

A Lone Voice



Stop all the clocks, cut off the telephone,
Prevent the dog from barking with a juicy bone,
Silence the pianos and with muffled drum
Bring out the coffin, let the mourners come.

Let aeroplanes circle moaning overhead
Scribbling on the sky the message He Is Dead,
Put crepe bows round the white necks of the public doves,
Let the traffic policemen wear black cotton gloves.

He was my North, my South, my East and West,
My working week and my Sunday rest,
My noon, my midnight, my talk, my song;
I thought that love would last for ever: I was wrong.

The stars are not wanted now: put out every one;
Pack up the moon and dismantle the sun;
Pour away the ocean and sweep up the wood.
For nothing now can ever come to any good.

W. H. Auden

“If a person who has risen to the holiness of silence should lower himself to a particular form of divine service, in prayer, study, the limited problems of morality, he will suffer and feel oppressed. He will feel that his soul, which embraces all existence, is being pressed as though with prongs, to surrender her to the lowland where everything exists within a prescribed measure, to the narrowness of a particular path, when all paths are open to him, all abounding in light, all abounding in life’s treasures”

OROT HAKODESH VOL II P 307, Rav Koo

The Holy Izhbetzer comments on “I am earth and ash”, that to grow spiritually, you need both. Some of our Jewish leaders have made a complete religion out of the ashes of the Holy Six Million. But ashes alone are just not enough to nurture the neshama. You need the earth also to build strong roots.

On the one hand I cannot forget what happened in Europe. On the other I know that I have to help rebuild a new world.

What’s a holocaust memorial? Is the last will and testament of the six million to have a memorial? Their last will is that we yidden should be yidden. Unfortunately, many yidden give two million dollars to a holocaust memorial while their own kids don’t care about being Jewish. Inconsistency in one’s emotions or thinking is a human quality and a very honest expression of one’s humanity. A deceitful person attempts to reconcile contradiction through conniving reasoning and by stretching the truth.

My goal is to turn people on to Yiddishkeit or whatever other religion or spiritual path they were born into. And to make frumm (religious) Jews conscious of our world mission. Orthodox Jews keep G-d’s commandments but have trouble accepting their responsibility to help make this a better world for all of humanity. On the other hand, the enlightened Jews who came out of the ghetto sought to achieve social responsibility but completely neglected the commandments.

Rav Kook taught that the so called secular Jews by settling in and building the Holy Land, were guarding the body of the Jewish people, while the religious Jews were watching its soul. Today the body of the Torah, the laws, are being guarded by the religious Jews, while the soul of the Torah, the fire of its teachings are being watched by the so-called secular Jews.

We orthodox Jews have to deliver G-d's message to the entire world and that's why I travel to a place where there aren't that many Jewish people now. That's why I came to Poland. It's a place that has especially bad memories for our people. But that's the very reason that it makes Poland a prime choice for change. In the Bible we find that Shechem is the city where Dina was raped. Years later it was the city where the brothers sold Joseph and the split of the twelve tribes began. But it's also the headquarters for the tribe of Joseph who symbolizes the start of the redemption.

So the greatest tribute we can offer to the Six Million is to return to the place of their eternal rest and swear to them that we shall dedicate ourselves to spreading their values and their dreams to the entire world. Holocaust memorials have been turned into a business by people who haven't the slightest idea of who the pre-holocaust Jews were and what they stood for. We cannot allow assimilated Jews who speak in an alien tongue be our spokespeople to the world. We must address the world in our own Divine language. If I let out tzitzis and payus everywhere, then when I return to Germany, I let them out even longer. I was in Hamburg once and a Jewish lady told me that I wasn't in Jerusalem where I could let my religion hang out this way. I told her that in all the times I've been back to Germany, no German ever made such remarks to me. Her comments are, cholila, Nazi-like. The Nazis wanted to wipe out our people and she wants to wipe out our religion. Another time, in Hamburg, I walked into a restaurant with a German TV reporter. He saw me eat some fruit and told me, thank G-d you eat kosher, that he had interviewed a famous Israeli pianist the week before, who ordered ham and cheese. I felt a sigh of relief, he told me. Thank G-d, the Fuehrer didn't succeed and there are still Jews who are proud to be Jews.

We frummer Yidden can make such a Kiddush haShem with our behavior, that we can inspire the whole world. But first we have to clean up our own act. A little Israeli boy once told me that the reason he doesn't go to a Jewish school is that he lives near a yeshiva and he hears the children crying whenever they get beaten by the teachers.

oi shloime

Any parent or teacher who hits children is, G-d forbid, keeping Der Fuehrer's way alive! G-d's words can be taught to our children and spread throughout the world only in a loving way that is completely free of all anger and hatred.

[The Shoah: The Holocaust and helping to rebuild a new world](#)
By [Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach](#) on April 29, 1989 - כ"ד ניסן תשמ"ט

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oi shloime

I fear we have forgotten.
I fear we have betrayed your memory.
I fear we too are lost.

Where our President speaks of the Koran and ignores history
where inside we are empty
where even our theologies fail us
your voice seems so far away.

What yiddishkeit? what kind of healing did you mean?
that nostalgia for the shtetl? surely not!
the high moral ground? you were way beyond that pietism!

In Spertus today I watched lazily
as third generation old ladies volunteered and
wandered around busily
with that patronizing Mona Lisa smile
doing their chesed work
disconnected from ritual and myth
in their do gooded-ness
but there is no mezuzah on any door in this multi million dollar edifice to perpetuate Judaism.

And I think of myself
lost in this world.
drowning in the twitter and chatter of the day
worried about his speech in Cairo and Buchenwald
"to the victims that died here"
as if...
poor fellow...
prisoner of his own rhetoric!

What did Hitler teach us?
a lot I fear.
these bastards of history are our only teachers.
and the history of violence and war seems to be the real lesson
with moments of peace interspersed.
Look at Napoleon before him
the world was never the same.
The horror of the State invades our consciousness.

But Shloime!
you still believed in the message didn't you?
the "light unto the nations" gag
appropriated by secular zionists so conveniently and
the myth of superiority!
What now?
after 60 years of colonial rule?
how is our moral compass reading?
Just look into the prisons and hospitals and schools for the violence.
nothing has changed!
We appropriated the state apparatus as well.

No my teacher
I fear the change must come within.

oi shloime

today 60 years ago Albert Schweitzer visited University of Chicago and 5000 people came out to visit him!
he too was a hero.

Nobel Prize laureate

Bach musicologist, pianist, organist

physician and theologian.

yet 40 years ago today was the massacre at Tiananmen Square

and during WWII today many US soldiers died in a bloody Midway naval battle in the Pacific.

Today the evacuation at Dunkirk ended. Today today today going back remains bloodied.

Today today

each day each day

assimilated Jews get further away

and we the faithful?

where are we going?

further into the Talmud?

our legal texts, our rhetoric of the past?

into Halachic minutiae?

anything to avoid the deep chasm within?

Stop waging yesterday's battle my friend!

the war is over...out there

let the inner battle begin.

start worrying about our own inner betrayals deceits and lies.

fix the inner world first.

close the blogs

shut down the libraries

seal the Beis Midrash

And in the silence

let the deafening screams penetrate

let the pain ooze up from the bloody ground

the centuries' martyrs of all races have their say

let the memories bubble into the landscape

the horrors percolate into the bloodstream

Let a new consciousness arise

where the only command shall be

"let the other live"

no matter what the consequences.