

MAYORAL SERVICE...LUSAKA..15/5/1960

What a token of religious solidarity has this Congregation created to-day! For in all humility and with that civic pride, we, of the House of Israel, can truly greet our 1st. citizen of Lusaka, together with his fellow-Councillors, who, to-day, have foregathered in this House of Worship, dedicated To God Almighty, and in unison pray for the welfare of our Sovereign, our Country, and our leadership. For did not the ancient prophet of Israel, ask, with his impassioned voice:-
"Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us all".

By a happy co-incidence, this very day, known as LAG BO'OMER, introduces a very happy note in the Religious Calendar of the Jewish people. It is indeed a semi-festival and marks a new era, a new beginning year, a new harmony in human relationships.

We rejoice, therefore, with a sense of gratitude weighted with humility, that the signal and deserved honour bestowed upon a son of our Community, a brother in faith, whose public service has been accepted willingly and appreciatively, in that spirit of fellowship & fraternal co-operation, is but symbolic of that enlightened and exalted tradition of that liberty of conscience, of freedom & opportunity, which has characterised this land of ours.

And, my friends, it is in this spirit that I extend the greetings of my Faith and my People to this representative and distinguished Congregation, with the immortal words of the Prophet Isaiah:-

Peace, Peace to ~~you~~ all, who have come from far & near".

How apt, therefore, is the maxim of our Scriptures when the author of the Book of Proverbs asserts:
"Righteousness enlargeth a nation" for it was indeed in the spirit of Righteousness which held a pride of place in the hearts of our Pioneers of this Country, and helped them to establish themselves in this part of the Commonwealth, and take their rightful place in the full life of this growing Community, which has made this CIVIC Service, an expression of Faith as well as of Thanksgiving.

For a Mayoral Service is first & foremost an hour of DEDICATION. It is also a challenge and a test of character. For to-day, more than ever perhaps, do we need the high integrity, that sense of public service which can transcend even personal interests.