

● Opinion

REFLECTION ON THE TRIAL

In the history of famous trials, one thing seems certain, the Eichmann trial will go down as one of the most momentous.

That it will be judged also as most scrupulously fair will be a matter for gratification for every Jew and every fair-minded person.

In fact, one feels that one of the most lasting things about this trial will not only be the demonstration of the monstrous crimes of the Nazi destroyer and the appeal to the conscience of the world but the equally strong demonstration of a Jewish sense of justice and fairness which never was swayed by emotionalism in the face of the most bitter provocation.

There were many legal handicaps in the way of the trial and legal men will continue to discuss these aspects for many moons to come.

Yet, the three judges have above all shown that they were not only qualified to try this man, whom they found guilty

to try this man, whom they found guilty beyond all doubt, but that they did so in a way and manner which cannot but draw admiration from legal and lay men alike.

That certainly is one of the most important aspects of the trial.

As for the trial itself one would not exactly say that its result was expected — yet one could not imagine a different verdict in view of the expose of the monstrous evils of the Nazi perfidy.

For let it be reiterated once more — it was the Nazi system itself, and racialism, as well as the conscience of a supposedly humanitarian world as such that were on trial.

Revenge, however, was not its aim. If the trial had the value to show a rising generation in Germany what totalitarianism can do, if it can recall to Israelis what basic motivation there was to the struggle for the establishment of a Jewish State, if it has shown to the world that prejudice is the bedfellow of totalitarianism, the trial has achieved its purpose.

Having done that one could wish that the Israel Executive will show one big gesture of typical Jewishness — that is to forget that hanging of Eichmann would be justified and let him live.

Alive and behind bars he would be a much better symbol and reminder of an evil time that none of us who were alive during the Nazi time can ever forget.

**during the Nazi time can ever forget,
much as we may be able to forgive.**

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"We are well aware that diplomatic conflicts and the menace of war must postpone the fulfilment of our hopes for the universal recognition of the rights of the human personality under the sanctions of international law, but we are deeply convinced that every advance in the field of human rights brings nearer the day of peace and international understanding." — Dr. Maurice L. Perlzweig, permanent representative of World Jewish Congress at the United Nations.