



Budapest, 10 March 1905.



My dear friend! I am really very ill and exhausted by hard administrative and purely mechanical work which day by day is fixed on my neck. Since my return from America I was not in state to work something in my scientific direction, excepted scarcely the reading ~~at~~ in late night-time, of the new books published in Oriental countries and reaching me from time to time. You do not know perhaps, that I must bear since 30 years the heavy burden of a Secretary of our Jewish Congregation, one of the ~~greatest~~ largest in the world. And I hold that office not by feeling of a special vocation to such a dampishing exertion, but only ^{called} ~~by~~ my glorious University-Professorship ^{being} ~~being~~ not else but a decorative character only. But in the present decay of my powers I felt

obliged to bid my Dismissal from that office. I hope to become free in the course of next summer and to get once more the fitness to undertake again, after a short recreation of my decoupered scraps, scientific working in my branches. You cannot have any idea of the resignation and self-torturing, which only were my helpers in furnishing some contributions to our science these thirty years, and in reflecting upon such circumstances you can easily find an answer to the invitation addressed to me in the Hartford January Record, Vol. XV p. 78 l. 13 ff.

After that profane, I dare so pray you and I expressed that wish in a letter to Mr. Hastings, also - to wait for my determination in the Encyclopaedia - question till next summer season. ~~It~~ All depends on that, whether I can obtain my Dismissal in that time, or rather I must wait for my human freedom till the end of ~~the~~ this calendar year.

Then I will see what I can do during the remainder of my life-time. But in all cases I cannot help reflecting on one difficulty. I mentioned already on a former occasion, that I wrote during the winter 1903/4 a large essay on the historical development of Islam and on the various principles of that religious system (about 3 sheets in Lex. 8°) for the "Zeitschrift" to be published next year by B. G. Teubner. I fear, the Encyclopaedic - paper, if written by your obedient servant, could not be done, then a reproduction, say a repetition of what I had said for Teubner. ~~The~~ Such a proceeding, a sort of self-plagiarism, seems me not to be fair and correct. Would it not be the best in that case, to have directly a translation (with the necessary changes required by the special occasion) of that German paper? if Teubner would give the permission to do it on application of Mr. Hastings. The ~~best~~ shorter articles

February 1906. I saw your name and the
title of the article in the list of contributors
sent to me by DeGroot after the term of
delivering the MSS.

