

RABBI MENACHEM M. SCHNEERSON
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מנחם מענדל שניאורסאהן

ליובראוויטש

770 איסטערן פארקוויי
ברוקלין נ. י.

By the Grace of G-d
10th of Sivan, 5714
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Mr. Robert M. Richter and
Miss Gladys Liberman
165 W. 95th Street
New York, N.Y.

Greeting and Blessing:

I was pleased to see you yesterday and to have the opportunity of personally wishing you Mazaltov on your forthcoming marriage next Monday. I want to reiterate my good wishes to you to build an everlasting Jewish home in the midst of our people Israel, based on the solid foundations of our Torah and Mitzvoth, thus ensuring true happiness.

The order of the marriage ceremony dates back to the ancient times of the Men of the Great Assembly some 23 centuries ago, and it is noteworthy that one of the Seven Blessings refers to marriage as an 'Everlasting Edifice.' It is well that the Bride and Groom should reflect on this meaningful term and its message. Allow me to point it out briefly:

Of the elementary necessities of human life - food, clothes and shelter - the latter requires the most effort and cost to acquire, but it is the most durable. A house is first and foremost a thing of utility and durability, not of decoration; hence the important thing about it is the quality of its material and the solidity of its foundations. In building a house, these are the important considerations, and it is of no consequence what other people may think about its external appearance to them, for it would be foolish to sacrifice durability for the sake of appearance.

This is what is meant when marriage is likened to an Everlasting Edifice. There are essential matters connected with the marriage itself and with the home which is to be founded by wedlock, which ensure the permanency of the marriage not only for the lifetime of the two persons concerned, but also for their progeny, for everlasting generations. The conditions essential to the permanency, stability and happiness of Jewish married life have been tested for thousands of years, under all conditions, good and bad, at all times and in all places, and have not been found wanting. The Torah and Mitzvoth are these essential conditions. These are not transient or temporary conditions, but time honored and tested fundamentals which cannot be affected by the opinions of transient human beings or other considerations which by their very nature cannot but be temporary and passing.

I therefore send you my prayerful blessing that you build your marriage structure on the everlasting foundations of Torah and Mitzvoth which alone can ensure for Jews a truly happy and everlasting edifice, both materially and spiritually.

Cordially yours

M. Schneerson