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From the Desk of Rabbi David E. Fass *The Tenth Commandment*

I never really thought it belonged there among the other, far more important commandments. What was "Do not covet" doing in the company of proclamations that there is one God, injunctions to honor one's parents, observe a day of rest, prohibitions against murder, theft, lying, cheating on your spouse? Maybe it was put last - tenth - to show that it was of lesser import than the other nine. That's not the way I think any more. I think that the prohibition against covetousness, envy, jealousy, is so important that it certainly belongs with the other nine.

What is terrorism all about? Envy. Jealousy of others who are perceived to have more. We focus on the "more" as being economic, but that's really a small part of the picture. The terrorists who crashed those planes on September 11 were not from impoverished homes. By and large, they were middle class and upper middle class. No, the "more" that really counts in these people's minds is power, respect, those who are on top and in front. That's what they're jealous of. There was a telling line in a recent made-for-tv about the Gulf War, "Live from Baghdad." A Syrian official is asked why he supports the decision to invade Kuwait. He replies: "What would you do if someone took away one of your states? Kuwait was carved off of my country by a British General."

That much is true. In the last seventy years the West has tried to re-draw the map of the world. Those who used to draw the maps, like the Arabs, hate us for it. They are seething with jealousy and envy not just of our SUV's and designer jeans, but of our power and leadership. In a recent report, "Sulaiman Abu Ghaith, a leading al Qaeda member, said, 'The Christian-Jewish alliance will not, God willing, be safe from attacks

by the mujaheddin [holy warriors]... The alliance's installations and facilities everywhere will be subject to attacks."

Some of the hatred is well justified. Most is not. But nothing justifies terrorism. Nothing justifies targeting non-military targets. Nothing justifies purposely killing innocent people.

We are dealing with people who, though they profess to be "believers," ignore the commandments that they themselves say are part of their heritage, too. The war against the West, and that is what it is, is in large measure the product of an insane jealousy. "Thou shall not covet" is a more important commandment now than it ever was before.

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Cantor's Notes

It is my great pleasure to invite you to a special musical event that will take place in our Temple right after a slightly shortened Friday night Service, January 17. Our guests will be the *Brooklyn Klezmer Band*, "L'chaim." What is the occasion? During that week we will read Parashat B'shalach, where we recall the song that Moses, Miriam and the People of Israel sang after crossing the Sea of Reeds. This particular Shabbat has a special name - Shabbat Shirah, the Shabbat of Songs. It has become a tradition to mark the occasion of Shabbat Shirah with an expanded musical service.

So, who are the klezmers? The Webster's New World Dictionary gives us an explanation:

Klezmer , *pl. klez'mor'im' (-mæ reem')*

- a) [Historical] an itinerant musician who performed at Jewish weddings and holiday celebrations in Eastern Europe
- b) a musician who performs instrumental Jewish folk music derived from Eastern European folk songs, Hebrew melodies, etc.

The Yiddish word *Klezmer* is derived from the Hebrew words, *klay* (instrument) and *zemer* (music). So, obviously, the literal meaning of *Klezmer* is "instrument of song." It has its roots centuries ago in the shtetles (Jewish villages) of Eastern Europe, where it was originally meant to imitate the voice/music of the chazzan (cantor) in the synagogue. The first *Klezmer* tunes were in fact based on the chanted Hebrew melodies of the Jewish service. *Klezmer* played an integral part in the culture and celebrations of Eastern European Jewry. Some of the "traditional" instruments in the bands were clarinet, violin, flute and accordion. Over the past 30 years or so, *Klezmer* music is enjoying a remarkable comeback. There are now traditional and non-traditional *Klezmer* Bands in all corners of the world, and once again *Klezmer* is popular in Jewish celebrations, as well as non-Jewish ones.

Come to the Temple on January 17 and I guarantee you will have a great time! Using this opportunity, I would like to congratulate our children's choir (4-7grades) on a very successful performance at the Julie Silver concert in our Temple. I want thank to every member of the choir: Shara Beitch, Alexis Goldwasser, Jason Kaplan, Danielle Malka, Ziv Schwartz, Jason Segall, Andrea Seidenberg, Lindsay Weiser, and Alex Wittenberg, as well as every one who made this performance possible and who came to this concert.

[Cantor Sergei Schwartz](#)

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