

Time

An Essay in Three Parts

By Norman “Nourollah” Gabay

English Translation by Payman Akhlaghi

لطفاً نسخه فارسی این نوشتار را در فایل همراه ملاحظه فرمایید.

Part I	1
Part II	7
Part III	12

Part 1

Had humankind chosen to remain unchanging, in the name of religion or otherwise, he wouldn't have evolved beyond the Darwinian ape!

We could write countless books about Time and the Wheel of Life, these most powerful of all forces. It is Time that compels the strongest to obey; and step by step, knowingly or unwittingly, whether we like it, we all adjust and keep step with Time — some willingly, and others by the vengeance of Time. Fortunate are those who realize that to fight against Time is to stay behind, whereas to keep step with Time, and to do so in time, it is to succeed.

We should learn about the countless advances made in science. But also we could study history to compare human thought past and present, to understand the distinct differences between the eras, and to gain experience from the mistakes of a myopic past.

As Saadi put it,

**The bird who sees another in the trap,
She'll no more swoop in on the bait.**

**Learn from the others' miseries,
So they won't learn from yours.**

For instance, take the history of Europe, this self-proclaimed Birthplace of Civilization. As we can see, time and again, to expand borders and to impose particular religions, sects or ideologies, numerous wars, massacres and plunders broke out between the European states, a catastrophe that has been going on for centuries. However, today, notwithstanding a number of regressive clusters — such as the sectarian groups of the Northern and Southern Ireland, who all follow the same book, and yet they fight each other miserably over their ways of life — 27 European countries have come together, free of borders, tongues and religions, and they've established a single Parliament with a common currency akin to one unified state. And they sneer at those who brought about past wars or who defend the outdated borders. On that note, the **author** believes that this development has been the first step in the long-run toward the ideal of a global government.

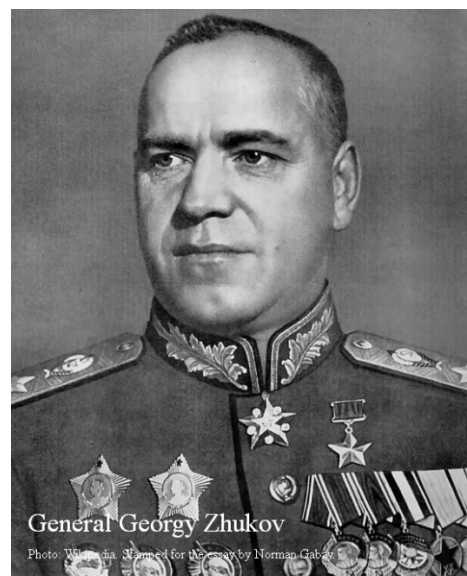
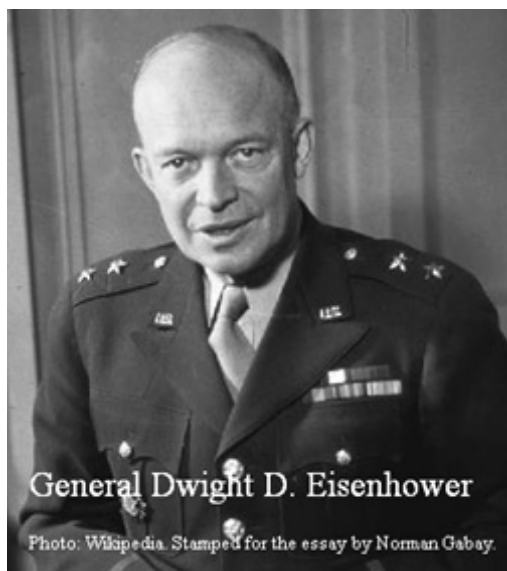
To conquer and plunder land, or in the name of **advocating their particular sect or religion**, even commanded to do so by their religious leaders, they fought, they killed, and they were killed. And they forced the defeated people into exile in order to destroy their cultures. Joseph Stalin offers an evident case in point for such atrocities in our time. The man displaced and made miserable millions of people from their homes and homelands to terribly harsh climates, and he gave shape to a bitter disaster through which hundreds of thousands of people were destroyed. For an earlier example, we may recall how the Jewish people were forced out of their homes and homeland, the land of Israel, far into exile at the Mesopotamia in Babylon. Given the badly limited facilities and the tough conditions of the time, God knows how many of them were lost on the road or were otherwise dispersed throughout the world. (And yet, their survivors, having suffered centuries of cruelties, having returned to their documented homeland that had been taken away from them, are slandered by some people as “The Occupiers!”) To date, now and then, we could run into small groups of people in various parts of the world, whose appearance or beliefs have nothing in common with the rest of the local population. Some may look like the Mongols, while the others could distinctly resemble the Vikings! It could even be that two neighboring villages can't understand one another's language. Could such distinct groups be the survivors of the despicable tradition of forced migrations?

**Thousands of ships sank into this vortex,
Not a plank of which was cast upon the shores.**

Certainly, that a number of races and ethnicities have settled in hard-to-access locations, it has been an outcome of those forced migrations and exiles. Alas, by the order of their religious leaders, i.e. the Popes, some people fought, killed and got killed. They took home the spoils of the loot, as well as the captive slaves, as if they were lifeless objects — like Nader Shah, the Persian King, who victoriously brought the jewels of India to Iran — and thereafter, these slaves would change hands like the sheep. It's the more painful that none of the religions completely forbade slavery, and instead, they more or less legitimized this immoral act, and if anything, they established certain laws to regulate it! Humanity is branded indelibly by the shameful scar of this abomination...

Until we arrive at the end of World War II.

Then we notice that the victorious military leaders, General Dwight Eisenhower and General Georgy Zhukov, following the enemy surrender, did not pilfer the banks and museums, nor did they gather slaves. Their understanding of things had advanced far beyond the religious commands which had been dealing with dividing the spoils and the captivity of slaves, a problem which in practice throughout history has led to war, murder and massacre, pillage and continued hostilities. Instead, they went after the true jewels of the enemy, i.e. the thinking brains of the German scientists. And by promising them better lives as they wished, they brought in about one



thousand of them to the United States, including Professor Wernher von Braun, together with their families, while a smaller number went to the Soviet Union. Few decades later, the phenomenon recurred though differently during the fall of the Soviet Union, when Iran and Israel too got a share of the proverbial cloth for their hats! Such were the spoils of the war, without enslaving the defeated.

That brief account highlights the contrast between the earlier periods versus ours. Breathing in the air of freedom, and in collaboration with the American scientists, those very German scientists helped transform the world. This further underscores the value of scientific discoveries, inventions and innovations of every country in the world, so far as in an ongoing hidden war, instead of bombing cities, these states are busy stealing each other's scientists and their ideas! Next, they stand side by side for friendly pictures at the international symposiums, while in a show of denial, they ask, "Who was it? Who did it? Oh, it sure wasn't me!" Well, gone are the good old romantic thieves, who used to sing,



Stealing kisses! What a gainful theft it is!

Return the loot, and the spoils are doubled!

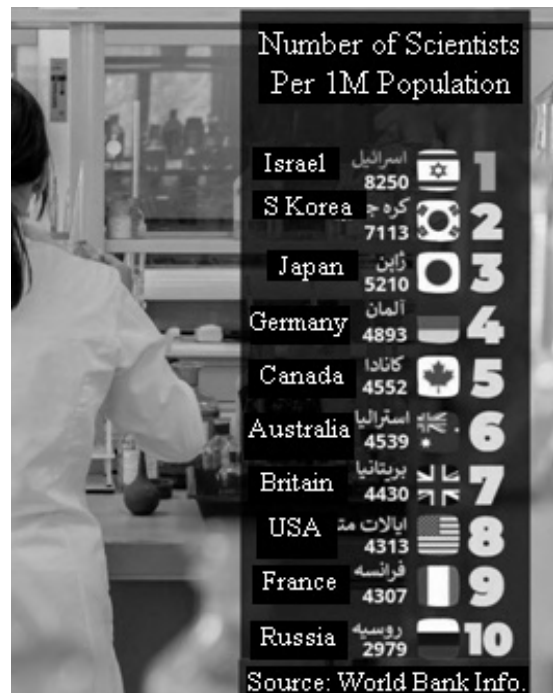
That reminds me of an old report in the papers.

One night, perhaps around the 1920's, an inventive thief cut through the big vault of a New York bank as if through butter, grabbed all the money, and ran away with it! The bank managers and the police were stunned as to how a wall of steel so thick had been cut through in that certain way. So the police announced that should the thief turn himself in, along with a description of his method, he would be pardoned for the crime. The thief left the shadows, and thus, for the first time, the world learned of the carbide method for cutting steel.

As we see today, governments may hire one another's "cyber thieves" and other "hackers" of genius for top salaries, such as a 15-year old youngster from the Philippines, and they honor them publicly and appreciate their contributions. It's thus evident that even the law could bend itself in the interest of science and of intelligent and humane ends. The wisest and smartest of

people tries and turns the enemy to a friend. By implementing this very principle, the Japanese and German governments, our enemies from yesterday, have become among America’s best friends today. Learned and wise as they were, the American leaders knew well that good fortune would last only if it were shared with the others, and that hatred was the cancer of life. They understood that to protect our house, we should help put out the fire at the neighbor’s. Following the war, through a government initiative known as the Marshall Plan, the United States offered aid in the billions of dollars to its former enemies, namely Japan and Germany, to help them rebuild and recover from the damages of the war.

It was a manifestation of the progress made in human thought, and the acting power of Time. For, such leaders understood then as they do now that true power depended on the number of invaluable scientific brains, not the idle mass of the so-called extras! The power of a country today is measured based on its number of scientists according to the statistics published annually by the World Bank. Proudly speaking, as of 2019, as the attached table shows, **according to the said statistics by the World Bank**, the very nascent and small State of Israel is leading the world in its number of scientists per capita. This is true wealth and power, not depending on the armies of prayers, or the vacuous militaristic, religious or financial claims!



As **Zello-Soltan**, the Qajar Prince, reported in his book entitled *the Masoudi History*, “When Nader the King of Iran defeated the Afghan forces and secured his reign over Isfahan, 70,000 students of the religious subjects in that city were still receiving salaries from the government treasury, (and they claimed that without their prayers, the world would’ve already been destroyed!)” [It was much like the many jobless people in today’s Israel.]

“Nader cut off the payments. The heads of the students approached him, sighed and pled, ‘These are the Army of Prayers. Why should the Sultan sever their salaries and confiscate their endowments?’ Nader responded, ‘When merely 6,000 Afghans attacked Iran and conquered the

land, what was this 70,000 strong Army of Prayers doing? Where were they? Now, if they still want a salary, they better put on the soldier's hat and shoes, and join our victorious troops. We need an army of swordsmen, not a freeloading army of prayers!”

In his collection of poetry, *Payām-e Sharq* or “The Message from the East”, **Allama Iqbal of Lahore** wrote (Pakistan, p. 235),

**Don't measure philosophers and politicians by the same stick.
One side has eyes like a blind sun, whilst the others' are dry.
One carves out feeble arguments for the word of Truth,
Whilst the other cooks up firm proofs for the false claims!**

The legendary **Loghman the Sage** is quoted to the effect that, “One day, standing by a farm, I saw grapes of wheat, some risen to the sky as in conceit, while the others had bent down in modesty. I touched the grapes, and I was surprised that those which stood tall were hollow, while the others which bowed to the earth were bursting with seeds. I thought to myself, Many a head in the meadow of life who's risen high, yet remains empty within.”

**Smoke climbs above the fire, but it won't disgrace the flame,
As the brow won't replace the eye, though it sits on the top.
The thumb and forefinger both race for grandeur,
Yet it's the little finger who earns to bear the ring.
Steel and iron both emerge from the same crucible:
One's the king's sword, the other's shoe for the ass.
Be patient if the wicked have sat at the top, for
The foam rests on the ocean, the pearl on the floor.**

Given the above, consider the following. During a visit to Los Angeles, **Yitzhak Shamir**, the former Israeli Prime Minister, told his audience, and I paraphrase, “Once I invited a number of religious leaders, and I asked them to encourage the religious youngsters to enlist and serve in the army, for we needed them. They responded, ‘Please let us study the matter and get back to you.’ Few days later, they returned with a response. ‘We gathered together with other religious leaders,’ they said, ‘and we decided that henceforth, instead of our youth serving in the army, we would pray more than before to bless the government!’”

Alas, who knows nothing, he thinks that the others are ignorant. Let's seek to guide one another, not to fool ourselves and mislead the others.

And let's keep in mind that for the religion as well as life to survive, balance should always be maintained.

A drop of honey landed on the ground. A little ant arrived at the scene, circled the drop, licked it just a bit, and decided to go on his way. But the taste of honey was wonderful. So he returned, and he carefully licked and drank from it a bit more. He was about to leave, when he felt that merely licking and drinking from the edges of the drop wouldn't quench his thirst. It just didn't taste like the real thing. So he dove into the drop to swim around and enjoy it even more. Alas, his frail tiny legs gave in soon, and he remained entrapped in that sticky drop to the end of his life. **Benjamin Franklin** is cited to have said, and I paraphrase, "Life is nothing but a large drop of honey! Who was content to drink a little of it, he would be saved. But who drowned in its sweetness, he would be destroyed." This is the story of humankind, the world, and the religion...

Part II

The world is nothing but a giant drop of honey...

After World War II, the defeated countries of Germany and Japan, fallen off the proverbial saddle, yet retaining their true selves, they rebuilt rapidly, for they maintained their nationalities, and because they had meritorious workers who thought that their country and their factory belonged to them. These countries recovered so fast that before long, the ruined and defeated Germany and Japan had risen to the top echelon of world economies.

Life is a collection of memories. I'm reminded of the unforgettable words of the head of the credit office at the Iranian National Bank in the 1950's. Aware that I had recently left my job to start working for myself, he told me, "I prefer the promissory bond that you signed today over which your boss would've signed yesterday." His very encouragement changed my life forever! Likewise, come to think of it, the German and Japanese nations, who up until recently had been caught in the brutal grip of their undeserving leaders, once on their own, they had soon surpassed most others, so far as their currencies are now among the most reliable in the world.

Reportedly, when **Konrad Adenauer**, the first Chancellor of West Germany after World War II, ordered to issue the Deutsch-Mark, the new currency of West Germany, General Eisenhower asked him, “On what basis are you printing the bills?” Adenauer pointed to a worker’s arm and said, “On the basis of those muscles and his national pride!”

My studies and personal experience in doing business with both countries have convinced me that the best and yet the most dangerous advantage of a German or Japanese worker or soldier is their absolute obedience to the superior to a fault. I said “dangerous”, because unfortunately, that very characteristic also led to the most horrible atrocities which were committed by these soldiers in Europe and China.

On the other hand, the bigoted people of the so-called “religious” countries with mono-dimensional views have too often sacrificed national interests for the religion. This was the case with the Iranian people, whom we saw how in 1978 C.E. sacrificed their all for the religion, so far as “a third guy sneaked in and snatched everything!” For, a background of religious bigotry was already in place — and “bigotry” means “blindness”.

The colonialist states have long been aware of this **weakness of the bigoted nations**, and for centuries, they’ve controlled their countries by the false power of religion, while their agents, acting as “the fifth column”, set on fire the proverbial bazaar of the homeland over a silk handkerchief, in the name of God. During World War II, such very people in the Islamic countries introduced the Nazi leaders with local religious names and could hardly wait to welcome their fellow “Muslim” brothers!

Jomo Kenyatta, the beloved President and the father of the nation of Kenya, said in this regard, “When the Missionaries arrived, the Africans had the land and the Missionaries had the Bible. They taught how to pray with our eyes closed. When we opened them, they had the land and we had the Bible.”

The barefoot man of the East lost his head on the day

The barehead man from the West set foot on his soil.

This is a weakness of the extremist followers of the religions, and the secret of the colonialist rule. Alas, the problem has also had a grip on the Jewish people and their government, like fire beneath the ashes. It goes so far as some “super-Glatt” and “religious” fringe groups prefer the

religion over the nationality or even independence, and they may even ask the enemy for help with their agenda!

**O the wise one! Wash clean your hands of that friend
Who keeps company of your enemies.**

Whereas,

**Who believes in one God,
Whether you reward him in much gold,
Or hold over his neck a sharp-edged Indian sword,
He has neither hope nor fear of the people.
Monotheism is built but on the basis of this code.**

After a long trip, the villager arrived in Tehran. This being his first time in the big city, he took a walk around the bustling streets, until he ran into a beautiful pastry shop. He stood there for a few minutes, transfixed, ogling at the colorful cakes and cookies on display in the showcase, all the while tasting them by the mind's tongue. Then he walked in, continued to gaze hungrily at the colorful pastry, but also taking in their refreshing scents, as they winked and invited him from their shining beautiful plates under the shimmering light. Moments later, he came to from daydreaming, and he noticed the owner, who stood in silence, ready to sell at a corner of the store. The villager imagined that the shopkeeper was blind, so he waved his hand before the man's eyes. The baker backed his head off and asked, audibly irritated, "What do you want?!" The villager exclaimed in his sweet local accent, "Oh, my! You *can* see these, and you won't eat?!"

The baker saw, but he didn't eat. In contrast, some people seem to gulp in before they've seen what it is! We better ask the extremist religious people who are opposed to the independence of Israel, "Do you see first before you talk, **or you just talk blindfolded?!**" Of course, who dwells in a cocoon, he knows nothing of the outside world. And the darkest of them is the cocoon of religious bigotry.

**Sitting near its tip, a man was sawing at the base of the branch.
The gardener passed by and shook head at the foolish scene.**

“The man’s doing a dangerous wrong,” said the gardener.

“Not to the others,” he noted, “but himself does he wrong.”

In 1943 C.E., during World War II, the heads of the Allied forces, namely **Winston Churchill, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Joseph Stalin**, gathered for the Tehran Conference in the Iranian Capital, where the Conference was convened at the Soviet Embassy. It’s said that the American intelligence officers found a piece of paper left next to Churchill, which read in his own hand, “Dead flies don’t fly!” The American agents in Washington spent some considerable time analyzing the brief note, but they couldn’t figure out what he could’ve meant by it! So finally, President Roosevelt said that he would ask Churchill personally about it.



At a later meeting, Roosevelt showed the note to Churchill, and he asked, “What is this?” Churchill examined it, laughed and explained, “Mr. Anthony Eden, our Foreign Secretary, told me, ‘Your fly is open!’ And I answered him on this scrap of paper, ‘Dead flies don’t fly!’”¹ Oh, indeed, the rotten minds who don’t know what Independence truly means, they surely won’t fly!

Here’s hoping for the day when everyone will understand that nobody ever descended from the Heavens, and none shall ever will. Even the *Holy Torah* hasn’t promised such a thing. What has come to pass, and what is yet to come, it will be all of our own doing. And we could be effective people and useful for ourselves and our society only when we’ve become learned in modern knowledge, not the teachings of some so-called religious schools. You may visit one such school and see for yourself what they’ve been teaching their students, starting with the first grade.

I did so. I went, I studied them, I suffered, and I wept.

¹ As the reader is aware, the English word “fly” could mean either “the flap of a zipper” or types of “flying insects.”

I spoke to one influential teacher, and I said, “Today, **in all of the so-called religious classrooms, large and small**, more than they teach the *Holy Torah*, they’re teaching the non-sacred books of the *Talmud*, *Mishnah* and *Gemara* — altogether, the *Shulchan Aruch* — and **they teach them wholesale with everything that’s found there!** Whereas these are collections of millennia-old conversations which took place between various clerics of different eras. Although they do offer some very instructive and invaluable points, some of which I have drawn upon many a time in my articles, they also include some worthless and unreasonable content, which disagree with modern science and understanding. For example, speaking of women, *the Gemara* says, ***nAshim da’tAn kalAh***,² or that *Mishnah Brachot* speaks of some bafflingly exaggerated punishment for a poor student who disobeys the counsel of his teacher, or whose clothes aren’t clean! Many such backward ideas comprise a considerable portion of these books, although I’m aware that fortunately, they have never been nor will be practiced, and that most teachers oppose such despicable writings better than others could. Given the above, I protest and ask as to why you don’t separate the good from the bad? Are such things teachable at all, or as in the past, could they possibly yield any result other than a bunch of imitators? Whereas we have the intelligent commands of the *Holy Torah*, which are held in esteem by the world, it’s not reasonable to teach all such books without discernment.” And what did he tell me in response? “We the teachers,” he said, “when we run into such content in the classrooms (*sic!*), we quickly skip them over!” I responded, “But why should we fool ourselves? Won’t the students study alone for themselves? Why should these books be taught? Is teaching them all anything to be proud of?”

Those who instruct such things, should notice that after the invention of the moving-type print by Gutenberg about 1440 C.E., every old and rigid manuscript that was available at the time, the works of various authors which hadn’t been reviewed by qualified authorities, they were all fixed and frozen forever on the printed page. And ever since, the religious and non-religious manuscripts of the time have all been reprinted hundreds or thousands of times without a change as the “holy books” — read that, “unchanging books” — of those religions, with no attention paid to **their sometimes improper meanings**, which as we’ve seen for centuries, can distort things and turn some bad into the worst.

² "נשים דעתן קלה."

I'm reminded of one of my trips to Israel. The guide showed to us a large stone mausoleum, and he explained, "For years, we used to think that it was the shrine of a certain Saint. People came here, kissed the tomb, and circled around it in respect. But once the foundation of the mausoleum was uncovered underneath the soil, it turned out to have been the mausoleum of an Ottoman ruler!" Let's consult our discerning intelligence for sound judgment, before we accept just about every belief

Part III

Humankind's understanding of things, and the modern sciences, they evolve constantly; and day after day, people seek to learn the latest information and to improve their minds on an ongoing basis. Many a formula that had cost billions of dollars to develop and was long in use at the lowest expense, which nevertheless may be thrown aside overnight as a new and improved method is discovered. Once in pervasive use, telegraph and telex have since been filed away respectfully in the historical archives of technology. That in mind, wouldn't you rather have those books revised, which are mainly filled with the personal beliefs of some commentators? Why don't the respected teachers discern between the good and the bad of these writings? If only an international authority including the representatives of the monotheistic religions would address this issue. Clearly, it's absolutely unacceptable to teach books which contain such claims as "*Women are mentally handicapped!*" — let alone to let ourselves approve wholesale of everything they said, **and even worse, to go on teaching them!** Dear parents! Please take notice as soon as you can, and see for yourself **what your children are learning**, and who their teachers are. Tomorrow could be too late.

I have no doubt that the majority of those who teach the religious subjects are highly intelligent people, who are well aware that we can no longer ride horses and carts on modern freeways to reach our destination. Yet, sadly enough, they continue to teach such books, as they imagine to be preserving our ancestral heritage, while they don't notice that the heritage can be improved upon, as well. Today, the college and university professors show up before the class with yesterday's textbooks, but also with the most up-to-date notes they could muster. In such a world, to teach everything found in some two thousand-year old volumes, starting with the first grade, and up to the lifelong religious seminaries, it can hardly be considered a "service". Why,

whatsoever did happen when we the Iranian Jews didn't have a yeshiva for 2700 years? You kindly respond that if books such as *Shulchan Aruch* are not available, lots of the content of the *Torah* would become incomprehensible. If so, then we should understand them in terms of the modern language, science and thought, and we ought to teach them intelligently, with the power of discernment, critically and eclectically. Let's begin with ourselves. Let's step forward, and let us await no more the vengeance of Time.

The author believes that throughout the entire history of our species, the most effective means ever in our hands to transform the Times, it's been the Internet. Especially given the easiness by which it can be used, the effects of the internet, both positive and negative, have been so vast and pervasive that we haven't yet understood the various aspects of this phenomenon. No doubt, the delivery of information by this infant of the century will change the world more than any other means would; it will advance a hundred years overnight; and many of the technical, social, political, economic and religious laws and regulations will come to bow to it. The illiterate of this world will be who can't use this versatile tool and knowledgeable advisor which is resting in their pocket. The worth of an action depends on the timing of the decision. The student of the prayer-bound religious seminaries will never be able to stand up to what's brought about by the progress of Time. Clearly, it's far from sanity to forbid the students of the so-called religious seminaries to use television, radio and computers!

Don't take the future generation backward. Many religious beliefs and common forms of religious practice have nothing to do whatsoever with the commands of the *Holy Torah*.

One hereditary problem with the religion is that the opportunists have always tried to take advantage of the power of religion to establish their own beliefs and to reach their goals. They ascribe their false beliefs to the religious books and impress the other people. Whereas this very misstep frustrates the true commands of the religions, even as it leads to spreading some nonsense and superstition.

Perhaps one reason behind such abuse in the past was that the majority of people did not understand the language of their scriptures — and they still don't — besides that many great religious figures deemed it blasphemy to translate those books! Until the recent decades, when the majority of scriptures from various religions have been translated into other languages, and they've been made available to everyone, especially via the internet; so far as much that could

not be said or written before about the religion, it's now widely expressed in words. Perhaps these very translations will lead to a better understanding of the religion and its gradual evolution. For, no doubt, if many adults today read their religious books in their mother tongue, they shall be transformed.

In the rather authentic Iranian Jewish community, as I've studied, over the course of 2700 years, the *Holy Torah* was translated to Persian but once — and that was done by the 18th century Christian Missionaries. The result was a thick volume with tiny fonts, which we knew as the *Fāzel-Khāni*, i.e. “What the Wise and Virtuous Read.” Our family in Kashan had a copy of it, too, which we studied. Here's a quite remarkable and admirable fact of history. The wise and visionary Jews of Mash-had, under terrible pressure and suffering extreme discrimination in their environment, had to give their children in marriage by Islamic names and customs; and yet, they included a copy of the *Fāzel-Khāni* as “the gift of Hamedan” in their daughters' dowries — since they obtained those books through the city of Hamedan — so that their children would always know and remember their true birth certificate. In their own silent way, they told their children, **“Love thy heritage, / For therein lies an ancestral treasure.”** This Jewish community endured much hardship, until they rose to high places, where we see them today. This is true glory and true faith! Life in the Diaspora under the looming shadow of the enemies is one exhausting life, and indeed, only who suffered it themselves could understand the pain of it. As they said, **“It's pointless to speak of honey bee / To who has never suffered its sting!”**

One wishes for a powerful and impartial authority, who aiming to resolve the global problems of the religion, would examine and judge the primary books of the religions, as you would an applicant's résumé, although not to decide which were the more preferred, but to maintain peace and global security. For thousands of years, these books have been supposedly the “guiding lights” of humanity; and the result has been but a giant disaster, with hundreds of millions of people perished, including those who were murdered in the colossal catastrophe of the Holocaust. For that very reason, we can't avoid revising the religious commands. Pruning the tree is one arduous task, yet it improves growth and yields beauty.

The Iranian Jewish community, though a mere fraction of the global Jewish society, has spent two-thirds of the entire Jewish life in Iran. It is but natural that their ways and beliefs be different than the customs and traditions of many other Jewish communities elsewhere in the

world. Such differences stand out particularly against the Jewish traditions of the Eastern Europe, a region that stretches from Hungary to Poland, and where for long, Jews had to suffer regrettably harsh lives.

Having spent most of my life in Iran and in a faithful Jewish family, I never considered many of the beliefs held by the Jews of Eastern Europe as “religious observance”, nor did I believe in them, beliefs that I did not see even in the Western Europe. Needless to say, that wouldn’t necessarily void or validate such beliefs. Rather, the main point is that life in different places and among different cultures would naturally produce different beliefs.

During World War II, the Jewish world lost six millions of its dearest children. Following the war, the survivors of the ghettos whose inhabitants, our Jewish brothers and sisters, had perished for the most part, they imagined that Judaism was just about preserving their ancestral beliefs. As such, with goodness in the heart and intending to protect the future generation, they began to promote their own ways throughout the entire Jewish society. As a result, a so-called “religious” layer incongruent with our Time emerged in the global Jewish society, one which does not promise a good future at all. **“We’re all captives of our egos, / Which is why we’re broken up into a hundred camps.”** As such, the author believes that the world Jewish society today badly needs a global cultural rise, to introduce itself to the world, as most of us deserve, as one informed people, in step and in agreement with the world; and to protect the coming generation against repeating past mistakes and the damages thereof.

Let’s think about why the world Jewish population has been suffering a negative growth rate, whereas anti-Semitism has been on the rise.

Walking about the vicious circle of superstitions in the name of “religious adherence” has had no outcome but frustration. Instead, the “model Jew” is an informed person like all other civilized people. For, humankind is but one race that appears in diverse colors — and the beauty of this garden is in the variety of its floral colors. Let’s rise and leap and clean the house right away, beginning with our family and our own minds. Time didn’t wait for anybody. Tomorrow will be too late.

They quote **Socrates** to the effect, “Life would be worthless if we don’t learn from past experience.” Sadly, as history attests, the Jewish person needs to be farsighted more than the others do. We ought not to treat the daily events superficially. Many of the news today are

warnings for tomorrow. For instance, let's consider the slogans of the anti-Semitic students at the American universities. These students are tomorrow's politicians and lawmakers. Farsightedness is possible and useful when we are also realistic. The greatest power in the world today is Science; and we've seen how all governments spread the red carpet for each other, even as they're stealing the scientific formulae from one another! Thanks to very such formulae, the wealth of their proprietors, like the Apple Co., has come to exceed the total budget of several countries put together.

Let's seek to discover the causes of things. We never benefitted from promoting some nonsense and superstitions, nor will we ever do. Let's try and see the invisible, for everyone can see the visible. This is the true farsightedness.

**Much is left to be said, but the world inside,
It's shut closed, and the words fly out no more.
The rest of the tale shall flow without a single word,
Into the heart of who has the bright light of a soul.**

*Norman "Nourollah" Gabay
November 2019, Los Angeles*

To receive copies of this and other writings by Norman "Nourollah" Gabay in Persian and English, including his earlier essays, as well as his three books, *An Invitation to Reason*, *A Dictionary of the Jewish Dialect of Kashan*, and the upcoming *Be Up to Date*, please visit the following website: www.BabaNouri.com.