

Mishpacha

החשבון
JEWISH FAMILY WEEKLY

MISHPACHA
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X-RAY VISION



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TOP-SEEDED LOCATION

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For "Doomsday"

RIGHTING WRONGS IN WOODBOURNE

It's Summer. Do You Know
Where Your Children Are?



family
FIRST

Junior

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Mishpacha INBOX

REALITY CHECK

[The Case against Adolescence
/ Issue 214]

Even if today's teenage Bais Yaakov girl is not ready to build her own home, she can organize Shabbatons for 600, with transportation, meals, lectures, entertainment. She runs *chesed* programs, directs performances shown to hundreds of women, and spends her summers interfacing with unaffiliated Jews with a unique combination of approachable friendliness and savvy Torah knowledge. When she marries at nineteen, she will willingly move far from home (even to a different continent) and set up a home on her own, managing the budget, children, job, plus doing lots of *chesed*, and *hachnassas orchim*.

The picture of today's "Raizy" fettered to her mother's apron strings might be in need of a reality check.

Sara Hoffman
Jerusalem

THE HIRSCHIAN VIEW

[One Visionary, Many Varied
Movements / Issue 113]

It is a most positive sign that **Mishpacha** chose to publish two very fine articles on the very relevant life and thought of Rav Samson Raphael Hirsch. Both pieces accurately portrayed the Rabbiner's fundamental belief in the significance of the totality of existence and humanity to their Creator.

In the Hirschian view, every aspect

of our engagement with life, from supporting our families with dignified responsibility, to our concern with larger social and moral issues, are at the core, not the periphery, of our role as the Am Hashem.

Further, Hashem's Authorship of Creation renders the understanding and exploration of it a powerful means to bring our hearts and minds closer to Him. Of course, this imperative may be found in sources as diverse as Rambam, *Chovos HaLevavos*, Ramchal, and Rav Avigdor Miller. However, Rav Hirsch showed how the Emancipation made this approach, once again, a possibility for the people of Torah.

The foundation of this capacious Hirschian vision, which distinguishes it from other contemporary orientations that embody bits and pieces of it, is a lucid affirmation of the basics of Torah faith and halachic life and a rejection of all forms of heresy, (however well meaning and, hence, blameless, their adherents may be).

It is due to this final consideration, that, today, most Hirschians have opted to dwell in *yeshivish/chassidish* environs. It is there that they find most incarnate our *yesodos ha'emunah* (devoid of pluralist distortions) and their embodiment in robust *limud haTorah/dikduk halachah*.

However, it is also crucial that Hirschians and their sympathizers keep in mind that not every aspect of these splendid Torah worlds we currently

inhabit are ideal, from the perspective of the *derech* they profess.

Rabbi Mayer Schiller
Spring Valley, New York

TORAH IM DERECH ERETZ

[One Visionary, Many Varied
Movements / Issue 113]

Mishpacha is getting rave reviews from the Hirschian community these days, and here's why: Rav Samson Raphael Hirsch's philosophy of *Torah im Derech Eretz*, concerning the relationship between Torah Judaism and secular education in the modern world, has heretofore been distorted both by right-wing revisionist chareidim, on the one hand, and members of the left-of-center Modern Orthodoxy, on the other.

Chareidi revisionist historians have often made it out to be that his view of *Torah im Derech Eretz* was a temporary expedient, necessary to meet the exigencies of the time — though Hirsch clearly wrote to the contrary, that *Torah im Derech Eretz* is a normative form of Judaism and a permanent aspect of Jewish practice and behavior.

The groundbreaking article got it just right, when it states that *Torah im Derech Eretz* was, for Hirsch, not a temporary dispensation of the halachah, yet it is at the same time at odds with the Modern Orthodox view of a fusion between two ideas and competing lifestyles. No Hirschian could have said it better. Kudos.

Jonathan Jung

Mishpacha thanks all of our readers for their letters and comments. Due to printing deadlines, most letters can only be published two weeks after they are received. The editor reserves the right to edit and shorten letters. All letters will be considered for publication unless otherwise indicated. We urge our readers to keep their letters as brief and to the point as possible. Letters not meant for publication may be any length.

Inbox: Mishpacha, Har Hotzvim, Rechov Kiryat HaMada 3, Jerusalem / fax: +972-077-202-0501 e-mail: inbox@mishpacha.com

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