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## Box 09, Folder 43 - "Scribes and 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 Mosai 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 HOBBY 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 it was filled with the best that they could find in their environment .

### Their enmity

They as much as Caiaphas and his priests encompassed the feath of Jesus : they pursued Christ in Galilee , opposed him in Judea ; surrounded him with cunning , craft , envy and hatred throughout 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 Pharisees Israel might never have rejected its Messiah .

### THEY WERE LAZ FOLK

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

✓ The Scribes regarded the priesthood as a divinely instituted but considered the present holders of that office as shamefully 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 signs 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

On the Moaicprecepts they multilied glosses and opinions .  
 The Commandment Thou shalt keep holy the Sabbath "had givne rise to  
 entire volumes of commentatires . For instnace they gravely  
 asked if one had the right to eat an egg the greater part of  
 which ha issued from the hen beofre the second star  
 appeared , for if so the chicken had broken the Sabbath by laying .

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

#### THE LETTER KILLS THE SPIRIT GIVETH LIFE

THEY WERE an exclusive society like the Mason within Jewry

They took a sort of vow . Each member in the preence 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 nound to tithe al he eats or sells or recieves.  
 he cannot be the guest of the common people .

The Pahiressees were cut off not only from the Gentile  
 world but also from the bulk of their own poeopl .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

DUS to twothings

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

They impressed the people . the maintanance of the  
 putiry laws invlved contial self restraint. Theyfasted and  
 prayed (AND MADE NO SECRET OF IT )The sect , thoug mocked by some  
 inspired respect and even awe in the untutored crowd .

The Ph. created public opnion and swayed the populace . They were

holy men in the eyes of the crowd. Their very isolation , their punctiliousness their separation from the common herd , their scrupulosity ,their insistence on ritual purity made the ordinary men gape at them as marvels of sanctity

kept the 311 precepts of the law to be kept.

The Sadducees made fun of the Pharisees and on said- a sadducean humorist that Believe me , they will try and sprinkle the sun next to keep it ritually clean ...

The washing of posts and pan and hands before meals

RULES FOR THE SABBATH HIDDEN TO COOK ? PREPARE ANY FOOD ?

forbidden to cook , prepare any means , light any fire , carry anything except ones clothes

The Egg

It was therefore imperative to fix in detail the exact things to be eaten on the Sabbath, for nothing not so fixed could be touched on the Sabbath . Great difficulties arose about an egg laid . One school maintained that if the egg already existed <sup>as</sup> in the egg it could be regarded as previously fixed for food on the Sabbath.

Both schools agreed that if a hen was bought or brought into the house for the purpose of being killed and eaten page I6I Arendsen )Examples from the EGG pI60- I68 .

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