

# The World Has Fallen III

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*نسخه فارسی این مقاله را در فایل همراه ملاحظه کنید.*

**Who never learned from the passage of Time,  
He could learn nothing from another teacher.**

Well, Mrs. World got married to Mr. Religion in hopes of a better life, but instead, she ended up taking medication that had long expired, developing unprecedented fever and tremors, and losing her calm; and on top of that, she needs a new pair of glasses. Thinking men are worried about her future, while superficial politicians everywhere can't see that **the main thing to do** is to prevent new problems from generating, whereas instead, they've concentrated on taking out what problem is already there; and they are not a bit concerned with locating and pulling out the root causes of global insecurity and the threats that face the present and future of the world. These roots include the principal ideas held by those who seek to provoke incitement, who believe in such agitation, and who spread such sedition, besides the scriptures and textbooks that are taught at their schools. Instead of finding ways to throw away the poisonous medicine and the opportunists who keep selling them, we've been after fighting some ghosts, throwing arrows into the darkness, while scores of Mrs. World's children, the majority of whom are innocent, are getting killed or become homeless; and the wandering homeless carry with them to the farthest corners of the world the inherited and contagious disease of religious and sectarian hatred. Meanwhile, no one seems to pay enough attention to the problem of seditious writings and their ongoing instruction every day at so many schools around the globe, and nobody seems to notice seriously the present and future threats posed by them.

**Alas, in this bloody game, men's lives  
Are mere toys in the hands of Time.**

Let's aim to get rid of our shortcomings, and to discover the causes behind all this divisiveness and turmoil. To try and hide the causes, self-censor and a misplaced fear of the

religion, these could lead only to the kind of sad situation which we see everyday appear under a new name somewhere in the world; because only by understanding the root causes of the issues we could solve problems and reverse intellectual and religious regression in their various forms. Those emulating followers who have contracted the disease of Discrimination don't realize that their greatest and most dangerous of enemies are but their ignorant friends.

Will they listen, those who need to pay attention, who need to try and correct themselves? Indeed, that's what we are hoping for.

**The sun shall rise at the end of my darkest night, and  
Some day, I'll receive the news of my beloved (humanity).  
I'm not hopeless, for the empty bucket that I dropped in the well,  
Some day, it shall climb to the surface, spilling over with the water.**

The first step to maintain the security of today's world is to control the content of the textbooks, and to omit their inciting instructions, instead of letting "the dry and the wet burn and die together". A mother who had bought a large drum for his little child, kept yelling and begging her that, "For mom's sake, baby, stop drumming so much! The apartment's too small! It's driving me crazy!" But the child continued to drum, heedless of her mother's supplication. Somebody should have asked the mother, "Why did you buy the drum, and why do you keep it at home? At the least, find a way so that others can't hear it. The poor kid is not to blame." Better to omit the noisy drum of inciting codes and commands from the so-called textbooks than to tie down the child, so to speak. We can't allow such naïve people follow the recommendations of the religious teachers and advocates and keep walking astray in hopes of the vacuous promise of a paradise.

**For how long do you wish to lay bricks and mortar on the seas?  
I'm fed up with the idol-worshippers at the temples!  
Who ever said and when that there would be a Hell?  
Who ever went to Hell, or who ever returned from Heaven?**

The child explains that, "My teachers keep telling us based on the textbooks that 'We are the only human beings, and the rest of the people are...'. Also my parents approve of their words, have let me hold them like a noisy drum, and have told me that 'preserving this holy inherited drum would mean to preserve your identity.' So, I've kept the drum, and I keep tapping on it."

Should we tie up the child, so to speak, or just take away the metaphorical drum? Should we exile the child, or instead, wipe off the inciting instructions and other seditious writings from everybody's mind?

Dear parents, from the outset, why did you plant your own inherited seeds of hatred, discrimination and divisiveness in your children's minds, instead of the seeds of kindness and unity, so that today you wouldn't have to worry about their future? Why don't you remove this empty drum, these various forms of abhorrent religious and sectarian hatred, from yours and your children's minds, so that the future generation won't have to endure some catastrophes repeating themselves?

Because there is no common collective understanding among us. Indeed, a common understanding is achieved when we strive for a common perception and exercise sound reasoning; and fortunate are the societies that enjoy a common collective understanding and try to overcome their weaknesses with shared hearts.

The most fortunate societies or spouses have achieved a common understanding of things, an element that even makes beauty, wealth and education pale in comparison. Hence, the many spouses who after decades of sharing their lives, still can't understand each other, whereas people may enjoy socializing with a stranger who shares their thoughts over a brief conversation as much as decades of a life together.

**Why, many an Indian and a Turk  
Who meet as if they spoke a single tongue,  
Yet many a pair of Turks who are  
As if strangers to one another.  
The language of the hearts,  
It's a language in itself, and  
Shared hearts are far better  
Than a shared language.**

Indeed, shared hearts are far better than a shared language. Also, in social and religious matters, a common will and understanding could drive everyone's progress and raise its quality, because it's the rational belief of a group that brings about public security; otherwise, to be kind to those who don't favor being kind to everyone, that would be a waste of our kindness.

Being kind to our fellow humans has been recommended so far as in Judaism, to treat people well, especially the strangers among us, and to avoid hurting them emotionally or otherwise, it's known as *kiddush ha-shem*, "Consecrating God's Name", while its opposite is known as *chillul ha-shem*, "Humiliating God's Name".

It's sad that to this date, people are judged mostly based on their religion, nationality, race or color, a remnant of the abhorrent tribal ways that has survived to our time since the Stone Age. It's a pity that a person's wrong or good deeds – mostly his wrong deeds – are blamed on everyone who shares his religion, country or race. This shameful excuse was based from the outset on how members of a majority group judged the pointless label of "minorities". If only the majority groups knew and understood that to discriminate against a minority group and to torture them wasn't just about inflicting pain on a single group, but it was tantamount to the destruction of the whole society.

**Václav Havel**, blessed be his memory, the playwright, philosopher, and president of the former Czechoslovakia, used to say, and I paraphrase, that "we can measure the civility of a society by the way it treats the minorities among them."

The Jewish people, throughout their millennia-long tumultuous history, at times may have been rewarded with benefits, but more often have endured immeasurable harm, in return for the good or bad behavior of a Jewish person toward the others. Yet, this people know well that at the end, it's humanity, good behavior, and the effect of sincere friendship and humane relationships between individuals, which would emerge to benefit humanity at large. An evident case in point

was the congenial behavior of Mr. Edward Jacobson toward Mr. Harry Truman, then his business partner in a clothing store, years before the latter would be elected President of the United States. Long after the store had been closed due to the Great Depression, their sincere friendship came to the



Edward Jacobson & Harry Truman at Their Clothing Store

aid of the State of Israel: President Truman, who had thereto refused to meet with the leaders of the Jewish community, granted Mr. Jacobson's request, accepted to receive Dr. Chaim Weizmann, and in 1948, on behalf of the United States, recognized the independence of the new-born country of Israel and its provisional government. We may dare say that without Mr. Jacobson's help, this virtuous man and exalted spirit, the independence of the State of Israel may not have taken roots.



President Harry Truman & Edward Jacobson



President Harry Truman & Dr. Chaim Weizmann

Sometimes, the good behavior and a healthy relationship between people can lead to some miraculous, unimaginable consequences. As another example, I point out the life-saving effects that were brought about by

Lord David Alliance's business relationship with the Sudanese and Ethiopian heads of state. This Iranian-British businessman, this "brave kid from the city of Kashan!", who about 1938, was going with me to the same elementary school, the Agha Yeghouti-El "Alliance" of Kashan, he



Lord David Alliance

played a unique role in saving the lives of 14,000 dark-skinned and starving Jews from an Ethiopia in famine and crisis by transferring them to Israel. At several stages, those in charge of the mission could only advance this immense and secret operation with Lord Alliance's direct

help, an operation that culminated in a 25-hour deadline and 35 almost concurrent flights from Ethiopia to Israel. The last stage of this operation was so tense and dense that at some point, a new aviation record was set, when by necessity, about 1088 of these immigrants were placed into a single plane! To understand the critical importance of this operation, suffice us to remember that a short while before then, and only within weeks, six thousand of these poor members of the “forgotten tribe of Israel” had died from famine in Ethiopia or Sudan.



Ethiopian Jews in Camps and on the Plane

Today, the children of these dark-skinned Jews are studying in the best of Israeli universities.



Ethiopian Jews in Israel Celebrating Their Religious Festival

Clearly, if Mr. Jacobson or Lord David Alliance had not treated their business partners ethically and humanely, their words would not be heeded at the time of need. This is what *kiddush ha-shem* was meant to be, and this was the aim of the great legislator.

**Plant the tree of friendship, for it'll bear much wonderful fruit.**

**Uproot the scion of enmity, for it'll bear much pain and suffering.**

This is the outcome of thinking in unison to serve humanity.

(Please visit [BabaNouri.com](http://BabaNouri.com) to watch a short film about the meetings between Mr. Edward Jacobson and President Harry Truman, as well as a documentary about the rescue operation of the Ethiopian Jews. The latter, which includes an interview with Lord David Alliance, further explains his role in the immigration of the descendants of the Queen of Sheba from Ethiopia to Israel.)

Unfortunately, a main reason for the lack of common understanding among the followers of all religions is that over the course of thousands of years, every individual or group who gained some power within any religion, they established their own branch, each with its own dedicated temple and traditions, so far as today we may run into several temples on every street in town. Even as these congregations may believe and share in the same books, they each adhere to a different sect derived from the main religion. Such seditious division into various groups will in the long run weaken the religion and even drive people away from it. Also, we can observe that the only thing common between the followers of various religious sects is their rivalry over recruiting new members and raising funds for their own sect or group, even as each one of them plays their own noisy drum. It's excruciating to try and go along with such divisiveness, when we see them appear in a thousand colors. Mahatma Gandhi said, and I paraphrase, "It's far better to pray with our hearts if without words, than with the words without the hearts."

My friends, the world should know that the books have no movement by themselves, but the teaching of inciting lessons around the globe could move societies and lead them to destruction; for, as we may observe, hatred is at the root and the most savage form of violence. Take a look around the world. Until the textbooks and scriptures are not fixed, people won't be corrected, because human beings will die, but the books will remain; and the opportunists are always lurking on the side lines.

A catastrophe such as the tragic assassination of the late Yitzchak Rabin, blessed be his memory, the Prime Minister and a national general of Israel, in the hands of a so-called young

“religious” Jewish man, or the various murders and massacres that are carried out day after day by the forces of incitement in various places around the world, these are acted out by the encouragement of some teachers, and in the guise of religious promulgation; and as such, they won’t end by killing the perpetrators of these crimes. Never, because their fundamental destructive ideas are still out there; and as we can see, the white and black believers, whether in the East or the West, turn out to be carbon copies of one another. These people are like trees that stand alone and apart, yet their roots and beliefs, and their hatred toward those who think differently, are tied together under the ground, since they share the same guide and guidance. We need to cleanse our eyes to see the world as it is, for being realistic is the key to success. And enough repeating the mistakes of the past; we’ve already learned our lessons well.

**Time has been my teacher, for there is  
No teacher for me above Time.**

Such shameful regimes as the Nazi Germany, the Fascist Italy, or the Communist Soviet Union, they collapsed when the ruinous nature of their ideas was recognized. Fortunately, today, as the weaknesses have been revealed, a self-initiated global transformation seems to be taking place in the matter of religion; however, to see the realities, we should first replace the dark glasses of prejudice with the transparent and colorless spectacles of impartial objectivity. Let’s hope for the day when humanity will prevail over politics, kindness over hatred, and intellect over ignorance, so that the noisy drums of destruction will become silent, and the Mother can sleep in peace.

**Your sleepy eyes, month after month,  
Year after year, are like mine, drunk  
Without a drink.  
O Poet, don’t submit to the ignorant!  
The one who loves has no way out  
But the way of desperation and misery.**

A Japanese millionaire couldn’t find a cure for the pain in his eyes. Disappointed by the physicians’ futile attempts, he went to see a monk. The monk suggested that he should try and look only at the color green. The man ordered barrels of green paint and had the walls of his

large house and yard, his car, furniture, clothing, and everything else in sight, painted green. His eyes were cured. Excited, he invited the monk to thank him in person for his recovery. The monk arrived at the house and asked how the man had been doing. "I've been cured," said the millionaire, "but this was the most expensive cure that I was ever given!" The monk realized what had happened, laughed and explained, "Actually, this was the cheapest cure that I've ever prescribed! Instead of all that green paint, you just had to put on a pair of green glasses. Who ever could paint the whole world green?!" Never and at no price paid can we paint the world over in green, to make it appear in the sole color we wish to see, or to make it believe only in what belief we want it to hold.

We cannot and should not remain for our whole life in the cocoon of social isolation, as the self-proclaimed adherents of extremist religious practices do; neither should we keep our children who share our pain shackled in the cage of ignorance to make certain that "they would see nothing but the color green." Where human beings are involved, the better harness is "a better understanding" and not "tighter ropes." To cure his pain, the man only needed to put on a pair of green lenses to see the whole world green. To cure our every pain, we can't change the whole world, but we can make the world feel more pleasant to us by changing the way we see it. It's not possible to change the world, but changing how we look at things is the least expensive and most effective solution.

What I am saying is that the followers of all religions, including us the Jewish people, don't need more and more ropes and harness in order to fulfill our obligations and preserve our precious ancestral heritage, i.e. the reasonable commandments of our holy books. What we need is to achieve a better understanding that continues to remain up to date. Tighter ropes are no solution for human beings.

To make the religion a barrier on our children's road of progress, to prevent them from learning modern sciences, and to raise them as some ignorant illiterate bunch "lest they change" (sic!), such attempts are not only unnecessary, but they are downright betrayals. Mrs. World has been plagued by the chronic, contagious and hereditary disease of religious and sectarian hatred in its various forms. If only to cure the illness, the inhabitants of this planet could take off the dark glasses of prejudice and discrimination, tell the road and the potholes apart, throw away the

burnt-out firewood of the texts that didn't agree with modern science, and understand what the poet said:

**Burnt-out wood won't become the candle to show the way.  
Instead, kindle a torch to shed its light on the road.  
Don't give away the jewel of Time so carelessly,  
For after all, this precious jewel has an untold price.**

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To download copies of Norman Gabay's essays and other writings in English and Persian, including his book *An Invitation to Reason*, as well as *The Glossary of the Kashani Jewish Dialect*, or to see the short movies related to this essay, please visit the following website: [www.BabaNouri.com](http://www.BabaNouri.com).

Translator's Website: [www.ComposerPA.com](http://www.ComposerPA.com)