



The Human Task: To Be Responsible Monarchs of Creation

In my study of Chapter One of Genesis, one of the things which caught my attention this year was the prominence given to the creation of the large great “Sea-Monsters.” Of course, it’s not clear what the order of Creation in the Genesis story is. After all, Chapter Two retells the creation of Man and other creatures according to a different story-line. And even in Chapter One, God first “says,” and then He “makes” or “creates,” and the order of creatures listed which He “says” He is making and which He actually makes differs. Thus, in verse 20, God says to let the waters swarm with a swarm of living animals, and birds should fly over the land in front of the skies. But when it comes to a list of Day 5’s “creations,” the Large Sea Monsters do seem to be created first, and only after that the other swarms of sea creatures, and then the birds. This of course goes against the grain of any type of evolutionist thinking, which would assume that the small precede the large. And indeed, this seems patently illogical in view of normal growth and maturation: These Sea-monsters had no babyhood? I mean, there are those who comment that Adam had no navel because he was created fully-formed as a mature adult, but was this true of the Sea-Monsters as well? And how could such huge creatures subsist and get so large before there were smaller creatures to serve as their food?

One could answer the way the Bible Critics do: that the prominence of the Sea-Monsters in our text has to do with their prominence as Incarnations of Evil Demonic Power in pagan cosmologies from which the version of cosmogony in our text was adapted. But another answer emerges which is consistent with to the parallel stories of creation around it: Indeed, there is a hierarchical, monarchic order to creation: The Huge Monarch of the Sea, the Sea-Monster, is created first, in all his royal splendor and size, with all of the smaller creatures created afterwards to serve him. Similarly, the Great Lights, the Sun to Rule the Day and the Moon to Rule the Night, are created before the rest of the little stars on Day Four. On Day Three God gathers the Waters into the Great Sea and uncovers the Great Continents. He sprouts forth the Grasses, the Noble source of grains, and the Great Trees which are the source of fruits, for these are the most important, the Rulers of the realm of plants.

The Creation of Man in Chapter 2 is, indeed, consistent with this pattern, with Man, the Ruler and Most Important Being upon Earth, being created before any other plant or animal creature. All other creatures, plant or animal, are clearly made for the purposes of serving Man. In Chapter One, the Wild Beasts and Creeping Things are created first, perhaps alluding to the threat to Man which predatory beasts as well as rodents can occasionally pose to Man’s Dominion. But Man’s creation still gets relatively early mention, and Man is clearly meant to rule and “lord it over” all other creatures, on land, water, and even sky. In this context, the “Likeness of God” in Man would seem to denote Man’s designation for Rulership over Creation like God.

I often designate myself politically as a monarchist, and this was brought home to me recently with the death of Queen Elizabeth II. I’ve often remarked that the Genesis story describes creation in terms of the insertion and imposition of order and proper Form upon Chaos. Here we see the emphasis upon a hierarchical monarchic structure for good governance of the World. The proper great Ruler really upholds the fundamental structure of the World, and everything else should be thought of as being made to serve the Ruler, not the other way around. All of Mankind, as Ruling or potentially Ruling Creatures of the World, are obligated to carry ourselves with the utmost royal pride and dignity, and yet must remember the awesome responsibility which being Rulers of the World like God thrusts upon us. If we can only learn from the example of the late good Queen and vow to Exercise the Office thrust upon us, as Human Rulers of Creation, half as well as She, with dignity and responsibility, we are off to a good start.

Shabbat Bereshit

October 21-22, 2022 | 27 Tishre 5783

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

Hertz: p. 2 | Haftarah: p. 21
Kaplan: p. 2 | Haftarah: p. 1050

Candle Lighting | 5:49 pm

Friday Evening Services | 5:45 pm | Main Sanctuary

Zemirot | 8:15 am

Shahrit | 9:00 am | Main Sanctuary

Youth Program | 10:00 am | Fidanque Youth Room

Hatanim Luncheon | following services | Paved Paradise | *for registered guests*

There is no Shabbat Afternoon Class this week.

Evening Services | 5:45 pm | Main Sanctuary

Habdala | 6:36 pm

Rosh Hodesh Marbeshvan begins on Monday night.

Weekday Service Times

Mornings:

Sunday: 8:05 am

Monday-Friday: 7:05 am

Evenings:


Sunday-Thursday: **5:50 pm**

THIS SHABBAT

Hatanim Luncheon 5783

Shabbat Bereshit, October 22 | following Shabbat Morning Services

For registered guests



SHABBAT BERESHIT
5783 CELEBRATION
honoring our Hatanim and their families

RABBI IRA ROHDE *Hatan Torah*
LAURENT NAHON *Hatan Bereshit*

and a special birthday toast to
JON MENDES, Shearith Israel centenarian

Shabbat Bereshit, October 22, 2022
On Paved Paradise, Our Outdoor Pavilion

COMING UP

NEXT SHABBAT

Friday Night Lights Season Premiere & Exhibit

Shearith Israel's Three Sets of Myer Myers *Rimonim*

NEXT Shabbat, October 28 | Following Friday Evening Services

At Shearith Israel

*With promotional support from the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan &
New-York Historical Society*

Myer Myers: the preeminent Jewish silversmith of the colonial era; congregant and Parnas of Shearith Israel; creator of three of Shearith Israel's priceless sets of historic *rimonim*, admired by experts and collectors of American Judaica.

All three sets will return home from their temporary abodes at the New-York Historical Society, the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and at the Touro Synagogue, respectively, and before re-loaning them, Shearith Israel will be exhibiting them as part of a very special *Friday Night Lights* Season Premiere by Rabbi Soloveichik.

Sponsorship opportunities available at
shearithisrael.org/events/mm-rimonim5783.

COMING UP

Shearith Israel and Dorot present a new virtual series:

Synagogue Stories: Jewish History of New York

An 8-Part Virtual Series | Wednesdays | 2:30-4:00 pm

First Session, featuring Shearith Israel, presented by Z. Edinger:

THIS Wednesday, October 26

Discover 365-plus years of Jewish life in America and New York City through its storied synagogues. Where better to start than with the story of Shearith Israel?

To register, visit tinyurl.com/SynagogueStories.

SAVE THE DATE

The Sisterhood invites the entire community to a Sunday Matinee

ARRIVALS: A Sephardi-Ashkenazi Love Story

Sunday, November 6 | 3 pm | Discount: \$36 per ticket! (Regular: \$50)

Performed at the Center for Jewish History, 15 W 16th St.

The Sisterhood invites the community to join us for the NY premiere of this new off-Broadway show, telling a Romeo and Juliet style tale of how a Sephardic Jew from Turkey met an Ashkenazi Jew from Russia in Seattle, WA. The show is appropriate for adults, teens, and tweens.

Use code "GroupSHI" at tinyurl.com/ArrivalsPlay to get your discount.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mazal tob to **Laurie & Dr. Elie Bryk** upon their being honored at the Friends of the IDF Annual Gala on Monday, October 24, at The Sands in Atlantic Beach.

To honor the Bryks and support Friends of the IDF, visit: fdf.org/events/ssgala.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this High Holiday season so meaningful:

- Our clergy and lay leaders who led services
- The Sisterhood who sponsored our *kiddushim* and lavishly decorated the Elias Room Succah
- Our Youth who decorated the Paved Paradise succah
- Rabbi Rohde for his Hoshana Rabba Mishmar
- Our Simhat Torah Kiddush sponsors: The Goldofsky family, Alene Schneierson & Morris Krimolovsky, and Arthur and Joel Tenenholtz

and of course, to YOU for being part of it.