

**1784. Discurso de Gershom Mendes Seixas no seu regresso a Nova Iorque.**

*(Nova Iorque, American Jewish Historical Society, Jacques Judah Lyons Collection, P-15. Publicado em "Items Relating to Congregation Shearith Israel, New York", Publications of the American Jewish Historical Society, 27, 1920, pp. 129-130.)*

The manifold mercies of Almighty Providence exercised towards us during the course of a perilous & most distressing war, & our being again restor'd to our former place of residence in peace, it becomes a duty incumbent on us to exert ourselves as a religious Society to acknowledge our gratitude to him in every possible manner, to celebrate praises & to glorify his holy Name.

As a just tribute due to Omnipotence, the Parnass requests the Congregation that the stricter attention may be paid to the Rules of Decency & Decorum which have a natural tendency to excite Devotion especially in Time of divine Service, which he is sorry to observe has been for sometime neglected, but is in Hopes to see this holy Congregation placed on such a footing as to command Respect, instead of Contempt which they incur by some evil Practices that have obtained thro' the means of a few weak & inconsiderate set of Men such as leaving the Synagogue in times of Prayer, talking & laughing with & to each other. He therefore strongly recommends a proper & suitable behaviour to every one who assembles in this Place & most earnestly exhorts them to consider in whose Presence they are & to Whom they address themselves, & know that it is the Supreme King of Kings, who penetrates the most secret recesses of the Heart, & who is ever ready to hear those who call upon Him in Truth.

He more particularly requires of those who are Parents to enjoin their Children not to commit those misdemeanors which are so highly reprehensible, but to admonish them on everything that tends to Indecency.

He at the same time takes the Liberty to assure you that he does not mean to arrogate to himself any Power which he is not legally entitled to by the Nature of his Office but is solely actuated by motives of zeal for our holy & religious Worship, & from an innate Principle of Benevolence to promote the real Welfare of this Congregation which always has been & is now his chief Study.

Sensible of the Fallability of Man he hesitates not to declare that he is ever open to Conviction, & should he at any time in the Course of his Administration give Occasion of Offence to any Individual, he hopes they will not impute it to Design, as it is his most strenuous Desire to give general Satisfaction.

Convinced of the Difficulties attending those who govern he calls on you all to join Heart & Hand to support him in every thing that is justifiable in the Sight of God & Man – to your own Reason he appeals, & to your Decisions he cheerfully submits.

In full Confidence of your Endeavors to comply with his Requisitions, he rests assured we may attain the consequent Blessings of Peace and humbly prays the Almighty God to continue his Goodness to us & to all Israel. Amen.