SEASONS OF THE MOON

The Month of Tishrei

Tishrei / 5758 October 2, 1997 - November 1, 1997

he seventh is always holy. The seventh day is Shabbat, the seventh year is Shmitta. So too,

THIS MONTH'S SIGN Libra / Moznaim

first day of Tishrei is Rosh Hashana - a day when the future of the world and all its inhabitants literally hangs in the

the seventh month — Tishrei — is sanctified with more mitzvot and Yamim Tovim than any other: Rosh Hashana; The Ten Days of Return; Yom Kippur; Succot; Shmini Atzeret; Shofar; Lulav; Etrog; Hadassim; Aravot; Succah; etc.

The sign of the month of Tishrei - Libra - is called in Hebrew "Moznaim" which literally means "balances." It's not difficult to see the connection between the symbol of the balances and the month of Tishrei, for the

balance

The Rambam (Maimonides) writes that a person should see himself and the whole world as being on a knife edge, precisely and exquisitely balanced - half meritorious and half culpable. If he does one sin, he tips the balance of his own life and that of the whole world to the negative side. However, with just one positive action, he can alter the balance of his own life and that of the whole world to the side of blessing and life!

nyone who is prepared to admit that he lived long enough ago to remember the sixties, will recall a unique period in modern history. It seemed for a few years that there was a

new idealism. There was something in the air...

A whole generation was finding its cultural feet through a revolution in the world of music. Black folk music, the music of slavery, was adopted and adapted by a young white audience. The simple, inexpensive, acoustic guitar was transformed from an instrument that could fill a small room to a juggernaut that could out-blast the largest symphony orchestra. At the same time there was an equally sweeping revolution in the recording stu-

THE DAY THE MUSIC DIED

dio: Instead of merely pointing a microphone at a sound source, sound recording achieved the sophistication and flexibility of an aural motion picture.

WHO WRITES THE SONGS?

Wasn't it Daniel O'Donnel who said "Let me write the songs of a nation, and you can write its laws"? If ever there was a generation that expressed itself through Music, it was the generation of the sixties. There was a feeling that "All you need is love" and "With a little help from my friends," "The times" would be "a'chang-

However, there came the day the music died. An entire generation woke up to find that its pot-induced reverie had turned into a Lysergic acid nightmare which had ruined or corrupted maybe hundreds of thousands of lives.

ing."

And yet, like all great lies there must have been a single pure note of Truth in all the excess and immorality.

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THE DAY THE MUSIC DIED continued

Nothing can exist which is entirely false. It cannot have a foothold in this world. In every lie, there must be a grain of truth. What was single note of truth that became distorted into the great lie of the sixties?

When the Holy Temple was standing, there was an event of great joy that took place during the festival of

Succot. Water was brought up from the Gihon Spring south of the Temple Mount with great ceremony and procession. It was poured on the Altar and from there the water would descend to the depths of the earth. The Talmud tells us that if you never experienced the joy of the Simchat Beit HaShoeva, you had no idea what real joy was.

At night, the water-drawing ceremony was accompanied by music and dancing of incomparable joy. Massive candelabra, taller than a house, shone out into the night. There was not a courtyard in Yerushalyaim that was not bathed in their light.

And they danced. They danced and they danced. And who was it that danced. The ordinary people? The young? No. The greatest Torah sages, the Talmidei Chachamim, were the ones that danced, for it was only they who were certain to harness this tremendous excitement and direct it to the service of G-d.

The chapter of the Talmud which describes this celebration is HaChalil - 'The Flute.' The word chalil is related to chalal meaning 'an empty space,' for the sound of the flute comes from the empty space inside it, from the vibrating column of air.

But the word chalil is also connected to another word in Hebrew, chilul - 'desecration.' That empty space, that column of air, is like a sound canvas on which the sounds of holiness, of the greatest simcha can be painted. However, that chalal can also generate a music which can

> into which thousands of lives can vanish. Music can be a stairway to Heaven, but it can also be an elevator ride in the other direction.

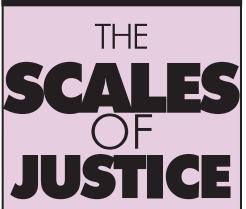
be a spiritual vacuum, a drainpipe

ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE?

The Talmud teaches us that the Second Holy Temple was destroyed because of Sinat Chinam, which is usually translated as 'baseless hatred.' The cure for baseless hatred - Sinat Chinam - is Ahavat Chinam unconditional love. The literal translation of Sinat Chinam is 'free hate' and the literal translation of Ahavat Chinam is 'free love.'

If your memory serves you well, you'll remember that that was the slogan of the sixties - 'Free Love.' Of course, 'free love' in the mouth of the pop philosophers turned out not to mean unconditional love at all but rather unconditional taking and unbridled indulgence.

There was one note of truth in the distorted strange brew of sixties' philosophy: All you need is Love. But without a Love of G-d and an acceptance of the voke of Heaven those echoes of messianism were doomed to vanish into a purple haze of selfishness and immorality.



An earthrise underglobe Tilts, Swaying the axis in excruciating Slow-motion. From side to side And finally - so finally Aligns.

All the world is quiet now Waiting for the word. It is coming, Unleashed like an arrow Across the light-years. In which cup will it land *In the Scales Of Justice?*