

# *Commentary on David Basch's Work*

**David Bar-Illan,**

Former editor, *Jerusalem Post*:

"*Bloody persuasive.*"

**Rabbi Emanuel Rackman**

Former Chancellor Bar Ilan University, Israel

Israel and New York

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"I not only read your book [*The Hidden Shakespeare*] and found it very impressive and convincing but the additional evidence you have been accumulating [now in this book] makes your argument even more persuasive.... Shakespeare [is] ... probably a genius of Jewish descent, a Marrano, intimately familiar with Jewish materials who might have wanted to promote the honor of Jews and Judaism."

— Book jacket, *Shakespeare's Judaica and Devices*

"Once again I have the pleasure of reading more of David Basch's work concerning Shakespeare's links to the Jewish people. True to the promise of the title of his new book, *THE SHAKESPEARE CODES*, he has indeed been resourceful in finding the Poet's own. "codes." As before, Shakespeare is shown to draw on literary devices only accessible through an understanding of their Judaic sources. These are seen to provide unique windows to his inner thoughts on many personal and general topics. Coming from the eminent Poet, what is learned will undoubtedly be an important addition to his legacy to the world. It will surely be of enormous interest to the Jewish community and will inspire many to take a renewed and deepened interest in their traditions and learning that had so moved the Poet."

— Book jacket, *The Shakespeare Codes*

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## **SHAKESPEARE: AMERICA'S TEACHER**

A friend of mine, a rabbi, has said that whereas America is great because it was based on Jewish principles, modern Israel is small because it is based on gentile principles.

Colonial America was nurtured on two books: the Bible and Shakespeare. And now, thanks to the extraordinary erudition of David Basch, we know that Shakespeare was a disguised Jew! That's right, a Jew when it was fatal to be known as a Jew in the England of Shakespeare's time.

Of David Basch's [three] books on the greatest Poet and student of Character in the Western world, the most remarkable is ***THE SHAKESPEARE CODES: THE SONNETS DECIPHERED***, published by Revelatory Press [see web site at <http://www.ziplink.net/~entropy> ] I cannot too strongly recommend this work, one of the most significant books of our time.

Having studied under Professor Leo Strauss at the University of Chicago, the greatest political philosopher of the 20th century, who revealed the esoteric teachings of Plato and other writers, I was well-prepared to appreciate the esoteric teachings of William Shakespeare. I had already read Mr. Basch's book on the Merchant of Venice. But I must confess that the ingenuity and painstaking scholarship he displays in ***THE SHAKESPEARE CODES*** would rank him among the highest of Strauss's thousands of disciples -- America's most distinguished savants.

But let me return to the outset of these remarks. Think of it: America was nursed on Jewish ideas and ideals, wittingly and unwittingly! No wonder America has become the greatest nation on earth. Say what you will about the moral decline of the United States; but America twice saved mankind from tyranny in the last century. Never has so powerful a nation so little abused its power.

Do not confuse America with Hollywood, or with its big cities. And do not confuse America with its executive branch of government, permeated as it is by the Council of Foreign Relations (CFR). Remember, it was Senator Kyle, a gentile, who initiated the bill mandating the transfer of the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Indeed, I dare say that if Israel's Cabinet and Knesset consisted of Jews with the pride, patriotism, and preparation of the typical American senator or congressman -- oh, I know this will cause a stir! -- the Arab world would not dare raise a finger against this country!

Shakespeare was the greatest teacher of CHARACTER. And even though America has been afflicted these past eight years by the most corrupt

president in its history, one still finds tens of millions of evangelical Christians who rally behind Israel.

Unfortunately, there has been a decline in the study of Shakespeare in American universities, thanks to the invasion of multicultural and feminist studies, which have had a deplorable impact on American education. It is to be hoped, therefore, that Mr. Basch's work on Shakespeare will help restore the Bard's rightful place in the academy of learning.