

THE HEBREW UNION COLLEGE

CINCINNATI, OHIO

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

June 11, 1946

Dr. Nelson Glueck
American School of Oriental Research
Jerusalem, Palestine

Dear Nelson:

Your letter of May 25th reached me in good time. I have read it carefully and understandingly. However, it still leaves me so completely up in the air with regard to your real desires and purposes, that I took the liberty of asking Helen to come to my house this morning for a brief conference. I explained the situation to her in great detail, and she in turn will make it perfectly clear to you when she comes out to Jerusalem next month.

I can understand perfectly well your difficulty in reaching a decision with regard to the Presidency. I appreciate all that you say with regard to your own limitations, which you suggest you know better than I can possibly know them. That may all be. I grant that the administration of the School in Jerusalem is a much simpler and easier matter than the administration of the College, particularly under its new circumstances and with its expanded program. But you have administered the School ably and with distinction, probably more ably and efficiently than any of your predecessors. This will have been, therefore, excellent training for you in the administration of a larger and more complex institution. I have full confidence in your ability to administer the Hebrew Union College most efficiently, provided, of course, you really desire the position and your heart is in it.

I have scanned the lists thoroughly and believe that, for many reasons, you are the best qualified person for this position and should be placed, therefore, first upon the list of those who might be considered.

I understand perfectly that the real difficulty in reaching a decision is not at all a mistrusting of your own powers and abilities, but it is rather the indecision as to whether you are willing to sacrifice your work and career as an archaeologist for this post. That you would have to make this sacrifice, at least in very large measure, is beyond question. The duties of the office are becoming more complex and burdensome with every year. You would probably be able to find some time for scientific writing and for the coordination of your scientific research. But your present program of archaeological exploration would certainly be at an end, if you accept this office. It is a position which demands almost the full time of a man, twelve months of the year, with, at the most, time for only a relatively brief vacation in the summer. These facts must be acknowledged and faced squarely.

Let me repeat what I have said to you frequently before. I have no desire whatever to force you into the position or into the acceptance of a duty which may be in itself distasteful to you. If your decision is in the negative, it will be almost as satisfactory to me as if it is in the affirmative. But it is important that I have a definitive answer from you at the earliest possible moment, so that if your answer is in the affirmative, I may know that I may rely upon you for next year and can begin to make plans accordingly: and if your decision is in the negative, so that I may make other but very necessary plans.

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It is imperative that I have systematic and official assistance next year. I can no longer carry the burden of this office alone. The work of soliciting for the Foundation Fund will necessitate my being away from the College for several months at a time, in all likelihood. The College cannot run itself in my absence, nor should it be expected to go along with the kind of administration which it had during my illness. I have no right to lay this burden again upon Sheldon, Jake and others, even though, I am sure, that they would undertake it and carry it willingly once again as they did last year. They have their own regular duties, which demand their full time and attention, and should not be overburdened with this present task.

Sooner or later, a Dean will have to be appointed who will look after the business of internal administration, particularly when the President of the College is away. I am trying earnestly to make no such appointment as this, nor any other appointments, which might embarrass the next President. I am trying earnestly, above all else, to protect the position for you, should you desire it, and to leave you free to reorganize the work as you see best and to make your own appointments. But this lays upon me too great a burden. I have carried it patiently this year. But I cannot carry it another year.

If your answer is in the affirmative, I shall plan for you a relatively light teaching schedule for next year, probably only one course each semester, of four hours of teaching through the year, so that you may be free to assume other duties of administration. But if your answer is No, then I shall probably have to ask the Board of Governors to authorize the appointment of a Dean, so that I may be free to carry on the outside tasks.

Also, if your answer is in the negative, it is imperative that the authorities of the College begin to look immediately for another worthy candidate for the position. I am determined to retire at the end of the next academic year, that is, in 1947. I feel that my recent illness has taken something out of me. Moreover, the state of my wife's health is such that I am loath to leave her alone at home as much as is necessary for the proper discharge of the duties of the Presidency of the College. It means, speaking squarely, that both of us are getting old and the time has come for us to lighten our burden and to make the most of the years still remaining to us. For this reason, I should be expected to carry the burden of this office for no more than one additional year. For this reason, it is imperative that the Board of Governors and I know at the earliest possible moment who my successor is to be.

I had hoped, most earnestly, that I could have your final decision long before this. The situation will not be one whit different six months from now than it is now, either for you or for me, or, for that matter, for the College as well. I think, therefore, with all consideration for the difficulty of your position, that it is just as possible for you to reach a definitive decision now as it will be two months from now, or six months from now; and I think, too, that you owe this duty of reaching a definitive decision to yourself, to the College and to me personally.

I can well understand that you will wish to talk this matter over thoroughly and for the last time with Helen and that, therefore, you would prefer to defer your decision until she arrives in Jerusalem. If so, then I shall be content with that. But as I explained to her this morning, I ~~had~~ do hope

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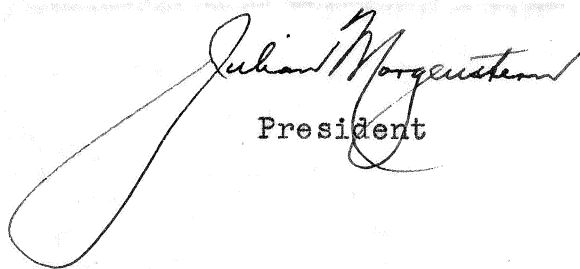
earnestly that you will cable your decision to me before the end of July and that it will be a clear-cut and decisive answer: Yes or No. I regret earnestly that I must ask this of you so urgently. But the time has come when the decision cannot be postponed.

Please consider this carefully. I am sure you will understand.

With affectionate greetings, I am, ever,

Faithfully yours,

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President