

אדם בן אדם בן אדם בן אדם
Adar I 15, 5749
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Henry Bernstein

Our ancient sages posted landmark throughout the stages
of our life. They tell us ^{אדם בן אדם} when we reach the age of
30 we attain ^{אח"כ} the full vigor of youth. The age of 30 is when we achieve
our physical prime - when we are at peak strength.
When we reach 40 we achieve wisdom. This is an age
when our ^{our} ~~our~~ minds turn away from the playfulness of youth &
turn toward more serious matters - at this age our children are growing
& family matters take precedence over all else. At this stage of life
we begin to achieve the wisdom to realize what is really important.
Finally we are told ^{אדם בן אדם} when we reach the age of 70 we
~~achieve the~~ merit the honor of being revered to as an elder.
~~a position of leadership a title that the~~ ^{merit} ~~title~~
a title that our tradition invests with ^{dignity} honor & respect.

Most of us ~~do~~ gradually take leave of ^{ONE} one stage as
we advance to the next. As we achieve the wisdom of middle
age, the bloom of youth fades, as though ~~we~~ ~~the~~ ~~sub~~ ~~sober~~ sobriety
& youth must separate themselves as ~~oil~~ do oil & water.

& when we reach the station of elders we ~~are no longer~~
~~looked at~~ to the stage of ^{our} physical prime is long gone & ~~we~~
~~our wisdom is no longer called upon~~ & in our age that worldly
youth - even our wisdom is ^{no} longer called upon.

It is the rare man who, when he reaches the ~~stage~~ standards
of "elder" is able to have retained the stages passed along the way

Henry Berniker was such a man ^{rather than} rather than discarding these stages,
like, he collected them - so that ~~until~~ until his dying day he was
referred to by both friend & family as "ageless"

~~His~~ He ~~was~~ was always reaching the stage the Rabbi called

"The age of wisdom" when he settled down & married Debby. As a
youth he had been something of a Casanova - the girls would
all dial over him ^{Debby decided he was a man w/ muscle on his muscles} & it was Debby who won the prize. ~~They~~
~~gent~~ Henry ~~was~~ ^{Henry} Debby proved to be a loyal & devoted
husband. That loyalty was an extension of who he was - he was
a family man first - it is recalled that even after his marriage
he would take his parent out every single Sat night to dinner.

~~As a father~~

He was a man who always loved children. His family remembers that even as a child he would always play with children much younger than himself. As a father he could combine a certain rigidity w/ an extremely affectionate nature.

Mary & Jack recall being smothered w/ mustachio'd kisses - & that dad would be mad if they were wiped off.

Lance remembers that when dad would come home the children would jump up into his arms. As a father he was able to mature becoming less rigid as ~~he grew~~ ~~more~~ at even the present at the Y would refer to him as the one w/ the kids - because he would ~~at~~ speak of them & show pictures.

He was a man that was well liked by all who knew him. He had many friends - he was people oriented & gregarious. He ^{kind} liked who would give the shirt off his back. His family believes that he was the ~~oldest~~ ^{sentimental} longest member of the Y having joined when he was 9 years ^{old} 65 years ago. & he made numerous friends there during his frequent work-outs.

He was ~~so~~ most honored when he was presented w/ a lifetime membership to the Y - 1981
~~perhaps his~~

His friendliness was also characterized by ~~well~~ his humor. He was always kidding, always playing w/ words. & indeed he was lucky enough to receive - for his 50th birthday, a set of Tom Cat Holders as a teasing reference to his style of humor.

~~Henry also~~ but there were other reasons ~~that~~ beside his

humor & ~~of~~ ^{His} imposing physical strength that endeared Henry

to all. Behind his ~~muscle~~ impressive ~~mind~~ this impressive body beat the heart of a sensitive man. He was ~~not~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~defined~~ ~~by~~ ~~his~~ ~~size~~. He was a man easily moved. His daughter recalls that he nearly wept w/ ^{emotion} ~~joy~~ when informed that he was to again become a grandpa. ~~His sense of family was his strongest em.~~

~~But~~ ~~his~~ ^{His} sensitivity went beyond his immediate family.

Lance recalls that when he read ^{a newspaper} ~~a newspaper~~ or heard of an

injustice he was intensely moved. He was so easily hurt & tender.

to man's inhumanity to man that Lance would have to persuade

him to not take things so much to heart.

The sense of justice & fair play guided his life as a business man as well. Perhaps he never achieved immense wealth in his business, but he was able to point w/ pride to the fact that he never cut the ethical corners that other did to achieve such wealth.

His sensitivity ~~also~~ to the needs of others - combined w/ his natural friendliness also led him to become involved in communal affairs. He was a man willing to give ~~his~~ ^{his} time + effort for the organizations he believed in. It raised funds for the Y he so loved for UJA, for B'nai B'rith, where he was an active member. Indeed during campaign seasons was the only time some people tried to avoid him ~~when he wasn't on the phone soliciting - people would be wa-~~

In a sense, despite his long battle w/ illness, at a hand to that of this strong man passing away. ^{Bill} Drew recalls that even as late as December of the year he was still working out at the gym still building his body - begins to enjoy grand-children Jordan + Stacy + looks forward to the 2 more that were on the way.

But it is comforting to know that this strong, sensitive man ~~did~~ ~~proceeding~~ led a full life. He was blessed by the love of Debby - He always considered himself lucky to have her & she showed her love at ~~the end~~ ~~by~~ when the end was near - by being w/ him always - giving him the love & care he so needed.

He was blessed w/ 2 lovely daughters & w/ grand-children. He was blessed w/ ~~friend~~ ~~a~~ ~~sub~~ ~~son~~ a family that always remained close to him - his children & grandchildren & sub son all lived in the same community -

He was blessed w/ the ability to care & to love.

He was blessed w/ friends

& He was blessed by being "ageless" both in Body & spirit.

May his soul be bound in the land of eternal life.

May he be a blessing to all who knew him.

May he rest in peace.

we extend our sympathy to Betty - Mary, Jack, Bill + De.
to sister Ann + Edg
& to all who knew & loved them

Our friend of 57 1/2

Ann 7:00 PM tonight
wed.
thurs
sat
sun