

**Solomon Blechman**

**Letters to the Editor, Life magazine, October 11, 1937**

Jewish Holy Days

Sirs:

I must thank you for the fine two-page spread of pictures of the High Holiday services, (LIFE, Sept. 20). It seems to me that it must have given many gentiles a little clearer picture of our services.

May I call your attention to three small mistakes? In the picture on page 33, the old man is seen holding a paper-covered book. Now these books are used only during Selichoth services which are the morning services preceding Rosh Hashona and during the Ten Days of Penitence. On Kol Nidre night a Machzor or regular Holiday prayer book is used. Anyone who can read Hebrew will note that the large print on the paper book says Selichoth. Therefore, the picture couldn't have been taken on Kol Nidre eve.

The other two errors are in text. Under the picture of the blessing pronounced by the cohen you say he is a lay assistant. He is not. A cohen is the direct descendant from the priests in the ancient temple. He is a nonofficiating priest. A rabbi does not have to be a cohen.

Under the picture of the cantor being helped to his feet you say "this is a gesture of courtesy." A rabbi tells me that the reason for this is that the feet must remain in the same place when he kneels as when he stands. The idea being that you are before the King of Kings and must keep your position.

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