

the vision

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Der American Way of Life mehr als Trucks, Fast Food

By Christoph Schreiner

Was eigentlich ist der „American Way of Life“?

Die meisten Deutschen würden sagen es ist die typische Lebensweise der Amerikaner. Große Autos fahren und Fast Food essen sind nur zwei der allgemein bekannten Stereotypen. Ich aber habe immer gewusst dass es mehr gibt, dass die Amerikaner von den Deutschen unterscheidet.

Auf meinem Roadtrip nach Dallas während der Weihnachtsferien hatte ich die Möglichkeit mehr über den „American Way of Life“, wie wir ihn in Deutschland nennen, herausfinden.

Meine Freundin und ich entschlossen uns zu reisen wie es Amerikaner machen würden und anstatt nach Dallas zu fliegen, wie es 95% der Deutschen normalerweise machen würden da es gute 600

Meilen nach Dallas sind, mieteten wir uns ein Auto und fuhren den ganzen Weg auf dem I-35.

An der ersten Tankstelle wurde ich gleich mit einem wichtigen Teil der amerikanischen Kultur konfrontiert. Ich tankte mein Auto auf Augenhöhe mit einem riesigen Pick up Truck. Und während ich vor Glück strahlte weil die Preisanzeige \$18 anstatt der gewohnten über \$70 in Deutschland anzeigte, wusste ich warum die Leute es sich hier leisten können einen riesigen Pick up Truck zu fahren.

Den I-35 hinunter zu fahren war fantastisch; Ich konnte dieses Gefühl der Freiheit nachvollziehen von dem die Leute immer reden wenn sie nach dem „American Way of Life“ gefragt werden. Aber wenn man mich fragen würde was die auffälligste Eigenschaft der Amerikaner und ihrer Kultur ist würde ich sagen es ist

ihre Offenheit und Freundlichkeit.

Egal mit wem ich sprach, ob mit der Dame an der Rezeption im Hotel, dem Angestellten im Mietwagengeschäft oder der Bedienung im Restaurant, sie alle waren sehr offen und begierig mehr von mir und meinem Leben in Deutschland zu erfahren.

Deshalb ist für mich der „American Way of Life“ mehr als Wahl zwischen tausenden Fast Food Restaurants oder einer Eismaschine an jeder Ecke im Hotel, es sind die Leute selbst die den Unterschied machen.

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A Poet in Turbulent Times: Halevi

By Ran Sivron

Yehuda Halevi was one of the most interesting Jewish people that ever lived.

Since I was a little boy I loved his poetry. Later on in life I found out more about his other talents and tumultuous life. I discovered that he was an influential philosopher and Rabbi, had prolific exchanges with Christian and Muslim scholars of his time, worked as a physician for Muslim and Christian kings, and ENDED his life as a world traveler. His dramatic last voyage has become mythical in Jewish tradition. You may be amazed to learn that he lived in the middle ages, from 1071 to 1145 AD.

He was born in Spain in the town of Toledo (the Charlton Heston movie "El Cid" tells of that

time). Spain was a land where despite occasional wars Jews, Muslims and Christians worked mostly together for hundreds of years.

Halevi was fluent in Castilian Spanish, Hebrew, and Arabic. His writings in Hebrew and Arabic are preserved, but the Spanish writings are lost. We don't know of all of his travels in his native Spain, but we know that he used his talent for poetry and got food and shelter at first, then a wife, and then royal reception everywhere he went. Can you imagine that?! A poet being a celebrity?

Here is the first verse of a love poem he wrote:

"Chen Mah'tzah" (He found her to be lovely - or: She found loveliness, meaning here she found god. The word games in the original Hebrew have triple meaning - at least!)
 "He found her to be lovely... - the one that came towards you (god)
 She wasn't imprisoned - but splendid - your love (her love of god?)
 She went on her way in the name of god, her savior
 She was all over him, pursued him - her lover
 Nagging, boasting, about her faults!
 She bragged, because she held in check... - your wrath
 She never abandoned, nor forgot, your company..."

(Hebrew version at left)

You will find that Yehuda Halevi learned from everyone: He learned the method of skepticism from Al Ghazali, maybe the greatest Arab philosopher. He learned some poetic tricks from Muslim and Christian poets in Spain and Egypt. He learned from other Jewish Rabbis of his time.

More than anyone else he brought the "Golden Age" of Jewish culture in Spain. His famous philosophical work is also a masterful novel. It is called "The Kuzari". (Now how many books do you know of that were written so long ago?) In it Halevi tells of a Pagan king that was converted to Judaism by a simple traveler instead of converting to Christianity or Islam by fancy

Chen Mah'tzah

לְקַרְאָתְךָ	בְּתִיצֵאָה	חַן מִצֵּאָה	א
אַהֲבָתְךָ .	כִּי־נִפְלְאָה	לֹא־נִבְלְאָה,	ב
אֵל נֹאֲלָה,	דְּרָךְ בְּשֵׁם	יֵצֵאָה לָאֵם	ג
עַל־בַּעֲלֶיהָ,	מִתְדַפְּקָה	מִתְדַפְּקָה	ד
עַל־נַעֲלָה,	מִתְפַּאֲרָה	מִתְאַמְרָה	ה
עֲבַרְתְּךָ,	כִּי־נִשְׁאַה	הִתְנַשְׂאַה	ו
חֲבַרְתְּךָ .	לֹא־שָׁכַחָה	לֹא־זָנְחָה	ז
לְמַנְחָה,	רְחוּק מְאֹד	וְלִתְעַמְד	ח
בְּשִׁכְחָה,	מִתְרוֹנְנָה	מִתְאֹנְנָה	ט
מִזְבַּחָה,	פָּרִים עָלַי	עַרְתַּעֲלָה	י
נִחְלַתְךָ,	כִּי־נִשְׁשָׁה	לֹא־נִוָּאֲשָׁה	יא
וּזְלַתְךָ .	לֹא־זָרְאָה	לֹא־זָקְרָאָה	יב
נִחְלַת צְבִי,	יִפְעַת נְאוֹת	דִּי רִשְׁהָ רְאוֹת	יג
וּמַעַן צְבִי,	מִרְאֵשׁ שְׁנִיר	מִסִּי כַפִּיר	יד
לְרְאוֹת צְבִי,	כִּי־תַעֲלָה	הִתְנַהֲלָה	טו
אֶל־בֵּיתְךָ,	עוֹד כְּלָתָה	אִם־כְּלָתָה	טז
לְרְאוֹתְךָ .	עוֹד נִכְסְפָה	אִם־נִדְחָפָה	יז

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ambassadors. Instead of being a competition between religions, it is actually one of the strongest philosophical arguments in support of ethical monotheism and against secular ethics ever written.

Halevi decided to travel to Israel because he believed, as many Jewish people did at the time, that the crusades that just begun will result in great persecution of Jews everywhere. He moved to Egypt and then traveled to Israel where he died. He was probably killed by a soldier. Tradition holds that it happened at the Wailing wall in Jerusalem, the holiest place for Jews, but there is no support for that story.

Let me conclude with a poem of yearning for God and Israel, Halevi's most famous: "Libi Bamizrach."

Phonetically it is beautiful: (ch is pronounced as in "nacht" in German).

Libi Bamizrach Va'ani Besof
Ma'arav / Eich et'amah et asher
o'chal, ve'ech ye'erav?

Eicha ashalem nedarai va'asuray
be'od / Tzee'yon be'chevel edom
va'ani bekevel Arav?

Yekal Be'einay azov kol tuv Sfarad
kmo / Yekar be'einay re'ot afrot dvir
nech'rav

Translation:

My heart is in the east – and I am
at the very western edge (of the
world)

How May I savor that which I eat,
how can it have any flavor?

How may I fulfill my vows, my
bonds, while

Zion (Israel) is in the Edomite
shire, and I am under Arab
shackles?

It will be just as easy for me to
leave the plenty of Spain just as
It will be most precious for me to
see the dust and ashes left from
the demolished temple.

As is my habit, I will finish this
article with an ancient Jewish blessing
bestowed on every child upon his
birth:

Live long and prosper!

Hebrew version below

Libi Bamizrach

לְבִי בַמִּזְרָח וְאֲנִי בְּסוֹף מַעֲרָב –

אֵיךְ אֶמְעָמָה אֶת אֲשֶׁר אֲכַל וְאֵיךְ יֵעָרֵב?

אֵיכָה אֲשַׁלֵּם נְדָרַי וְאִסְרֵי בְעוֹד

צִיּוֹן בְּחֶבֶל אֲדוֹם וְאֲנִי בְּכַבֵּל עָרָב?

הַ יִּקַּל בְּעֵינַי עֲזוֹב כָּל-טוֹב סְפָרָד, כְּמוֹ

יִבְקַר בְּעֵינַי רְאוֹת עִפְרוֹת דְּבִיר נְהָרָב!

I speak...

Je Parle...

Hablo...

Ich

spreche...

English

Do you sell
maps here?

Français

Vous aurez des
plans de la ville
ici?

Español

"¿Venden mapas
aquí?"

Deutsch

Verkaufen sie
hier Landkarten?

Please recycle

Bitte recyceln.

Recicla por favor.

Prière de recycler.



Write for the Vision!

contact Kirbee Yost at yost_k@wildcat.bakeru.edu



American way of life more than big trucks, fast food

By Christoph Schreiner

What is the "American way of life"?

Most Germans refer to it as the typical lifestyle of the American people. Driving big cars and eating fast food are just two of the most

common stereotypes, but I always knew that there was more that distinguishes the American from the German people.

On my road trip to Dallas this Christmas

break I was able to find out more about the "American way of life" as we call it in Germany.

My girlfriend and I decided to travel like Americans would, and instead of flying into Dallas, as 95 percent of the Germans would usually do since it is more than 600 miles (965km) to Dallas, we rented a car and drove all the way down on Interstate 35.

At the first stop for gas I was confronted with a big part of the American culture: I was filling my car eye-to-eye with the rims of a big pick-up truck.

While my heart was filled with joy because the display

showed only \$18 for filling my car with gas, instead of over 50€ (\$70) in Germany, I knew why people could afford to drive these huge pick up trucks over here.

Driving down I-35 was awesome; I

could feel this sense of freedom that people always talk about when they're asked about "the American way of life". But if you would ask me what the most striking characteristic

about Americans and their culture is, I would say it is their openness and kindness. No matter if I was talking to the lady at the front desk in a hotel, the employee at the car rental or the waitress in a restaurant, they were all so easy to talk to and eager to learn more about me and my life in Germany.

So for me there's more to the American way of life than the choice of thousands of fast food restaurants or an ice machine on every corner of your hotel.

It's the people that make a difference.

Weekly Retail Premium Motor Gasoline Prices

As of Jan. 31, 2008



from the U.S. Energy Information

International News

South America

Richard Williamson, a bishop who recently denied the Holocaust, has been removed from his post as director of an Argentine seminary, MSNBC.com reported. In an interview aired Jan. 21 in Sweden, Williamson said no Jews were gassed and that they made up the Holocaust.



Europe

According to MSNBC.com, over 43,000 students, researchers, and professors marched the streets of Paris in protest Tuesday. They were demanding an increase in scholarship funding and protesting the government's plans to cut faculty positions in the midst of France's economic downturn.



Asia

Due to a 34.4 percent decrease in net revenue, Nissan is firing 20,000 employees in Japan, CNN.com reported Tuesday. This comes as a new report to be released this week is expected to find that for the first time, China sold more cars than the United States in a month.



Africa

A poisonous teething formula has killed at least 84 children in Nigeria, MSNBC.com reported Tuesday. They syrup was laced with a chemical found in antifreeze. Nigerian health workers are trying to collect all of the remaining tainted bottles of medicine. A similar incident in Nigeria in 1990 resulted in the deaths of 200 children.

