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# Progressive Conservatism

By DR. ALEXANDER LYONS

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IT IS REMARKABLE how progressive religious conservatism sometimes is.

There are two conservative Jewish congregations in Brooklyn and another in Manhattan that have made a radical innovation.

There is a beautiful old custom in vogue in orthodox congregations and in many of the more liberal of confirming their boys at thirteen years of age. Until recently this was confined to boys. Now come these conservative congregations in Brooklyn and Manhattan and accord the same rite (Bas Mitzvah it is called) to their girls of thirteen.

I regard this as a desirable reform. It not only emphasizes an old venerated custom that should be preserved, it increases its sanctity and appeal by requiring it of girls. I believe that some old customs should not be re-formed but re-informed. This confirmation of girls (this Bas Mitzvah) could be emulated with advantage by all our Liberal Jewish Congregations.

(Exclusively for The OUTLOOK)

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