

images before her: “Mama, Papa, look at me as if you really saw me on that day. Mama, Papa, just for a moment as we are all together, let us look at one another.” But they were too preoccupied with their own concerns to really see the child in the kitchen with them, and Emily cries out as she looks upon these shades of the past, “I cannot bear it! It goes so fast and we don’t have the time to look at one another.” And, sobbing, she continues: “Goodbye, Mama and Papa. Do any human beings ever realize life while they live it?”

Most believe that the Memorial Service is only for those who have lost loved ones. However, this day of Memorial should mean more to those of you whose loved ones are still with you than to us who have already lost ours. It cries out to you: “Find the time to look at one another, to love one another, to be concerned for one another. Drink deeply of your beloved living before they become your beloved dead. For the day will come when they shall no longer be found behind the door.”

Editorial Commentary

Rabbi Brownstein had a special talent for creating captivating, awe-inspiring sermons that were brief, thought-provoking, and timely. *Behind the Red Door* is timeless, and, I believe, his finest. Its message is powerful and moving and speaks to every living human being. For those who wish to heed its call (and all of us should), act today. Tomorrow could be too late.

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