

Preface

The appearance of this first issue of *The Torah U-Madda Journal*, is, for me, the realization of a recurring dream that has both inspired me and tested my patience ever since I was a student at Yeshiva College in the late 1940's. I happily offer the traditional blessing over good tidings: *shebeheyanu ve-kiyemanu ve-higi'anu la-zeman ha-zeh*.

It is a mark of the special spiritual and intellectual maturity of the current generation of undergraduate students of Yeshiva University that, despite the unhealthy influence of the excessive emphasis on vocationalism and pre-professionalism that has plagued American campuses in recent years, and from which our students have not been altogether exempt, they have continued uninterrupted their predecessors' quest for enlightenment about the larger ideational framework in which there takes place—or should take place—the encounter between the Torah they study in the morning hours and the Madda they probe in their college classes.

This volume, as the Editor points out in his Introduction, is but the first of several efforts launched by Yeshiva University's Torah U-Madda Project. It is my hope that these works will constitute a significant contribution to the level and quality of discourse in the Orthodox Jewish community of our times.

When the thought first came to me that, as President of Yeshiva, I now had both the opportunity and the responsibility to realize my dream of which I wrote above, I turned to Dr. Julius Cherny and Mr. Richard Herson, two friends whose intense intellectual curiosity was happily matched by their ability to do something about it. They prevailed upon their generous colleagues of the Bruner Foundation to support this Project. They deserve warm gratitude for their openness to new ideas.

The choice of a Director of the Torah U-Madda Project was made simple by the availability of one who is both an advocate and an exemplar of the concept of Torah U-Madda. Dr. Jacob J. Schacter is both a rabbinic scholar and a Harvard educated historian who, in addition, is in touch with communal realities by virtue of his work as the Rabbi of The Jewish Center in New York City and a former member of the faculty at Yeshiva's Stern College for Women. The first fruits of his labors as evident in this Journal, which treats of the theoretical background of Torah U-Madda and applies its principles in widely different areas, are a good omen for the general success of our endeavor.

The present issue of the Journal was made possible by the special generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Jacques Schwalbe of New York City. Mrs. Schwalbe is a direct descendant of Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch whose *Torah 'im Derekh 'Erez* is the immediate predecessor of Torah U-Madda, and Mr. Schwalbe has consistently exercised both his philanthropy and leadership in advancing the common theme of both.

May the Almighty grant success to all our efforts to "enlighten the eyes of the wise in Torah," and grant that both teachers and students, and their students after them, continue to explore, explain and expand the sacred theme of Torah and wisdom to which this Journal is dedicated, *le-hagdil Torah u-le-ha'adirah*.

Dr. Norman Lamm
President,
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