

Endorsement from

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for

The Puppet Pitfall

by Richard S. Messing

The author of the monograph related to appropriate decorum in synagogue life, Richard Messing, is a unique person, who lives a reflective existence, takes life seriously especially Jewish life. He is constantly in search for growth and development, appreciates the solemnity and sanctity of synagogue life and Richard indeed looks upon the synagogue like the Talmud says, as a *beis hamikdash ma'at*, a miniature holy temple.

As a result of his reflections, Richard is provoked very deeply by the tendency to find in synagogue life that which is not sacred in human behavior. He has written a very serious and thought-provoking monograph that will challenge every reader to reflect in an honest and genuine way their approach to prayer and their approach to understanding the sanctity of space - in this case, the sanctuary of a traditional Jewish temple.

Richard is a man of courage and is prepared to go into the icy waters of neglect and the icy waters that call out to man, "don't try anything because nothing is going to work." He is to be commended for the intellectual insight brought forth in *The Puppet Pitfall* and for the challenges it presents to each and every one of us. Everyone who reads it will be enriched. Hopefully his text will have a significant impact on the authenticity of Jewish religious life and potentially the individual and collective Jewish soul.