

The Deeper Meaning of “Never Again”

Mass suffering, crimes against humanity, holocaust. Human history is filled with the pain and suffering of the masses and the innocent. But what is difficult to understand from reading history books, is that these events and the power and corruption that accompanied them did not arise suddenly in one moment in time. They were preceded by long processes, laws and regulations, and people of interest that devised meticulous [conspiracy] plans in order to reach their coveted final solution.

In every step of the way towards those man-made living hells, there were minorities of people who resisted and cried out. In instances where the voice of the minority was sufficiently heard [which we probably won't read about in history books], and the minority was sufficiently large and determined, and fought courageously, the disasters were averted. But in those historical events that we read about, and some of us experienced personally, the outcry of the minority wasn't strong enough and not enough people joined the struggle to resist the growing forces of power and evil and the spread of the virus of falsehood and lies.

A. The origins of the phrase “Never Again”

“Never Shall Masada Fall Again”

This phrase was written in a poem named “Masada” by Isaac Lamdan¹. It refers to the tragic story of the siege of the Masada fortress, near the Dead Sea in Israel, by the Romans, which ended with the mass suicide of the remaining Jewish besieged rebels². The phrase was adopted by various Zionist movements as a call to resistance and perseverance. After the Jewish holocaust, the phrase metamorphosed into “Never Again”, and was used by various Jewish movements after the re-establishment of the state of Israel in 1948. Rabbi Meir Kahane, who established the Jewish Defense League in the US in 1968, used the phrase as the title of his 1972 book. Kahane and the JDL adopted this phrase as a call for active struggle against anti-Semitism, and to never again repeat the passivity and

¹ “Masada”, AllPoetry, <https://allpoetry.com/Masada>

² “The Siege of Masada: Story & Symbolism of the Masada Fortress”, Deadsea.com, <https://www.deadsea.com/articles-tips/history/story-masada-siege-symbolic-meaning/>

helplessness that fell upon a large portion of the Jewish population during the holocaust³. In the years that followed, this phrase became prevalent in its universal meaning, against all types of racism, genocide and crimes against humanity, along with its main meaning relating to the Jewish holocaust.

B. The duty to resist- each according to his/her means

"Freedom is a duty, a duty even more than a right." ⁴

Never forget; and be aware and ready for the dangers that will come. It is the duty of each and every one of us to protect ourselves and our liberties, and to never again let a force control us and undermine our rights, freedom and the Truth. It is our duty to strive to discover the objective Truth, even if the Truth is inconvenient or opposes our current beliefs. It is our duty to fight for the Truth, for justice and the sacred values that are the basis of our lives, even if it risks our income, our career, and in extreme cases- our very lives. The willingness to sacrifice what we hold as dear is the ultimate test [Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son Yitzhak]. To never again be led as lambs to the slaughter.

"The Haves" - must be willing to risk their comfort, wealth and the social status for the sake of the Truth, freedom and moral values, and "The Have Nots" should be willing to risk the little they have, and be ready to deny any tempting offers that would buy their cooperation with the oppressing side.

This is our duty; in every generation, to fight against those that arise against us, from inside our group or from outside of it [We have seen that in the 20th century, violence and totalitarianism was directed partly toward the outside ("foreigners") and partly toward the inside (their own people) - Nazism and Communism].

³ Emily Burack, " 'Never Again': From a Holocaust phrase to a universal phrase", Jpost, March 10,2018, <https://www.jpost.com/Diaspora/Never-Again-From-a-Holocaust-phrase-to-a-universal-phrase-544666>

⁴ Fallaci, Oriana, "A Man", New York: Simon & Schuster, 1980, p.2

Excuses and rationalization

" Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little."

Edmund Burke

When we sit comfortably inside our homes, we declare with confidence and arrogance "Never Again", but if we see an act of injustice committed in front of our eyes or human rights that are trampled upon, who will actually risk his/her comfort, career, social status and even life in order to stop the injustice and the deterioration toward disaster, and thus ensure that "Never Again"? There are historical periods where people are [unwillingly] faced with a dilemma- to take an active role in resisting injustice, while undertaking substantial personal risk, or to sit on the sidelines and hope that the storm [or the Holocaust] will pass. The choice is yours, but regardless, the moral choice is on the side of resistance and sacrifice- of willpower and compassion. Every person can act and resist- each according to his/her means, be it with a quiet explanation in a private conversation or with intensive and wide-spread social activism. Every person contributes as he/she can, and with time this accumulates into a giant Tsunami [holly wave] of resistance.

<u>Victory of Evil</u>	<u>Victory of Good</u>
Egoism, Self-Interest, Social Distancing	Compassion, Caring, Kinship
Money, Control	Truth, Freedom [Values, Liberties]
Fear	Acceptance [of Life and Death], Letting Go

* To those expecting to receive an academic definition of 'good' and 'evil' - you will not get one here. Ask your local kindergarten teachers [they can probably give you a better explanation than many professors].

<u>Evasion using excuses and rationalization</u>	<u>Confrontation, Responsibility</u>
<u>Indifference, Laziness=>Willfully blind</u> ["What can I possible do about it"]	Caring, Taking Responsibility=>Awareness
<u>Repression, Denial[Defense Mechanisms]</u>	Conscious Confrontation
<u>Optimism Bias⁵</u> [Defense Mechanism, Cognitive Bias]	Conscious[Honest] Acceptance of Possible Dangers

⁵ Julia Thomas, "What Is Optimism Bias, And What's The Harm In It?", February 4, 2020, <https://www.betterhelp.com/advice/optimism/what-is-optimism-bias-and-whats-the-harm-in-it/>

<u>Just World Hypothesis⁶=>Victim Blaming</u>	<u>Objective Analysis [and acknowledging the fact that the world is full of suffering and injustice as a direct result of the acts of people toward other people]</u>
<u>'Just following orders' ['The law is the Law'], Concern for one's career</u> [Concern for their careers was one of the reasons that 'ordinary men' (such as those Germans that were drafted as a police help force ⁷), followed orders and did not refuse to commit mass murder of innocent men, women and children during the Holocaust.]	<u>Selective enforcement of laws exists in any case [in the end, what and how to enforce laws is under the discretion of law enforcement individuals] - law enforcement individuals can resist unjust laws [Values above Laws and Regulations] directly or indirectly.</u> <u>And those holding power should consider that evil will eventually arrive at their doorsteps as well. There are things that are even more important than sustenance. If not for us, then for your and for our children and for future generations.</u>

Evil gets an opportunity to grow and spread because too many people give in to fear, egoism and apathy towards "small" acts of evil, deception and corruption. The force of evil- the lie is like an infection or a virus: if it is not stopped and defeated at the outset, it spreads, intensifies and endangers the existence of the entire organism-society.

" The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." Edmund Burke

C. How will we prevent the next man-made disaster

A simple sign that can help us recognize the danger of deterioration towards disaster: When basic values and basic rights are undermined and impaired. The moment this happens- is the moment to start fighting, and not a moment later.

⁶ "Just-world hypothesis", Wikipedia contributors, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Just-world_hypothesis

⁷ Browning, Christopher R. Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland. New York: HarperPerennial, 1998

How will we safeguard our values and rights:

1. Make sure that one single group will never have too much power [including groups that belong to the establishment or party or are a part of the country's institutions.]
2. Make sure that the good people [those that oppose violence and strive for peace] will always have enough physical and political power in order to safeguard against outbreaks of violent "viruses". But who are 'the good guys'? After all, even the most terrible groups throughout history claimed or thought they were 'the good guys'. That's why it is necessary to decentralize and spread power, and to avoid a centralized [absolute/totalitarian] government [-clause no.1]. For even if the honest intentions of such a ruling class/group would be good at first, we can expect a deterioration of those intentions, and an abuse of the group's power.
3. Fight for Truth, freedom, justice and compassion, for the values that sanctify our lives in this world.

The Truth is the most fundamental value, and the lie is the weapon used by evil to spread itself throughout the world like a virus:

Striving to know the objective Truth is one of the primary missions of mankind. Every one of us should struggle to know as much as the Truth as possible, to widen our awareness and acknowledge Truths, even when they are inconvenient or they oppose our current thought patterns. Each one of us begins his/her journey toward the Truth from a relative [subjective] position, according to life's circumstances, but the main point is to sincerely and honestly strive and struggle to know the Truth. From this perspective, the words of an honest person with no education can be immeasurably of higher value than the words of a renowned professor that lacks integrity and does not hold Truth as a higher value.

Do not automatically believe in [the words of] authority- It is our right and duty to strive and struggle to know the Truth.

Get used to analyzing things deeply using critical and independent thinking.

Never again to be as sheep, but as free human beings, born in the image of the divine.

[An upside-down world I have seen](#)

In the current state of human society, those who lie, cheat and pursue power aggressively- have their voices heard loudly and have a high 'social ranking', while the lonely Truthsayer, that does not seek power, but rather strives for the good- is silenced, and ranked at the bottom of society. Where filter bubbles and groupthink is encouraged and rewarded, and 'unwanted' voices are ridiculed, prosecuted and made to 'disappear'; in such a world, a holocaust can happen to the good, desolate and powerless people. We must prevent this from happening with all our might.

Pursuing *Money* [Material] and *Control* [Power]

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Making *Statues* [The Golden Calf] and *Masks* [Lies]

A virus is the symbolic and physical representation of a lie. The virus spreads the lie of materialism [the golden calf] to the world, and the mask- hides our true face [image], emotions and essence- it masks the Truth.

How will we know what's right [in an upside-down world, of lies and corruption]:

By clinging to eternal values [Truth-freedom-justice], over temporary laws and regulations.

[We Were Slaves- Never Again](#)

Most of us view ourselves as moral, good people, but the true test of our morality only comes during difficult and challenging times. For example, when we are well fed and financially sound, there isn't much merit in keeping the rule "Thy Shall Not Steal", but when we are in a financial crisis and feel the grip of hunger, then is the real test of the degree of our morality. Similarly, when we are sitting on the couch, inside our comfortable and safe home, there isn't much virtue in pointing at the wrongs of others and 'virtue signaling'. But when we have something to lose during the process of exposing lies or corruption, and when the forces of evil, power and deception are rising in the world, and it becomes dangerous to stand for the good, the weak, and the Truth, then that becomes our true test, a moment of Truth that gives us an opportunity to advance morally and spiritually. This is really a moment of opportunity for 'spiritual evolution', and although it is a very difficult moment in time, we must ride toward the battle with liberating cries of freedom and the joy of Truth;

To know and to hear the outcry, the suffering and blood of our ancestors and the masses of innocents that came before us, driving us onwards with their spirits and crying out with the totality of their souls "Never Again".