַמעריקאַנעם צירק. אָבער מיר זיי גען אינפאַרמירט, אַז ווען דער עלפאַנט פאַנגט אָן צו לויפּען אין דעם דזשאַנגל, לויפט ער ווי דער ווינט, און זייער ווינציג היות קענען אים נאָכ- האַלטען. און איצט דענקט ווי אזוי אונזער אָרים אידיש פּאָלק טוט לויפּען דורך די יאָרהונדערטער

די לעהרערין האָט פאַרענדיגט די אונטערריכ- טונג אין זאָפּלאַניע (די וויסענשאַפּט וועגען חיות). זי האָט געפרעגט וויפּעל אינגלעך וואַלטען וועלען שרייבען אַ קורצע אָבהאַנדלונג וועגען דעם על- פאַנט. איין אינגעל האָט אויפגעהויבען זיין האַנד, איז אויפגעשטאַנען און האָט געזאָגט, אַז ער וועט שרייבען אויף דער טעמאַ: „דער עלפאַנט אַלס אַ פאַרגלייכונג צו די אַנדערע ווילדע חיות אין דעם דזשאַנגל“ (אַ געדיכטער וואָרט אין אידיש). אַן אַנדער אינגעל האָט אויפגעהויבען זיין האַנד און האָט געזאָגט, אַז זיין טעמאַ וועט זיין: „דער עלפאַנט אין זיין הוימישע סביבה.“ דאָן האָט דער קליינער איזידאַר אויפגעהויבען זיין האַנט, איז אויפגע- שטאַנען און אויסגערופּען: „לעהרערין! מיין טעמאַ וועט זיין: 'דער עלפאַנט און די אידישע פראַבלעם.'“

מיר האָבען קיין מאָל נישט געזעהן דעם קליינעם איזידאַר'ס אָפהאַנדלונג און מיר האָבען נישט די לענגסטע פאַרשטעלונג ווי אזוי ער האָט באַהאַנדעלט דיזע טעמאַ. אָבער מיר קענען זי אַלויין אויפנעמען און געבען איזידאַר'ס עטליכע אַנדייטונגען. מיר קענען נעמען דעם עלפאַנט און פאַרגלייכען זיינע פאַרשידענע שטריכען מיט די פאַרשידענע אייגענ- שאַפטען פון דער אידישער פראַבלעמע. אָבער מיר קענען אָננעמען אַ פאַרקערטע ריכטונג; דאָס הייסט, מיר קענען באַהאַנדלען די געגענזאַצען צווישען דעם עלפאַנט און דער אידישער פראַבלעם. צום ביי- שפּיל:

דער עלפאַנט איז זיכער אַ רויזיגע חיה, פּיליכט די גרעסטע אין מאָס און פאַרם אין די ווייטע שרע- קעס פון דעם דזשאַנגל. און אזוי איז ווירקליך די אידישע פראַבלעם — רויזיג און אומגעלומפערט און אויסגעשטרעקט איבער דער גאַנצער ערד. דענקט נאָר! ס'איז היינט-צוטאָג נישט פאַראַן אַ