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## Box 17, Folder 18 - "The Pharisees" (E.M.S.?)

Edwin Mortimer Standing

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Beings on a higher plane

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The study of the Law endowed them with such sacredness and sanctity that they loved to be regarded as beings on a higher plane.

That is why they loved to be regarded as worthy of the best places in the synagogues, slaams in the market place and so forth

THEIR AUTHORITY/SELF ASSUMED

They developed the Mosaic Law into all sorts of minute regulations that had nothing to do with its original intentions. They built up the idea of holiness as the carrying out of scores of minute regulations with regard to the Sabbath, and Fasting and Tithes and ritual washings. So many that it became a full time job to observe them all -- and quite impossible for the ordinary man in the street and home to carry out.

WHAT THEIR POPULARITY RESTED ON

Their whole position rested on the scrupulosity of and superstition of the people AND ON THE DESIRE OF THE PEOPLE TO FIND SOME TRUE LEADERS IN THE RELIGIOUS LIFE WHEN THE PRIESTS HAD BECOME TOO WORLDLY TO BE THEIR SPIRITUAL GUIDES. NO ONE WOULD EVER DREAM OF GOING TO ONE OF THE PRIESTS ON A MATTER OF CONSCIENCE. THAT WAS THE JOB OF THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES.

THE PEOPLE ON THE WHOLE WERE GOOD AND SINCERE IN THEIR RELIGIOUS ASPIRATIONS AND FELT THE NEED TO ADMIRE SOME (REPUTED at any rate -) models of learning and piety. THEY KNEW NO BETTER AND TOOK THE HUSK BECAUSE THERE WAS NOWHERE THE KERNEL OF RELIGION TO BE SEEN OR HEARD. THERE WAS IN THE MINDS AND HEARTS OF THE COMMON PEOPLE A YEARNING AND A LONGING FOR TRUE RELIGION: IT WAS LIKE A VACUUM THAT HAD TO BE FILLED SOMEHOW: AND UP TO THE TIME OF Jesus ~~Jesus~~ it was filled with the best that they could find in their environment.

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On the Mo<sup>s</sup>aic precepts they multiplied glosses and opinions .  
The Commandment "Thou shalt keep holy the Sabbath" had given rise to  
entire volumes of commentaries . For instance they gravely  
asked if one had the right to eat an egg the greater part of  
which had issued from the hen before the second star  
appeared , for if so the chicken had broken the Sabbath by laying .

Another rabbinical treatise said it was as serious to  
squash a flea on the sabbath as kill a camel .

#### THE LETTER KILLS; THE SPIRIT GIVETH LIFE

THEY WERE an exclusive society (like the Masons) within Jewry

They took a sort of vow . Each member in the presence of three  
others promised to remain true to the rules of the brotherhood.

A vow to abstain from anything that upon which tithes had  
not been paid . Placed an irresistible barrier between them  
and the rest of the people Anyone who has taken upon himself to  
be trustworthy is bound to tithe all he eats or sells or receives.  
He cannot be the guest of the common people .

The Pharisees were cut off not only from the Gentile  
world but also from the bulk of their own people . We can understand  
how shocked they were when Jesus ate with publicans and sinners —  
every morsel he ate was ritually impure

#### THE INFLUENCE OVER THE PEOPLE

DUE to two things

- 1) they maintained old customs . 2) took religion seriously
- 2) Took Religion seriously

They impressed the people . the maintenance of the  
purity laws involved continual self restraint. They fasted and  
prayed (AND MADE NO SECRET OF IT) The sect , though mocked by some,  
inspired respect and even awe in the untutored crowd .  
The Ph. created public opinion and swayed the populace . They were

### Their enmity

They, as much as Caiaphas and his priests encompassed the death of Jesus : they pursued Christ in Galilee , opposed him in Judea ; surrounded him with cunning , craft , envy and hatred throughtout his ministry they showed themselves his implacable foes ; they mocked him in his death agony on the cross ..... were it not for the malign influence of the Scribes and Phisees Isreal might never have rejected its Messiah .

### THEY WERE LAY FOLK

THE FIRST STRIKIN FACT ABOUT THE S and P is that they were lay folk .....

The Scribes regarded the priest hood as a divinely instituted but considered the present holders of that office as shaemfully lax and unorthodox .

### HOW THEY STARTED

After fourteen centuries the law of Moses needed adjustment to vastly different circumstances . The priests did not help and so a self appointed class of lawyers grew up ----to interpret the law of Moses to modern times -- gained an ever increasing authority .

It was a good thing to start with

### REVERENCE FROM THE PEOPLE

These rabbis claimed an extraordinary reverence and respect from the people . the very title rabbi means My Lord ( The sign of respect towards your rabbi is next to your reverence for God .... takes precedence over your respect for your father .

### THEIR JOB

First . To study and develop the theory of the Law  
Second To teach these regulations to the people  
Third They had to maintain the carrying out of the law to the people . They formed Courts of Law

sound as the other "

There was a gasp of wonder , surprise and joy from the crowd as the ast nished beggar placed his healed right hand next to his good left hand a compared them . But the Pharisees looked on in stony silence . Whether old Jacob was cured or not was a matter of complete indifference to them . They had only brought him into the affair as a sort of decoy . Many in the crowd came up to Jacob and congratulated him and there was such a hubbub of excited voices that hardly anyone heard the concluding benediction , which the officiating rabbi pronounced at a sign from Abner .

The Pharisees in a group made for the exit holding themselves high as befits the supporters of the Law and walking in a dignified silence . Out of habit the crowd made way for them to pass but they did not bow as they passed and it was noticeable that not a single person in the crowd came forward ~~-xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ to kiss the hand of the Ruler of the Synagogue as was often done .

As the sacristan put the scrolls in the Arka and locked it up and put the cushions away in a cupboard and prepared to lock up the synagogue he muttered to himself . " well it's a queer world this is . ' You never know what is going to happen next "

.....:

## Pharisees

The fundamental idea was that beside the written law there was an oral law to go with it and complete it  $\frac{1}{2}$  God had given to Moses oral regulations to go with the law that was revealed to him. This law was supposed to have been handed on to Joshua, then to the elders, the prophets and then to the men of the synagogues. These prohibitions were added in order to assist the Jewish people from resisting temptations, legal decisions on disputed matters. Viewed as a whole they treated men like children formalizing the minutest particulars of ritual observances. Burdens too heavy to be borne " ~~2345x~~ . Some of them - taken by themselves - might seem reasonable enough but the sting of them consisted in their aggregate number, which would have the tendency to quench fervour and freshness in religion.

They formed a sort of society to carry out these regulations: those amongst the middle and lower classed who were not members were called the "Vulgar" or the people of the "land". Each member promised - in the presence of three other members - that he would remain true to the laws of the association.

### CLEAN AND UNCLEAN.

Some of the most important regulations concerned what things were to be regarded as clean or unclean. Their origin might have been symbolical, sanitary or religious or fanciful or conventional. Every unclean person was cut off from participation in almost every religious ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ privileges.

This could be done by eating or touching what was unclean, defiling the sanctuary of Jehovah.

e.g. anything slaughtered by a heathen should be deemed unfit to be eaten , like onw who had died of itself , and to carry such a carcass would pollute .

The pharasees were not rich and degenerate in a worldly sense . lived frugally ( Josephus ) .

Many hypocrites amongst them , but one could not use the wordk in its presnetn sense with regard to the body as a whole, "The most intense formalists that the world has ever known " Our Lord said they made the word of God of none effect by their traditions "

Some of the prohibitions were at variance with true religion

There was a strong spirit of proselytism amongst them at the time of Christ .(Math XXIII 15)This was an indirect preparation for the coming of St Paul who was also a Phaisee and very keen on ,making converts .Great discussions of theology and religion were well known at that time amongst the Jews - many of whom welcomed a religion which was more spiritual and released them from the "bondage" of the law .

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# Matthew Prophecies

① 1. 22. Behold a virgin shall conceive.  
Is. vii. 14

② Born at Bethlehem. in Judah  
Micha V. 2  
"Aw. thou Bethlehem ---

③ I called him out of Egypt.  
Osea. xi. 1

④ He shall be called a Nazarene ?

⑤ Voice heard in Ramah.  
Jeremiah xxxi. 15

⑥ Voice crying in wilderness  
Isaiah. xl. 3

⑦ The land of Zabulon -  
The people that lived in darkness  
Isaiah ix 1-2  
Matt. 4 - 15-15'

Matt. 8. - 17

Isaiah. III - 4

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8 - 13

~~Isaiah~~ Osee. VI 6.

Go home & find out what 4  
words mean - - -

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(8)

Ditto. Chah 12. - 7

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(6)

Matt 13.

I will speak my mind in  
parable Isaiah | XX <sup>VII</sup> ~~II~~ 2

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(11)

Matt 15. 8

This people honor me with their lips  
Isaiah XXIX 13

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(5)

Matt 21 - 5

Zecharias IX - 9

Behold thy King cometh to  
thee riding on a colt - - -

13 Mt 21-9

Psalm CVII 26

Rendereth you venit. —

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14

21-13

Isaiah

A Den of thieves,  
and

Jeremiah III. 16

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15

21-16

Itosawaki (a b. S. y. Dano)

(the children)

(See Mammula & MS)

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16

21-42-

Psalm CXVII 22

The Corner Stone rejected

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17

Mt 24-15

Desolation & abomination

Daniel IX 27

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18

Fall of Jerusalem Ch. 24-29.

Is. XIII: Ezekiel XXII. 9

Joel II 10 III 15

The sun shall fall etc

Mtt. 24 - 3-15

(19) Gospel preached as whole world.

(20)

Mtt 26. - 31

I will smile to Shubhkar -

Verse 31

Zach X 11 7

(Said by Our Lord)

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(21)

Mtt. 27 - 9

This took the 30 pieces of silver -

Combination of  
of all { Jeremiah XXXII 7-9  
Zach. XI. 12-13

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(22)

Mtt 27 - 35

Divided his garments Ps XXXIX

(also suffering servant)

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(23)

ditto Verse 43

Psalm XXI. 9.

"Let the God receive them!"

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~~Verse 106~~ 42

(24)

Wisdom II 18

God will take care of him

(25)

Mark- 27 — v. 46

Psalm 22: 1-2

My God! why hast thou forsake me

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