

Freedom Chief Concept in Passover Festival

By Rabbi Henri Front

Passover, the Jewish festival commemorating the deliverance of the Jews from Egyptian bondage, will be celebrated April 11 through 17.

Freedom is the concept which this holy week teaches the observant Jew, and not merely freedom for one's self, but more important, freedom for all men everywhere, whether enslaved in body, or shackled by economic or spiritual bonds.

The holiday begins with a special dinner called Seder. Christians will be familiar with the Seder since the Christian ceremony of Communion, Christ's Last Supper, and the use of the bread and the wine, all originate in the Jewish holiday observance. Jesus, a practicing Jew, was attending a Seder in the upper room, according to the New Testament description.

The Seder is actually a religious service, replete with special foods symbolizing the rigors of slavery in Egypt and the joy of the new-found freedom.

A congregational Seder, open to the community, will be held by Temple Menorah April 12, at the Plush Horse restaurant. Reservations may be obtained by calling Mrs. George Lewison, FR 5-5321, or the Temple office, FR 9-5983.

The Seder is based on the Biblical injunction found in Exodus XIII:8. "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."

This refers to the passage in Exodus XIII:3 "Remember this day in which you came out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."

The story leading to the Exodus started when Joseph, the favorite son of the patriarch Jacob, was sold by his brethren to a caravan of merchants on their way to Egypt.

When Joseph grew up, he endeared himself to the offices of the Egyptian government and, because of his wisdom, was called before the king to interpret two dreams which plagued him.

Joseph predicted seven years of plenty to be followed by seven years of famine, and suggested that during the years of plenty, sufficient food be conserved to last during the years of the famine.

As a result of the interpretations, Joseph became a minister in charge of food storage and distribution. It was in this capacity that he came face to face with his brothers who came from Canaan to seek food in Egypt because the famine in their country.

Joseph invited his family to come to Egypt where they subsequently settled.

However one of the later kings disregarded the help Joseph had given to the Egyptian Empire as well the loyalty of the Jewish people to state.

Pharaoh who wanted to assure a name for himself in the pages of history, sought to accomplish this by building many castles and pyramids.

Hebrews were regimented into forced labor and it was they, who built the pyramids which stand today as a symbol of tyranny and ruthlessness.

Pharaoh, however, noted that despite the harsh treatment accorded the Hebrews, they continued to increase in numbers. He then sought to diminish the number of Jews by ordering all their male children killed immediately after birth.

Among the Hebrews living in Egypt at that time was the family of Levi, his wife, Jochabed; a son, Aaron; and a daughter, Miriam. Another son was born to the family during the period when the law of extinction was in force.

To save her boy, Jochabed placed him in a basket and floated the basket in the river Nile. The child was found by Pharaoh's daughter.

Without knowing that Jochabed was his mother, the princess asked her to rear the child. The princess named the boy Moses. During his early life, Jochabed imbued Moses with knowledge of his Hebrew ancestors. When he

grew up Moses chose to return to his people Israel, rather than enjoy the life of a prince in a kingly palace.

He married Zipporah, the daughter of Jethro who was a priest of Midian. One day, when herding the sheep of his father-in-law, Moses beheld a burning bush in the midst of the wilderness.

Flames enveloped the bush, but its leaves and branches were not consumed by the fire. It was then God revealed Himself to Moses and asked him to go before Pharaoh and command him to let the Israelites go.

Ten plagues were visited upon the Egyptians before Pharaoh

finally permitted the Israelites to leave Egypt so that they might serve their God in the wilderness.

Thus it was that the Israelites left Egypt, marched through the Red Sea unto freedom and nationhood.

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Pilot Member Wins New Post

Herma Tillim of the Pilot Club of Torrance has been appointed district chairman of the international-relations committee of Pilot International for 1960-61.

The appointment was announced by Oneita K. Swain, governor of District 18.

As district chairman, Mrs. Tillim will have charge of committee work at the district convention April 22-24 in Santa Barbara.

She is a charter member of the city's club, as director, parliamentarian, and chairman of the community service committee.

Jack F. Scott Takes Part in Combat Exercise

Army PFC Jack F. Scott, 23, son of Minnie P. Underwood, 1851 W. Pacific Coast Hwy., Lomita, recently participated with the 1099th Transportation Company in Operation Red Patch II near Manto, N.C.

The exercise was designed to increase the unit's effectiveness in conducting over-the-beach operations.

Scott is assigned as a supply clerk in the company of Fort Eustis. He entered the Army in February 1958 and completed basic training at Fort Ord.

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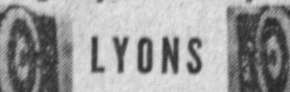
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