

For the Young

Pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

A Shavuoth Treat.

"Good!" said the teacher; "I am satisfied, and Chaim, too, shall go up to Jerusalem for the Festival."

For two seconds the boys were dumb-founded; then a cry burst forth: "To Jerusalem! We are going to Jerusalem!"

"Why, yes," said the kind master, looking quite as happy as his pupils. You know that in old days the men and boys (those boys were a little older than you, but never mind) went up three times a year, when possible, to worship the Temple. There is no Temple now, but there is no reason why we should not go to our beautiful city, and thank God that we, at least, are again living in our own country. And, if we cannot make any gifts to the Temple, we can always make the offering of a glad and thankful heart."

Then the master unfolded his plan. The boys were to ask their parents for some provisions for the way, and to meet him at dawn outside the school.

That evening the boys nearly drove their mothers and sisters mad over getting ready. True, their parents had known of the plan for some time, and had been preparing the food—hard-boiled eggs (the small Eastern eggs, but very nice), cheese, home-made cake, dried figs, and also vegetables and chickens for the poor people in Jerusalem. So there was really no need for any fuss. But nothing would persuade the boys that things would be ready in time—they were even afraid to go to bed lest they should wake too late, and some of them dropped asleep as they were done-up with excitement, and were carried to bed afterwards.

Meantime, there was great heart-burning among the girls, for whom no such delightful plan had been made. A few went about weeping and refused to work, and they all decided that it was most unfair. They went to the same school as the boys; they also were Jewish children; and the Festivals were surely there for them, too.

At last a few of the fathers, who were going to Jerusalem on horses, arranged to take a girl each on his horse, and the others resolved that when the next Festival came round, they would all find a way to go.

Next morning, just as the last star or two went out in the sky, the party moved off on horses and donkeys, some on foot with mules carrying the food in panniers, and the whole of the rest of the Colony was there to see them start.

Just as the day began to dawn, they reached Ramleh, where there is now a railway station, but in those days there was no railway. Here the riders got down, and they all sat under some very old and very big olive-trees, with great twisted grey trunks and knotted roots, and had breakfast.

After this they travelled on till it became really hot, and they settled down under some more trees for a few hours till the heat would pass off. There was no hurry about getting anywhere before night, for they would be able to journey on by the light of the moon. The older little boys, who had walked most of the way, were very tired, though too happy to mind, and they lay down and went to sleep.

The girls, on the other hand, had been riding and were quite fresh, and they unpacked and rode off to an Arab village nearby, and brought back water, live charcoal, and milk, so they were even able to make coffee, and when the boys awoke, behold a white cloth laid under a tree and a tempting meal. Then the boys were glad that some girls had come, too, as they had

made themselves so useful; and they washed their hands, said grace, and enjoyed themselves.

The sun was still too high for them to start, so the boys asked their master to tell them something to rest in while away the time, and he opened a Prayer Book and showed them the very psalms which their forefathers had sung as they went up to the Temple and perhaps stopped to rest in this very spot. These are the psalms which are called Songs of Degrees, or Steps, because they were also sung as the pilgrims went up the Temple stair-ways. And the older men joined in with old tales of famous Rabbis, and the girls listened, too, when they had cleared away and packed up.

When it was cool enough to start, they all recited the Evening Prayer and set off. Sometimes a caravan would pass them going or coming and the camel-driver and the pilgrim would call out "Shalom" or "Peace be with you," for it is the Arab salutation also, and sounds much the same in Arabic as in Hebrew.

When the mountain-road became steep, the men got down and made the boys ride, which at first they were unwilling to do, wishing to shew off their great strength and endurance before their sisters. But it was a pleasant feeling after the stony road, and it all seemed to them, getting rather drowsy as they jogged along in the moonlight, like a fantastic dream. "Jerusalem, the hills stand round about her," sang the men, and the children began to wonder if the hills would ever end and Jerusalem appear. They were too sleepy to sing themselves. Every now and then they really fell asleep, but the men took good care they should not fall from their seats.

Just as another dawn broke, there was a shout: "Jerusalem!" The boys started wide awake and all, even the girls, jumped from the horses and donkeys and cried again and again, "Jerusalem, our dear Jerusalem!"

They could not see much of the city from where they were, but they had a feeling that something for which they had longed all their lives, without knowing it, lay now before them. The boys, to whom their master had read bits of Yehuda Halevy's poems, threw themselves upon the ground and kissed it, and, wishing to do as he had done, tied up handfuls of earth in their handkerchiefs which they put into their bosoms, because the spot from which the pilgrim first beholds his heart's desire is a holy one to him.

The older men, to whom the first sight of Jerusalem was nothing new, wept to see the joy of the children. Morning Prayer was said under the slowly brightening sky, and then the party rode into town and sought out their friends. These friends were all delighted to see the young boys and girls, and said they would make room for them all in different families.

The first excitement over, the children began to feel very tired, and after breakfast they were all made to lie down and fell sound asleep for some hours.

In the evening their master took them out for the first walk about Jerusalem. It would take too long to tell you now all the things they saw and heard during their stay in the holy city—we must leave that for another time.

They spent several days in Jerusalem, enjoyed themselves immensely, and would have been very sorry when

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Contributors to Youth Aliyah Children's Gift Album.

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Note: Some lists have been held over for the next issue.

Zionist Youth Activities.

The Paarl Zionist Youth Society held a meeting in the form of a living newspaper evening on the 11th May at the Cheder.

The Chairlady delivered the editorial and was followed up by Miss S. Berman with a social and personal column. Letters to the editor were sent in by Mr. A. Marcus. Mr. E. Berman gave the news of the day. Miss L. Kahano-witz gave a talk entitled "Territorialism" and Miss F. Davidowitz her stage and screen column. Mr. M. Peck gave his advertisement column. A very interesting meeting was concluded by a vote of thanks to the hostesses proposed by Mr. J. Marcus.

Thanks to Mr. S. Opland the Cape Town Jewish Youth Club were able to enjoy a full-length film on Sunday, 11th instant, at the Club premises. Over 70 were present and really enjoyed the programme, which consisted of a musical short, a coloured cartoon and a feature picture "I walk beside you." A small donation was charged. Besides getting good value for their money, members spent a homely evening and the Club's finances benefited. Billiards and table-tennis were played as usual.

The Cape Town Jewish Youth Club held a novel radio evening on Sunday, the 27th April at the Club premises. A scene was erected behind which a loudspeaker was installed. Mr. Ockie Rabinowitz acted as compere and kept the audience in fits of laughter. The programme was a long and

varied one and was from the one side of the world to the other. Mike Sacks played a medley of tunes on the piano which was at times supplemented by a "Yiddish Orchestra." Sonny Zohar and the compere did some impersonations which were followed by some well-sung songs by Mildred Patz.

Solly Walt chose some opera for his songs which were of outstanding beauty. Vera Schach impersonated a cockney and Robert Isaacson was outstanding in the field of Spanish, English and Yiddish impersonations.

The evening could well have been performed before an audience far greater than the 80 who were present, and Mr. N. Blachowitz, the entertainment convenor of the Club, is to be congratulated on this effort.

Continued from Second Column.

the time came to go home, if they had not been so anxious to tell their parents all they had seen and done. Besides their new friends all said they must come back next Shavuoth, and promised meantime to come and visit them in the Colony, to be entertained and shewn about in their turn. So there was a great deal to look forward to, and they went back very happy.

They also resolved to be very industrious and well-behaved, thus to show their dear master how sincerely they appreciated his kindness in arranging such a wonderful surprise and treat.

Published in co-operation with the Cape Zionist Youth Executive.

PRINTED BY THE MERCANTILE-ATLAS PRINTING CO. (PTY.) LTD. 91, SIR LOWRY ROAD, CAPE TOWN.