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FOREWORD

The Rabbinical Council of America is fully aware of the great responsibility it assumes in publishing TRADITION. A journal devoted to making the tradition, wisdom, and experience of Judaism available to modern minds must be written with sensitivity, fear of God, and humility. At the same time it must be interesting, lucid, inspiring, and informative. It is with pride, mingled with prayer for divine guidance, that we therefore greet the appearance of this first issue.

The world in which we live no longer permits us to reply to every doubt, "This is the law," or "The Torah says so." Indeed, very seldom in Jewish history were such answers sufficient. Nor were they considered desirable in a faith where proper answers always depend upon the right questions and where even Moses is depicted as constantly seeking, but never obtaining, complete understanding. That is why the Rabbinical Council of America has undertaken the present venture. TRADITION is to discuss, interpret, and illustrate the basic tenets of Judaism in such a way as to meet the doubts of the modern mind and strengthen the faith of modern man. We hope it will dip into the treasures of the Jewish spirit and uncover its ancient fabulous jewels, refurbished to sparkle even in an atmosphere of modernism, materialism, and doubt.

TRADITION: A Journal of Orthodox Jewish Thought

Our only regret is that we had nothing like it for so many years. One can only wonder how many souls would never have been lost to Judaism had we made the attempt earlier to kindle the modern mind with the torch of the Torah. We have been too occupied with other concerns to provide for that. We are therefore grateful to Rabbi Norman Lamm and his Editorial Committee for having surmounted all obstacles and provided a journal in whose pages there will take place a fusion between traditional and modern thought and experience.

We appreciate the service of those scholars on the Editorial Committee who are not members of the R.C.A. Together with them we shall strive to publish in TRADITION those writings that are comprehensible to the layman without losing any of their value for the scholar.

May the Almighty prosper our efforts.