



YOUNG ISRAEL, THE BLESSED MINORITY

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One of the most arresting statements recently made by a famous American was, "If 2% of the population of any country were to oppose war or any other form of atrocity, peace and contentment would prevail on earth." Superficially, it sounds rather imaginary; however, judging from the light of past historical events, this statement becomes a confirmed fact.

Creative ideas destined to remake society have always been the priceless possession of the minority. The majority has always been frigidly indifferent to its own lot and to the fate of others. This is proven by the classical example of Elijah, rebuking the people of their inconsistent, nonchalant attitude toward the God of Israel.

"How long halt ye between two opinions. If the Lord be God, follow him.
But if Baal, follow him. And the people answered him not a word."

In our own times, the immortal Bialik expressed his unique biblical style, a similar thought

"Yes, the people are like grass, dry as wood. Yes, the people are as an endless corps. Even if the voice of God will Thunder from East or West, the nation doesn't move; nor does react."

In every realm, the pathfinders have been few. It was the 2% who fought for popular education, social advancement, and freedom of thought; while the 98% slumbered in smug complacency.

The spiritual conditions that have prevailed in the American Jewish Community were vivid illustrations of this truth. Orthodoxy has been anemic and frail. The majority of the Orthodox Jews have felt slightly the needs of genuine Jewry. Our masses have been inconsistent and vague in their loyalties to God and the Torah.

Behold, a miracle! Out of the frozen majority emerged Young Israel, a humble, but defiant minority that raised the cry of ages who is for God should join me.

We are proud of being a minority, for we are true to the task of our people, as it has been ordained by God "For you are the minority among the people of the earth."

We are truly the "Ecclesia," the chosen few, who are endowed with intense loyalty and unflinching devotion to the cause of our God, our Torah, and our people.

In place of frustration, we have enstilled hope. We have awakened the slumbering Orthodox masses to their sacred obligation. We have removed the songs of Lamentations and replaced it with a song of Triumph.

We who labor for the cause of genuine Judaism and its perpetuation, praise and thank the God of our Fathers for Young Israel, "The blessed minority."