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"All You Must Be Is Willing"

This is perhaps the most ignored message of the Holocaust: all you have to be to save lives, liberate slaves, and fight crime, is *willing*. With a willingness to put into action the many lessons of the Holocaust—like the telltale signs of atrocity, the vice of apathy, and the power of words—any single youth or elder, male or female, Gentile or Jew can shake the world. Remembrance of the Holocaust hits two birds with one stone: it gives us both the tools to prevent and combat prejudice, discrimination, and violence in our world today, and the punch in the gut we need to actually do it. To end holocausts and oppression happening around the world today and prevent more from beginning, we must comprehend the Holocaust. When lessons are forgotten, they are useless; that is why remembrance must be continual—is why the history of the Holocaust has to be passed on to a new generation. Once equipped with wisdom from the Holocaust, young people can do three things: one, move their compassion from their intellects to their actions; two, refute segregation in every social degree; three, *write*.

Are you okay with reigns of terror, unchecked political police, and systematic murder of the people you know? If not, knowing the Holocaust will allow you to detect the slow boil when it starts. Do you want to be like another duped head in the herd? The Holocaust will show you how mass public duping is done, so that you can avoid it. If history repeats itself and the signs of injustice and oppression are predictable, then knowing the signs means we can prevent history from repeating. And if you know the Holocaust, you know the signs: propaganda, segregation, unchecked political police, and zealous nationalism, to name four. But the most back-stabbing danger sign the study of the Holocaust reveals is *apathy*, turning a blind eye, inert ignorance.

Many people born after the Holocaust turn their head away when they encounter it. They want to deny, or more often, to be ignorant of it. Usually, it is because they do not want to stomach it; these same people also probably do not want to ask themselves if, during a contemporary Holocaust, they would be the queasy neighborhood citizen staying indoors while Jews on their street were being rounded up. Knowing the abominations that denial and avoidance enabled before, how can we allow denial and avoidance of the Holocaust now? Knowing the horror of what happened before is the most guaranteed motivator to fight its same causes in the present day. For little will convince a patient to take a vaccination shot as well as knowing the symptoms of the disease.

To think studying the Holocaust will do nothing but unnecessarily burden our minds and hearts even more is false. In our free society today where technology and pleasure abound, young people especially grow numbed to their blessings, and falsely burdened. When you comprehend what victims went through—not only their final fates,

but what they went through, what they went without—the malcontent American bourgeoisie can become un-jaded. Reading the diary of Anne Frank, for example, a person might actually revel for the first time in having a private bedroom, or the right to go bicycling. A person might for the first time revel in the way they choose to spend their cultural Sabbath, whether the follower of a faith or an abstainer from faith.

The lessons of the Holocaust are not exclusive to two castes of world view, Aryanism and Judaism. From the moral convictions of the atheist to the obedience of the pious, every person has a call to care for the worse-off. The Holocaust is an offence to the conscience of all people. It is rare to find a person who doesn't care when they walk through the Holocaust Museum or visit a concentration camp. You, the reader, probably care right this very moment. *But just caring is not enough.* If all people had cared in more than just their head, but in their *will*—death camps, scientific experiments on humans, racism itself, could have never been.

Who among us would Mil a city of people? And who among us hasn't (by turning a blind eye to starvation, slavery, the AIDS epidemic, sweat shops, ethnic cleansings, and more that we know goes on in the world this very moment, and buying iPods, laptops, better cars, vacations, and anniversary dinners instead)? We don't even have the excuse of the Holocaust's contemporaries of ignorance. *We know* the horrors going on in our world; we know now the signs of a government slow-boiling up to the degree of Nazism at its height. With our post-World War II wisdom, we must move our compassion for the victims of the world from our intellects to our wills. There are three effective things anyone can do. The first has been inherent—remember the Holocaust.

The second is this: refute segregation. The first step to oppression, persecution, and murder is segregation. This is history's lesson not only in the Holocaust, but also in the US's civil rights movement, in the history of women's rights, in the Apartheid of South Africa. Start annihilating prejudice at your grassroots level—don't make it grand visions and convictions of What You Believe Society Ought To Do. Make it your simple will daily to diversify your circle of friends. You can get grander from there.

Finally, write. *Write.* For example, who caused reforms in horrid turn-of-the-century Industrial America? The muckraker journalists. The pen is mightier than the sword. Even Hitler knew it, with his book "Mein Kampf, his slogans, his propaganda. Written pieces are some of the few impactful, more-enduring legacies a soul can leave behind, and any kind of person from any kind of life can do it. Write. Expose. Your life and thoughts can change the world, by simply being written down. Write down injustices, experiences, your heart and your hurts, and it can

change the world. A young schoolgirl hidden away for years in an attic did more against Nazism than thousands of activists—by writing a simple diary.

The first generation to dismiss the Holocaust will be the first generation of a brand new era of sitting ducks for holocausts to happen to. It is vital the remembrance, history and lessons of the Holocaust be passed on to a new generation. Learn the signs of slow-boiling corruption and covert horrors; remember the danger of ignoring. You can do both those things by comprehending the Holocaust. But you will also begin to enjoy the blessings you have to the max, and get powerful motivation for putting the wisdom you'll glean into effective works. That is what we must do: move our beliefs and compassion from our intellects into our actions; use more than our brains—our wills as well. Learn from the Holocaust and turn what you learn into action, in ways as simple as refuting the prejudices and cliques you daily encounter, or wielding the power of words. Whatever you do, don't become one of the heads in the herd of the Holocaust's most ignored message: the sin of inaction.

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