

His Eminence  
**Rabbi Abraham I. Kook**  
Chief Rabbi of Palestine.

The Prophet of Consolation has said: „Lift up thine eyes around and see, all they gather themselves together, they come to thee; thy sons shall come from

afar, and thy daughters shall be nursed at thy side. Then thou shalt see, and flow together, and thine heart shall fear, and be enlarged, because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the forces of the gentiles shall come unto thee”.

Today's great event, the opening of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem on Mount Scopus, in such splendour and festivity, amidst the gathering of thousands of our sons and daughters from all parts of Palestine and from all the lands of the Diaspora, is in small compass the fulfilment of the holy vision of the Prophet. If all have not yet gathered themselves together, if the beginning of the gathering of our scattered brethren is small, yet it is a sure pledge that the time of Redemption has come, that the Gates of the Redemption are opening wide for us, that our hope is becoming stronger that the great day is not far off when “all they shall gather themselves together and come to us” and “the redeemed shall come up unto Zion with rejoicing”.

We also behold in this first step of ours to day the fulfilment of the prophecy “Then thou shalt see”. With our own eyes we see the wonders of the Redeemer of Israel, Who hath done this great thing with us this day, Who hath glorified the name of his people among the nations, “Who hath given us a light in Judah” and “strength and excellent spirit” to begin to build the life of our nation for evermore in this holy land. We also recognise the words of the prophet “and flow together”. The faces of the thousands gathered here radiant with joy and love, and gratitude and esteem for our distinguished guests, the presence of Lord Balfour, representative of the great nation which issued the Dec-

laration, and of his Excellency the High Commissioner, our brother Sir Herbert Samuel, of His Excellency Lord Allenby, and of distinguished Rabbis and learned men — — make those gathered here and the tens of thousands of our distant brethren who feel the importance of to day, rejoice and "their hearts flow together".

But why the fear? Why has the prophet prefaced the phrase "and thine heart shall be enlarged" with the idea of fear. When we look back in retrospect at the generations which have passed and the spiritual movements which have left their stamp upon us, we readily see that the idea of fear in connection with "the enlargement of the heart" is appropriate to the occasion.

There are two spiritual tendencies in Israel; the one an inner and wholly sacred one tending to deepen his soul and to spread the light of the Torah from within. This aspiration is served by the Torah, the stronghold of Israel's soul, and by the Talmudical schools established in our midst from earliest times for the glory of the Torah. This spiritual aspiration is clearly defined and resolute neither fearing nor yielding to any obstacle. Yet in spite of his faith Rabbi Nechonya ben Hakana on entering the Beth Hamidrash prayed "May no hindrance arise on my path".

The second spiritual tendency of the nation serves not only to deepen the inner sacredness of the Torah but also serves as the medium for the absorption and propagation of ideas, the propagation of Jewish conceptions and values from the Jewish world into the wide world of nations. For this purpose have we been set as a light for the peoples, and for the absorption of profane learning from without, from all humanity; to adapt to our own life the good and the sublime which we receive and to transmit it again to the world at large. And for the attainment of this end this University can serve as a great and worthy instrument.

Here, my beloved brethren there is reason to fear. From the earliest times we have already had experience with the dissemination into the world of our most cherished ideas and conceptions. There was the translation of the Torah into Greek in relation to which there were two responses from the Jews. Palestine Jewry feared, while Greek Jewry rejoiced at the work, its "heart was

enlarged". We also permitted the entry of foreign culture. With the development of foreign culture, of Greek philosophy and of the cultures of the various nations with whom we came into contact throughout our long history, these cultures gradually penetrated into our philosophy. This also, while looked upon with apprehension by some was welcomed by others.

When we regard these events from our present point of view, we see that neither the fear nor the rejoicing were unjustified. We gained because of these tendencies but also lost not a little through them.

It is quite clear that of those circles which welcomed these two tendencies without apprehension and with careless optimism and rejoicing, but few of their descendants have remained to participate in our difficult and sacred task of rebuilding our country and reviving the nation. The great majority of them have been assimilated among the nations, they have been caught up in the current of the "abundance of the sea" and the "forces of the gentiles which have come unto us".

Only those have been truly creative who have sat securely within the walls of our spiritual fortress, in the tabernacle of our Torah, in the holiness of the commandments and the laws. Only those who have both given and received values and conceptions through the golden mean between Israel and the nations — only those who have always lived not only with confidence and security, but also with apprehension remembering the prophecy of the "abundance of the sea and the forces of the Gentiles", — only those have truly created. From among them have sprung the true creative forces, workers in the building of our great edifice — from among them has grown that great body of the nation, faithful to the flag.

Wherefore hath the prophet rightly said: "Then thou shalt see and flow together, and thine heart shall fear, and be enlarged; because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee".

But how shall we subdue our fear? How fortify the position of the nation against the great stream?

To this, gentlemen, I, standing upon this honoured platform, as a representative of the community, transmit to you the thoughts of large sections of orthodox Jewry.

If we know that the University alone will not embody all that constitutes our national life, but that there shall be first of all great Talmudic Schools established upon a firm basis, those already existing and those about to be established—among them especially the Talmudic School which we are now endeavoring with God's help to establish in Jerusalem, which shall be a light unto Israel on all parts of the Torah, laws and legend, the philosophy of action and the philosophy of thought—such Schools as shall firmly lead the spirit of the nation in full security; moreover if the University shall preserve a standard which shall glorify the name of the Lord, of Israel and of Eretz-Israel and there shall be no desecration, on the part of the Governors, the teachers, or the students; especially of the teachers of Jewish subjects—the Bible and all the various cognate studies, Jewish philosophy and history—and they shall be not only men of learning, each in his respective field, but also in harmony with the Jewish faith in their opinions, feelings and conduct of life, then shall the apprehension we feel, together with the great event of this day and the emotions which surge in our breast at this moment bring to us that "enlargement of heart", that confidence, which shall be a blessing to us.

We hope that this institution, glorified this day with the glory of Israel, will lead us to this attitude out of the "abundance of the sea and the forces of the Gentiles who have come unto us", and that in us the prayer of Rabbi Nechonya ben Hakana "May no hindrance arise in my path", may be realised.

And the nation shall dwell in habitations of peace and benign resting places and in dwelling places of safety; and may we be privileged to witness the joy of our people, the rebuilding of our Temple, our Glory, unto which all the nations shall stream to receive the Law from Zion and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem, Amen.

## P R A Y E R.

O Thou, O Lord of the Universe who art the Source of Life and hast established the universe and the fullness thereof in light, wisdom and understanding; and man, the work of thy hand hast Thou created in the majesty of Thine image, and hast crowned him with grace and understanding to do wisely and deal kindly with all; and with the light of thy glory hast Thou exalted him, and bestowed upon him a glorious soul.

And Thou hast chosen Thy people Israel to be unto Thee an holy people for ever. Thou hast given unto him the Law of truth full of understanding, justice and righteousness and hast set him to be a peculiar people, a light unto the nations. Thou hast planted him in a rich garden, in this beautiful country, in the Holy Land. Thou hast crowned him with the splendour of Thy Kingdom and the glory of Thy Holy of Holies. Thou hast commanded him to obey Thy laws and Thy statutes which Thou hast taught him, that he might stand firmly unto eternity upon the Land of the blessed inheritance, Selah.

As a father chastiseth his son, hast Thou chastised him: when he hath strayed from the path, proud nations have destroyed his inheritance and scattered him to the winds. But Thou hast made an everlasting covenant with him to bring him back unto the land of his inheritance, though the days of his wanderings have been long and our dispersed ones have been scattered to the ends of the earth. And now at the end of the days our eyes have seen Thy justice after years of oppression, which every nation hath oppressed Israel to destroy him. And in the time of distress and suffering hast Thou caused to shine upon Thy people the light of Thy redemption and hast guided with might Thy great Kingdom of Britain, the Government of His Majesty King George V may his glory increase, and Thou hast awakened the spirit of generosity and the light of justice in the heart of the mightiest of the nations and in the great and noble Lord Balfour who now honours us with his presence. Thou hast sent Thy word to many nations to restore Thy nation, which Thou possessest, to the land in

which it delighted and to place upon the seat of Government our brother His Excellency Sir Herbert Samuel, as High Commissioner for Palestine, may his honour increase. And thou hast awakened the pure spirit in the hearts of Thy dispersed sons to return to the Land of their inheritance and to renew their youth in it as doth the phoenix, to bring an everlasting blessing to all the inhabitants of the Holy Land and to all the nations of the world. Yea, even Thy numerous children who have forgotten the rock from which they were hewn, behold they are returning in holy ardour to build that which is desolate and establish the life of the nation in the Land of Life.

And Thou delightest in Knowledge, which hath ever made its home in our midst, and is the foundation of the temple of wisdom and knowledge. And this day have thousands and tens of thousands gathered to open wide in love and rejoicing the Gates of Knowledge. We now beseech Thee, O Lord, Rock of Israel and Redeemer of Thy people, may the hearts of Thy chosen people, Israel, be strong and obedient to Thy holy Law, the source of their life, unto eternity: to magnify the Torah and exalt it, as it is written „The Lord delighteth in justice, he increaseth the Torah and magnifieth it“, that they may sprout forth like the vine in majesty and glory upon Thy holy land which Thou hast given unto them for an inheritance; and thus the words of the prophet shall be confirmed „For from Zion shall come forth the Law and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem, Amen, Selah.