



Yankeleh

Hello!

Before I say anything else, please save me a spot next to you.

I want you to know, first and foremost, that our ideas (what you call images and I call metaphors) have not gotten lost. Most of them have been expressed in the page I dedicated to you regarding the metamorphosis of ideas, the originality of thoughts and intellectual propriety. Exactly what you suffered from the lack of which among some of your teachers, and sometimes your “friend.” Be consoled by the fact that some of them were affected by the fetishism and should at least have a roundabout named after them (asphalt, stones, concrete and iron – and drivers cursing).

Yankeleh, you happily had the privilege of belonging to the founding generation. I envy you for that, because it now appears that it is my lot to be a reluctant partner in the dismantlement of the Zionist entity, and “*we’ve already discussed this,*” as you used to say.

Under the pretext of “excellence,” “efficiency” and “competition,” orphans, widows, the disabled and mothers... “*in short,*” as you used to say... the weak, helpless and homeless are being abandoned. Unfortunately you also found yourself among their ranks toward the end of your days. The rich wish to be richer and so the poor must be poorer. They call this “growth.”

How did you once put it to me – “*You economists count body weight and not strength of the soul, and it’s not your fault, since you only take stock of the measurable. Go read Nietzsche!*”

In the name of the “Greater Land of Israel,” another people’s dignity and property are being trampled and robbed. “*The facts are well-known, and always have been,*” as you used to say. Such despair – you were lucky enough to be a Zionist and an optimist, but who will bolster my spirits now that you are gone?

I feared that the American army would come impose order, and you said, “*History never repeats itself in the same way. America is not Rome, and we are an intelligent and healthy enough nation not to do foolish things.*” I still hope you were right.

We have gathered together to praise you and, like you would have, kept the stories, refreshments and venue modest. I am retired and have time on my hands, so come visit me and we’ll talk about current events and lofty subjects in a wonderful mishmash; you are the grand master of that.

Your friend and admirer,
Ben Tamari