

My Dear Children,

I HAVE always loved to listen to beautifully-chosen songs. The spirit, expressed both in tune and words, does at all times leave a long and delightful echo in my mind. More so when after I have gone through a period of moodiness. Then again I feel cheerful.

To be cheerful in our surroundings should be the main task of each and everyone of us, and your singing should emphasise that feeling. On this account, I would be glad to learn the type of song you learn at school and which, too, attracts your particular attention.

At home, as a rule, you hear Jewish songs sung either in Hebrew or in Yiddish or even in English. I know that many of these songs appeal to you, for they forcefully remind us of the happy or sad memories of the Jewish people at any time or at any place. The greater is the effect of such songs on you if you happen to understand the meaning of the phrases or melody connected with them.

Like other nations, Jews sing songs that are popular from one part of the world to the other. Even in South Africa, so far away from great centres of Jewish life, we sometimes hear snatches of what we call Jewish folk-songs, and to collect such songs is in itself a pleasant study and a profitable source of entertainment. Let me tell you in passing that the background of the tunes of those typical Jewish songs, contain a wealth of legendary matter and historical references.

Many of these folk-songs have a religious basis, but there are some charming cradle songs that will interest you. Let me give the words of one:

"O! Hush thee, my darling, sleep soundly my son;
Sleep soundly and sweetly till days has begun,
For under the bed of good children at night,
There lies, till the morning, a Kid snowy white;
We'll send it to market to buy *Sechora*,
While my little lad goes to study Torah.
Sleep soundly at night, and learn Torah by day,
Then you'll be a rabbi when I have grown grey.
But I'll give thee to-morrow some nuts and a toy,
If thou'lt sleep as I bid thee, my own little boy."

The words of another similar song sung by our parents when putting their little ones to bed, runs as follows:

"If I possessed the Emperor's treasures and all his realms,
I should not hold it as dear as I do thee, my light, my joy.
As I gaze upon thee
I feel that all the world is mine.
Sleep, my darling, sleep,
Rest and be well."

Then there are even songs for school children. Here is the refrain of a popular Jewish folk-song:

"Go to school, my dearies,
Learn from *Aleph* to *Tav*,
From reading to *Gemarah*
The best antidote to trouble."

OUR CHILDREN'S PAGE

Contributed by
AUNT SARAH

I WOULD LIKE YOU FOR A COMRADE.

*I would like you for a comrade,
for I love you, that I do,*

*I never met a little girl as amiable
as you.*

*I would teach you how to dance
and sing, and how to talk and
laugh,*

*If I were not a little girl and you
were not a calf.*

*I would like you for a comrade,
you should share my barley
meal,*

*And butt me with your little horns,
just hard enough to feel,*

*We would lie beneath the chestnut
trees and watch the leaves un-
curl,*

*If I were not a clumsy calf and
you a little girl.*

Judge Parry.

Gems from the Talmud

The forest trees once asked the fruit trees:

"Why is the rustling of your leaves not heard in the distance?"

The fruit trees replied: "We can dispense with the rustling to manifest our presence, our fruits testify for us."

The fruit trees then inquired of the forest trees:

"Why do your leaves rustle almost continually?"

"We are forced to call the attention of men to our existence."

Action speaks louder than words.

Judge a man by his deeds and not by his words.

Grasp a little and you may secure it.

Grasp too much and you may lose everything.

Let every man watch his doings that he may be an example to his fellow-man through life.

Experience is the mirror of the mind.

Let not your lips speak that which is not in your heart.

TWO NEW MEMBERS
for
**Aunt Sarah's Children's
Page Circle**

Mervyn Rubenstein,
P.O. Box 6,
Thaba 'Nchu, O.F.S.

Phyllis Smith,
P.O. Box 3,
Thaba 'Nchu, O.F.S.

Answers to Correspondents

Mervyn Rubenstein (Thaba 'Nchu).—I welcome you as a new member of my Children's Page Circle and I hope that you will keep your promise to work for my Fund.

Mona Rubin (Petrusburg).—It was nice of you to collect 6s. for the assistance of Jewish children in Germany. It was indeed a kind thought on your part.

Phyllis Smith (Thaba 'Nchu).—It is good to have you as a new member for my circle. I must congratulate you, your sisters, Joyce and Haidee and your brother, Raphael, for sending me 2s. 6d. towards the assistance of orphans in Palestine. Please write to me again.

Ruthie Levin (Somerset East).—It was thoughtful of you to raffle the slab of chocolate given to you by your granny. So you were able to raise the sum of 10s. which you are sending me for little orphans. This sum is most welcome and I hope that you will continue this kind of good work at an early opportunity. Please thank your granny, mother and aunt for their regards to me which I heartily reciprocate.

Jenny Smolowitz (Karree Station).—Thank you for your charming little letter, but I would appreciate it when you write to me again, you would do so in ink. Always avoid writing letters in pencil. I acknowledge the sum of 1s. 6d. which you send me in aid of German Jewry. It was pleasant to hear from you and I hope you will write again.

Ziona Cohen (Bulawayo).—You are one of the nieces of Aunt Rachael, and it was pleasant to receive such a nice welcome. I am glad that you heard and liked Maurice Samuel. He is indeed a fine lecturer. He is certainly the best public speaker I have heard for many years. I hope by this time you have been able to join the Habonim group. This is a fine organisation and I am sure you will be very happy in your Gedyud. Thank you for the "Kapporahs" money which will be devoted to my Fund for charity.

Aunt Sarah's Fund

Jacob Joffe (Johannesburg): for Palestine Orphan Fund	2 6
Mona Rubin (Petrusburg): For German children	6 0
Phyllis Smith (Thaba 'Nchu): From Phyllis, Joyce, Haidee and Raphael for Palestine Orphan Fund	2 6
Ruthie Levin (Somerset East): For Palestine Orphan Fund	10 0
Jewish Children of Marquard, per Miss J. Furman	1 0 0
Jenny Smolowitz (Karree Station): For S.A. German Fund	1 6
Ziona Cohen (Bulawayo): 1s. 6d. each from Ziona, sister and brother	4 6
	£2 7 0
Previously acknowledged	364 2 10
Total (second £1,000)	£366 9 10

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