



# IN THE SCALES OF JUSTICE

By JACQUES MARITAIN

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**I**N THE face of the mass crucifixion of the Jewish people, our hearts turn toward Palestine with only one hope: to put an end to this monstrous tragedy.

For many years and through the influence of some dear friends among the families of the Zionist pioneers, I have been deeply interested in the Zionist venture. I do not think that Zionism can provide a solution for the problems of the whole mass of Israel nor does it represent the end of the Galuth, but I am convinced that Zionism has an historic importance of the first order; the return to Palestine is the prelude to the deliverance from exile. Zionism is called upon, not to give rise to a political state like the Gentile ones (whose nationalism, moreover, is not a blessing for humanity), but rather to become one day the animating center for all dispersed Jewry.

Yet what matters above all to-day is the refuge that Palestine can and must offer to masses of persecuted who are in dire distress, together with the temporal basis for the independent culture, the conscience and spirit of the Jewish people. It is from this standpoint that all the problems related to the Palestinian homeland must be first of all considered at this moment.

I have no doubt that with regard to the Arab population a solution can be found which will preserve a spirit of fellowship and cooperation. Generosity is the prerequisite for such a solution. And what generosity primarily and imperiously demands is a determination to open wide the gates of the Palestinian homeland to the remnants of the bloody persecution which demoniac racism has unleashed upon the Jews of Europe.

I firmly hope that this demand will be satisfied. I refuse to believe that considerations of so-called realistic politics, such as expressed in the Chamberlain White Paper on Palestine, can stand against the requirements of justice and humanity. Truly realistic politics are grounded in moral values, in the sense and respect of the human personality, in the understanding of the solutions required by human conscience. To do justice to the Jewish people, to make it possible for them to feel *at home* in some corner of the earth—in that corner where their ancestors dwelt—is an urgent matter of truly realistic, truly human and truly democratic politics.

I also trust that after these days of darkness, the plague of racism will disappear from the face of the earth, and Jews and Christians will cooperate in an effort to further justice and brotherhood in human civilization.

