

**EULOGY - Moshe Yedlin - November 5, 1991 - Rabbi Jacob Rosner**

Last night, as I was sitting and talking with Mar Yedlin's family, his son Matthew told me this story;

He had heard the shocking news of Moshe's passing, and immediately made arrangements to come to Edmonton.

Before he left, however he had a class to teach. it was difficult to carry on, what with his grief and the flood of memories, but duty called and he gave what he called his "hardest lecture". At the end of the class he announced that the next lecture would be cancelled, because while learning is important, family is important too.

I believe that this statement gives us a hint of what this man who we mourn today was all about.

Perhaps Moshe had a premonition, perhaps he was guided by a higher power; somehow in the last few weeks he was able to assert the primacy of his family by saying goodbye.

Tragically yesterday was Tova's birthday. As I understand it, Moshe conspired with Debra on a unique birthday gift. When the bell rang, Tova was told that a package had arrived for her birthday; that package was their lovely daughter Debra, who had come up from Toronto for the occasion. She came for a happy occasion, Debra you will always be

grateful for that opportunity you had to say goodbye. Only weeks before Moshe visited Matthew & Gail Anne and his only grandson Benjamin.

It was in his 44 years of marriage to Tova that he was able to combine his feeling for family and his love of learning. They shared a love for classical music and concerts. They attended lectures together, but mostly they shared a love for learning and for books. Debra recalls that when the two were together that there were constant intellectual gymnastics going on. Matthew remembers how they would read together, discuss Russian history in Hebrew and talk about philosophy.

But more important Tova recalls his kindness and compassion toward her and the love they shared together.

Tova says that in the home, he was the boss, in a time of crisis, he gave support to everyone.

Debra remembers her father as a caring loving affectionate man. She recalls the incident when she was hospitalized at the age of 20 in Switzerland. For 6 weeks she was in hospital. He came everyday and sat by her bed. Talking for hours, always disappointed when she wasn't improving.

To Debra, Dad was seen as a man with infinite wisdom, a man who was always there to advise her.

She speaks of him as a man who had a great deal of a fabulous way of seizing people up. For his daughter he was a man who not only studied philosophy, but lived it; he practiced his

- he would take things as they came and face them.

But Debra also remembers the little things

"how he would zipper my coat, buckle by boots and sit with me when I couldn't sleep, how we would eat breakfast together.

Matthew remembers his father as an open minded man, who saw things from a unique philosophical point of view.

He had or sayings that he used in the family. Some were in Latin, but often he condescended to English or Hebrew quotations.

Debra recalls that when, as a child, she said "No" to him - he typed out in Hebrew the 6th. Commandment..... and when the children would say something they ought not have said he would quote "Those who keep their tongues guard themselves from much trouble"

Matthew recalls that he was a man who loved paradoxes - the story he will tell is one example.

He would also often say, "the more things change, the more often they stay the same."

To Matthew he was a father who was always a teacher - a man

who set an example for his children to follow.

Last night Matthew recalled ruefully that as he came to the airport he was half expecting his father to pick him up as he always did, but that time he wasn't there to pick him up.

Tova, Matthew, Deborah you are now in mourning for a wonderful husband and father - wonderful man. His physical presence will no longer be with you.

But Tova you will find the strength to go on. Strength the two of you shared together.

Deborah you will continue to carry your dad right here.

AND MATTHEW YOUR DAD WILL PICK YOU UP. NOT AT THE AIRPORT,  
BUT IN MANY OTHER WAYS AS HIS TEACHING AND MEMORIES WILL GUIDE YOU THROUGHOUT  
YOUR LIFE

PAUSE!

As a Rabbi, I have been involved in the grief of many families.  
To each family there is a sense of loss and grief. Every family mourns  
a man or woman who was very special to it.

For Moshe, today, there is also a community that grieves.  
He was the ..... the teacher par excellence who educated generation  
of Jews in Torah and Hebrew.

There is a history to his arrival here, and his accomplishments in the role of community Moreh-teacher.

Moshe was born in the city of Radziwillov to a family of very prominent people in Zionist circles.

His families Zionist vision inspired him to enroll at the University of Jerusalem where he specialized in Judaic studies and philosophy.

In 1951, Moshe and his family were sent to Edmonton by the Jewish Agencies Department for teaching of Hebrew in the Diaspora.

As a teacher he never ended his quest for learning, achieving a 2nd. graduate degree, a Masters in Medieval British History.

Throughout his life he loved reading philosophy.

He was greatly inspired by the GREEK philosophers.

HE WAS ALSO A MASTER OF LINGUISTICS - ABLE TO RECITE POETRY IN ENGLISH, FRENCH, GERMAN, POLISH, LATIN AND RUSSIAN AND OF COURSE, HIS GREATEST LOVE; HEBREW.

OUR SAGES TEACH US THAT AMONG THE GREATEST ATTRIBUTES OF THOSE WHO SEEK WISDOM IS ONE WHO .....WHO LEARNS FOR THE SAKE OF TEACHING.

MOSHE DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO TEACHING TORAH AND HEBREW. HE TOUCHED HUNDREDS OF LIVES IN OUR COMMUNITY. HIS STUDENTS SPEAK OF HIM AS THE consummate TEACHER. FOR 30 YEARS HE DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO THE TALMUD TORAH, TEACHING BOTH DAY AND EVENING CLASSES AND TUTORING BAR/BAT MITZVAHS AND LEADING JUNIOR CONGREGATION.

I TEACH THE SONS AND DAUGHTER OF HIS STUDENTS. OFTEN I WILL HEAR A "MAR YEDLIN STORY" FROM ONE OF THE PARENTS. THEY SPEAK OF HIM WITH GREAT AFFECTION AND LOVE. I AM ALSO AMAZED THAT THE MAN WHO WAS SO GENTLE AND SOFT SPOKEN, WAS SEEN AS A STRONG MAN WHO WAS CAPABLE OF INSTILLING DISCIPLINE INTO HIS CLASS.

THERE ARE MEN AND WOMEN - WHO HAVE CHILDREN IN TALMUD TORAH - WHO HAVE KEPT UP THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM - WHO STILL SEE HIM AS THEIR TEACHER - WHO CONTINUE TO SEEK HIS ADVICE LONG after HIS RETIREMENT. HE WAS WELL LOVED.

HE WAS A TEACHER TO EVERYONE, ALWAYS. HE WOULD OFTEN CORRECT MY HEBREW AND OFFER ME A STUDY OF THE ORIGINS OF A WORD - OR A CONCEPT. DEBORAH'S SPECIAL FRIEND MARTIN SPEAKS OF MOSHE AS A MAN WHO WAS CONSTANTLY TEACHING HIM IN THEIR EVERYDAY CONVERSATION.

PAUSE!

IT WAS THROUGH HIS CONNECTION AND INVOLVEMENT AT THE BETH SHALOM THAT I HAD THE HONOUR OF KNOWING MOSHE YEDLIN.

I WILL ALWAYS MISS HIS SWEET VOICE AS HE CHANTED THE PRAYERS ON SHABBAT. HIS HALLEL, THE SPECIAL prayer FOR HOLIDAYS, WITH HIS UNIQUE EUROPEAN MELODIES WAS A TREAT OUR CONGREGATION WILL MISS.

WE WILL ALSO MISS THE SAGE ADVISE HE WOULD OFFER AS A LONGTIME MEMBER OF OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

THE JEWISH WORLD IS NOW BEGINNING A MONTH DEDICATED TO OUR  
LOVE OF LEARNING - JEWISH BOOK MONTH. -

DURING THE LAST FEW YEARS, MOSHE HAS DEDICATED MUCH TIME TO  
CREATING THE ONLY MEANINGFUL LIBRARY IN A JEWISH INSTITUTION IN EDMON-  
TON AT BETH SHALOM.

MOSHEHAD ANOTHER SPECIAL JOB AT OUR SHUL. ON THE SHABBAT  
PRECEDING EACH MONTH, THERE IS A SPECIAL PRAYER THAT ANNOUNCES THE  
NEW MONTH AND INVOKES GOD'S BLESSING FOR THE MONTH.

I MISSED MOSHE YEDLIN'S PRAYER THIS SHABBAT AND FOUND IT  
INCONGRUOUS THAT A MAN SO DEDICATED TO BOOKS WASN'T HERE TO BLESS THE  
MONTH DEDICATED TO BOOKS.

BUT EVERY OTHER MONTH HE WOULD LEAD US IN CHANTING THE PRAYER  
IN HEBREW.

MAY IT BE YOUR WILL, LORD OUR GOD, TO RENEW OUR LIVES IN THE  
COMING MONTH. GRANT US A LONG LIFE, A PEACEFUL LIFE WITH GOODNESS AND  
BLESSING, SUSTENANCE AND PHYSICAL VITALITY. A LIFE ENJOINED BY PURITY  
AND PIETY AND HONOUR, A LIFE EMBRACING LOVE FOR TORAH, A LIFE IN WHICH  
OUR HEARTS' DESIRES FOR GOODNESS WILL BE FULFILLED.

AND THEN A PRAYER IS ADDED FOR DELIVERANCE AND CONSOLATION.

OUR COMMUNITY GRIEVES TODAY, TOVA, AND MATTHEW AND DEBORAH ARE  
IN MOURNING BUR THERE IS ALSO DELIVERANCE AND CONSOLATION IN THIS.

MOSHE LIVED THAT PRAYER - MOSHE LIVED A LONG LIFE, OF  
GOODNESS AND BLESSING AND PURITY AND HONOUR AND LOVE FOR TORAH.

AND HE GAVE THOSE BLESSINGS TO HIS FAMILY AND THE COMMUNITY.

WE WILL ALL MISS THE MAN WHO WAS SO GENTLE AND SO WISE.

ONE FINAL WORD -

OUR COMMUNITY HAS SUFFERED TWO LOSSES THIS WEEK. TOMORROW WE  
WILL BURY ANOTHER GENTLE MAN WHO WAS WELL LOVED.

YESTERDAY, AS MY WIFE VISITED WITH TOVA, SHE WAS TOLD THAT  
ONLY WEEKS AGO MARCEL CALLED MOSHE TO HELP IMPROVE HIS HEBREW.

SOMEWHERE UP IN HEAVEN MOSHE YEDLIN IS PREPARING FOR HIS  
NEXT STUDENT.