

Editorial

“Shabbat Shalom!”



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Upon the arrival of the *shabbat* at the end of the week in Israel, it is customary to nuance the traditional greeting of *shalom* to “*shabbat shalom*.” This association of *shabbat* and *shalom* is significant. The *shabbat* is the only day which deserves to have its name embellished with *shalom*. There has never been any occurrence of “Monday” or “Tuesday *shalom*.” On the other hand, the *shabbat* sees itself well adorned with the *shalom*. The expression “*shabbat shalom*” has liturgical connotation to the Jewish worshipper’s ears as she/he opens the prayer book on Friday night to the words “*shalom aleikhem*.” The reason for this particular affinity between the *shabbat* and

the *shalom* can be explained by the fact that the meaning of the word *shalom* contains all the dimensions of the *shabbat*. Yet, *shalom* means more than “peace” (*shalom*) and wholeness (*shalem*)—more than communion with others and oneself. *Shalom* also implies beauty; it thus brings into the Sabbath feelings of awe and wonder and awakens in everyone who wants to take the risk of the Sabbath the slumbering nostalgia which yearns for another space and another time. Hear the sensitive message of Abigail Hadas. Also Professor Niels-Erik Andreasen and Rabbi Mark Solomon push in the same direction when they reflect on the lessons of Sabbath and urge men and women, Jews and Christians, to unite in the same

song and the same appeal to build up a new Sabbath in their lives and their cities.

For that purpose, it is also vital to remember and remember well. Isn’t it, after all, the primary function of the Sabbath to “remember!”? Guy-Richard Benhamou says it in his witty essay on “The Shabbat in Oblivion.” Professor Robert Johnston reminds Christians and Jews of the spiritual roots of the Sabbath, and church historian Samuele Bacchiocchi makes his point about the Christian change of Sabbath into Sunday. Indeed, to have a Sabbath in peace, to have a true Sabbath, we have also to be in peace with the Sabbath itself. Then our greeting will be *shalem*, totally complete: *Shabbat Shalom*.