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Emes Ve-Emunah

A Forum for Orthodox Jewish thought on Halacha, Hashkafa, and sociological issues of our time.

About Me

NAME: HARRY MARYLES **LOCATION:** CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, UNITED STATES

Much of who I am is based on the philosophy of my primary mentor, Rabbi Aaron Soloveichik from whom I received my rabbinic ordination. It is also based on a search for spiritual truth from various sources that I have studied. Primarily it is a reflection of my understanding of two great philosophic works, "Halakhic Man" and "Lonely Man of Faith" by the pre-eminent Jewish philosopher and theologian, Rabbi Dr. Joseph B. Soloveitchik. Of great significance to me is Dr. Norman Lamm's conceptualization and models of Torah U'Mada. Another individual who helped shape my thinking was Dr. Eliezer Berkovits who introduced me to the world of philosophic thought. My early religious education was most influenced by two pioneers of American Elementary Torah Chinuch, Rabbis Shmuel Kaufman and Yaakov Levi. The Yeshivos I attended were Yeshivas Telshe for early high school and more significantly, the Hebrew Theological College where for a period of ten years my Rebbeim included such great Rabbinic figures as Rabbi Yaakov Perlow, Rabbi Mordechai Rogov, and of course Rabbi Aaron Soloveichik.

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2. No Nivul Peh. Profanity will be deleted.
3. No personal attacks.

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The Lonel...



Rabbi Shmuel Jablon (pictured left) is a Baal Teshuva. Perhaps that is what makes him so great. Rabbi Jablon is someone I know from Chicago. He received Semicha here from the Hebrew Theological College (class of '97) and married the daughter of a friend of mine. He visits Chicago quite often. I count myself as one of the lucky people who knows this remarkable young man.

Rabbi Jablon is the principal of an Orthodox Jewish Day School in Philadelphia - the Torah Academy of

Greater Philadelphia. This school - under Rabbi Jablon's leadership - is a model for all other day schools of heterogeneity and love of one's fellow Jew. One of the primary focuses of his school is Ahavas Yisroel. It teaches an appreciation for the views of all segments of Orthodoxy. This goes well beyond mere tolerance. It is a love for fellow Jews that becomes part and parcel of a student's psyche. It permeates their souls. That is precisely what Rabbi Jablon does. He instills it in every student.

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Guest: 1) Could you please point out the key idea of, or the key differentiator between, each of your many ...

Menachem Lipkin: There's no ideology here. Artscroll is first and foremost a book publishing business. Their goal ...

TA parent: In fact our school offers a Mechina program for students who are not Orthodox and thinking of transf...

Rabbi Shmuel Jablon: I have indeed been very public about that we welcome all Jewish children whose families will be suppo...

Harry Maryles: It is an Orthodox School. It teaches Orthodoxy. It therefore attracts Orthodox parents. I am 100% ce...

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He has written an article for [Cross-Currents](#). I at first was disappointed that he didn't submit it to me. I would love to have published it here as a guest post. It is a rare upbeat and positive article and exactly represents my own views on the subject.

But upon further reflection, I'm glad that Cross-Currents got it and published it first. They need that perspective since they often reflect one that is heavily biased to the right. This one is biased to what IS right. I recommend it to all. Why do I feel this so strongly about it? Here is an excerpt that will explain why:

This past winter, I had the honor of spending some time with HaRav Aviner at his Yeshiva I talked to him about our school. I described to him how in our school everyone is Orthodox. However, under one roof we have different kinds of Orthodox Jews. We have families and faculty members who identify as Modern, Centrist, Dati Leumi, Charedi and Chabad. Naturally we have both Ashkenazim and Sephardim.

In our school, nobody is told which kind of Orthodoxy is "better." Rather, children are taught to follow the customs and philosophies of their families. For example, prior to Yom HaAtzmaut, our students are told to know whether or not their family says Hallel on that day. Those families (and faculty members) who do, sing Hallel. Those who do not say Tehillim for Israel. Therefore, in one room one can see different children and adults doing something different. But all are together and all learn that their classmates are both Orthodox and love Israel, even if they do things slightly differently.

Because of this approach, teachers focus on meeting the educational, spiritual and emotional needs of every child- rather than on trying to create clones of themselves. One result is that every child is prepared for the Orthodox high schools of their family's choice. Another result is that children learn that there are different kinds of Orthodoxy, and that all are legitimate and to be honored. Sometimes this even results in breaking down the stereotypes that endanger the unity of the Orthodox community.

For example, our Sgan Menahel, Rabbi Naftoli Eisemann, is a product of the Yeshivot of both Philadelphia and Lakewood. He was a rebbe in our school for 24 years prior to my promoting him to his role.

Last Yom haZikaron he movingly addressed our students about visiting Har Herzl and asking to visit the grave of the soldier most recently buried there. He was taken to see the grave, and read of the Hesder Yeshiva graduate who died for Israel. He told our students that he cried more at that grave than at the funeral of his own father. Our students saw that, indeed, one can be a "Charedi" and still be very much in love with Israel.

Similarly, one of our shlichim, Rabbi Elad Asulin, is a graduate of a

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Hesder Yeshiva. Rabbi Eisemann has noted many times that his level of learning and care in mitzvot is the same as one might expect in a Charedi Yeshiva. Thus our students learn that one can be a “Tzioni” and still be very much in love with Hashem’s Torah.

Students in schools where everyone is the same never have the opportunity to truly experience that stereotypes are often wrong, and there is more that unites us than divides us.

I could not agree more!

posted by Harry Maryles | 11:00 AM [Comments \(7\)](#)



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