

# **READ ONLINE GOD FAITH IDENTITY FROM THE ASHES REFLECTIONS OF CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN OF HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS 2014 11 24**

**Lance Harvey**

## **God Faith Identity From The Ashes Reflections Of Children And Grandchildren Of Holocaust Survivors 2014 11 24 Introduction**

### **God, Faith and Identity from the Ashes**

A Powerful, Life - Affirming New Perspective on the Holocaust Almost ninety children and grandchildren of Holocaust survivors - theologians, scholars, spiritual leaders, authors, artists, political and community leaders and media personalities - from sixteen countries on six continents reflect on how the memories transmitted to them have affected their lives. Profoundly personal stories explore faith, identity and legacy in the aftermath of the Holocaust as well as our role in ensuring that future genocides and similar atrocities never happen again. There have been many books and studies about children of Holocaust survivors - the so - called second and third generations - with a psycho - social focus. This book is different. It is intended to reflect what they believe, who they are and how that informs what they have done and are doing with their lives. From major religious or intellectual explorations to shorter commentaries on experiences, quandaries and cultural, political and personal affirmations, almost ninety contributors from sixteen countries respond to this question: how have your parents' and grandparents' experiences and examples helped shape your identity and your attitudes toward God, faith, Judaism, the Jewish people and the world as a whole? For people of all faiths and backgrounds, these powerful and deeply moving statements will have a profound effect on the way our and future generations understand and shape their understanding of the Holocaust. Praise from Pope Francis for Menachem Rosensaft's essay reconciling God's presence with the horrors of the Holocaust: "When you, with humility, are telling us where God was in that moment, I felt within me that you had transcended all possible explanations and that, after a long pilgrimage - sometimes sad, tedious or dull - you came to discover a certain logic and it is from there that you were speaking to us; the logic of First Kings 19:12, the logic of that 'gentle breeze' (I know that it is a very poor translation of the rich Hebrew expression) that constitutes the only possible hermeneutic interpretation. "Thank you from my heart. And, please, do not forget to pray for me. May the Lord bless you." - His Holiness Pope Francis.

### **God, Faith & Identity from the Ashes**

A Powerful, Life-Affirming New Perspective on the Holocaust Almost ninety children and grandchildren of Holocaust survivors—theologians, scholars, spiritual leaders, authors, artists, political and community leaders and media personalities—from sixteen countries on six continents reflect on how the memories transmitted to them have affected their lives. Profoundly personal stories explore faith, identity and legacy in the aftermath of the Holocaust as well as our role in ensuring that future genocides and similar atrocities never happen again.

## **God, Faith and Identity from the Ashes**

Almost ninety children and grandchildren of Holocaust survivors from sixteen countries explore how their parents' and grandparents' experiences of the Shoah helped shape their identity and their attitudes toward God, faith, Judaism, the Jewish people and the world. Their reflections will inform and inspire people of all faiths and backgrounds.

### **Second Generation Voices**

"To be sure, there is disagreement among the groups about the need for - or wisdom of - dialogue. Yet Second Generation Voices engenders authentic grounds for discussion. Issues such as guilt, anger, religious faith, and accountability are explored in deeply felt memories, narratives, and poems. Jew and German alike speak openly of forming and affirming their own identities and working through the psychological effects of intergenerational transmission of trauma."--BOOK JACKET.

### **JPS B'nai Mitzvah Torah Commentary**

For too many Jewish young people, bar/bat mitzvah has been the beginning of the end of their Jewish journeys. When students perceive the Torah as incomprehensible or irrelevant, many form the false impression that Judaism has nothing to say to them. Enter the game-changer: The JPS B'nai Mitzvah Torah Commentary shows teens in their own language how Torah addresses the issues in their world. The conversational tone is inviting and dignified, concise and substantial, direct and informative. The narrative summaries, big ideas, model divrei Torah, haftarat commentaries, and discussion questions will engage teens in studying the Torah and haftarat, writing divrei Torah, and continuing to learn Torah throughout their lives making it the book every rabbi, cantor, parent, and tutor will also want to have. Jewish learning for young people and adults will never be the same. \

### **Fire in the Ashes**

Sixty years after it ended, the Holocaust continues to leave survivors and their descendants, as well as historians, philosophers, and theologians, pondering the enormity of that event. This book explores how inquiry about the Holocaust challenges understanding, especially its religious and ethical dimensions. Debates about God's relationship to evil are ancient, but the Holocaust complicated them in ways never before imagined. Its massive destruction left Jews and Christians searching among the ashes to determine what, if anything, could repair the damage done to tradition and to theology. Since the end of the Holocaust, Jews and Christians have increasingly sought to know how or even whether theological analysis and reflection can aid in comprehending its aftermath. Specifically, Jews and Christians, individually and collectively, find themselves more and more in the position of needing either to rethink theodicy -- typically understood as the vindication of divine justice in the face of evil -- or to abolish the concept altogether. Writing in a format that creates the feel of dialogue, the contributors to Fire in the Ashes confront these and other difficult questions about God and evil after the Holocaust. This book -- created out of shared concerns and a desire to investigate differences and disagreements between religious traditions and philosophical perspectives -- represents an effort to advance meaningful conversation between Jews and Christians and to encourage others to participate in similar inter- and intrafaith inquiries. The contributors to Fire in the Ashes are members of the Pastora Goldner Holocaust Symposium. Led since its founding in 1996 by Leonard Grob and Henry F. Knight, the symposium's Holocaust and genocide scholars -- a group that is interfaith, international, interdisciplinary, and intergenerational -- meet biennially in Oxfordshire, England.

### **The Faith and Doubt of Holocaust Survivors**

The Faith and Doubt of Holocaust SurvivorsÂ reveals the victimsâ\u0080\u0099 frank and thought-provoking answers to searching questions about their experiences: Was the Holocaust Godâ\u0080\u0099s

will? Was there any meaning or purpose in the Holocaust? Was Israel worth the price six million had to pay? Did the experience in the death camps bring about an avowal of faith? A denial of God? A reaffirmation of religious belief? Did the Holocaust change beliefs about the coming of the Messiah, the Torah, the Jews as the chosen people, and the nature of God? Drawing on the responses of seven hundred survivors, Reeve Robert Brenner reveals the changes, rejections, reaffirmations, doubts, and despairs that have so profoundly affected the faith, practices, ideas, and attitudes of survivors, and, by extension, the entire Jewish people. Many survivors carried their deepest secrets and innermost beliefs silently, from internment to interment. But Brenner's quest provided the impetus for many survivors to end their silence about the past and come forth with their feelings. In poignant vignettes scattered throughout the book, their answers to these profound questions are offered, disclosing ardent, overpowering passions and sensibilities.

## **Letters to the Wise One**

As a Jewish pre-teen in Germany in 1942, Helga Hoflich suffered the unspeakable horrors of the concentration camps during the holocaust while her father and most of her family were exterminated. In 1945, she and her mother who survived were freed by the Russians, and they made their way to America to begin a new life. Helga met and married a young jewelry maker, Eric Newmark, also a holocaust survivor. As Helga Newmark, she and Eric proceeded to raise a family. But memories of the holocaust continued to haunt her resulting in several attempts at suicide. Eventually, she found more spiritual meaning in her life and went on to become a respected principal of a synagogue religious school and then earned a master's degree in social work. But this was not enough for Helga. With so much experience to offer the next generation, she felt called upon to become a rabbi and after extensive study was ordained in the year 2000.

## **Theological and Halakhic Reflections on the Holocaust**

Centrist Orthodox theologians here reject the \"God's judgment theory\" of the Holocaust. Contributors include Rabbis J.B. Soloveitchik, Norman Lamm, Emanuel Rackman, Haskel Lookstein, Louis Bernstein, Reuven Bulka, Emanuel Feldman and Eliezer Berkovits.

## **The Faith and Doubt of Holocaust Survivors**

The Faith and Doubt of Holocaust Survivors reveals the victims' frank and thought-provoking answers to searching questions about their experiences: Was the Holocaust God's will? Was there any meaning or purpose in the Holocaust? Was Israel worth the price six million had to pay? Did the experience in the death camps bring about an avowal of faith? A denial of God? A reaffirmation of religious belief? Did the Holocaust change beliefs about the coming of the Messiah, the Torah, the Jews as the chosen people, and the nature of God? Drawing on the responses of seven hundred survivors, Reeve Robert Brenner reveals the changes, rejections, reaffirmations, doubts, and despairs that have so profoundly affected the faith, practices, ideas, and attitudes of survivors, and, by extension, the entire Jewish people. Many survivors carried their deepest secrets and innermost beliefs silently, from internment to interment. But Brenner's quest provided the impetus for many survivors to end their silence about the past and come forth with their feelings. In poignant vignettes scattered throughout the book, their answers to these profound questions are offered, disclosing ardent, overpowering passions and sensibilities.

## **Messages and Memories**

The majority of children who survived the Holocaust, whether in hiding or in labour and concentration camps, remained silent about their wartime experiences. Those who wanted to talk, were often silenced by well-meaning adults who advised them to forget the past and get on with their lives. The memories and traumas simmered for nearly forty years, each child growing into adulthood thinking they alone struggled with the problems of traumatic memory, identity confusion and other consequences. In the 1980's, there was a stirring of awareness amongst some child survivors about issues to be addressed. Small groups formed in

the U.S.A. and Canada and gave birth to the child survivor movement, culminating in a large international gathering of "Hidden Children" in New York in 1991. This book comprises a compilation of talks offered to child Holocaust survivors, over a 25 year period - from the birth of self-awareness to present day awareness of the need to inform the next generations of their parent's experiences. Dasberg, Krell and Wiesel are themselves child survivors. Moskovitz founded the Los Angeles Child Survivor group following her pioneering study of child survivors. Gilbert has written and lectured extensively about children in the Holocaust. This book offers the child survivor an opportunity to reflect not only on survival but its effects. For the spouses and children it clarifies some of the dynamics unique to their families and for Mental Health professionals it provides insights into the effects of trauma as well as the remarkable resilience of traumatized children.

## **Child Holocaust Survivors**

Keepers of Memory examines the relationship between history, truth, and memory. Through interviews with children and grandchildren of Holocaust survivors, this book explores the human experience and how inherited memories might influence society in the future.

## **Keepers of Memory**

Dotyczy m.im. niemieckiego obozu koncentracyjnego w Auschwitz.

## **Shattered Faith**

"Exiled God and exiled peoples" sets out to explore the perceptions of God within a number of forcibly removed communities in South Africa and Jewish survivors of the Shoah, with the latter being predominantly of German origin. It considers rupture in individual and communal life-stories as a determining factor in the perception of and the relationship with God and follows the path paved by survivors of apartheid and the Shoah by recalling their topography, their stories about place, displacement and terror and the encapsulated relationship with God in their respective exiles.

## **God's Presence in History**

Contains a literary criticism of the work of Elie Wiesel and presents a contemporary analysis of the Jewish response to the Holocaust of World War Two.

## **Rose's Journey**

Does God really exist? Why is God silent? Where is God? Why does God not answer our prayers? These are the questions that many victims and survivors of the Holocaust asked. In the decades following the Holocaust many scholars and theologians world wide, have sought answers to these questions. Their findings challenge the way we have understood many of our traditional beliefs. Unfortunately, their findings and insights have not been generally known or studied by the laity or clergy of the American churches. This small volume is intended to be an introduction to some of the serious theological issues raised by the Holocaust. Study groups, church groups, and individuals will find this book an effective tool for becoming acquainted with these important God questions. The journey to face Auschwitz is not without spiritual challenges. It can be an inner struggle to re-examine certain long held beliefs, but it can also be a journey to spiritual enlightenment. This study will start the reader on that journey. If the Church is to regain its integrity and its mission of justice, mercy, and compassion, it must face Auschwitz.

## **Exiled God and Exiled Peoples**

Based on documentation from various archives, discusses religious and halakhic issues which affected the lives of observant Jews during the Holocaust. Includes chapters on the reactions of rabbis in various towns to reports on the extermination of Jews; the persecution and suffering of rabbis and the rescue of some hasidic rabbis; halakhic rulings in ghettos and camps, e.g. concerning the desire of individual Jews to sacrifice themselves for others; rulings on problems involved in posing as a non-Jew; marriage, prayers, and the sanctification of God's name during the Holocaust; responsa of Rabbi Yehoshua Moshe Aronzon, a rabbi in Sanniki, Poland, who survived Nazi camps; sermons delivered by Rabbi Kalonimus Kalmish Shapira in the Warsaw ghetto; diaries, memoirs, and letters of survivors.

## **Elie Wiesel**

Publisher description

### **Facing Auschwitz**

This book is an "Honorable-Mention Awardee 2015" from Readers Favorite under Non-Fiction/Autobiography category. Two very young girls, one a Catholic from Poland, the other a Jew from Germany, are caught in a web of terror during World War II. These are their unforgettable true stories. "War does not spare the innocent. Two young girls, one a Catholic from Poland, the other a Jew from Germany, were witnesses to the horror of the Nazi occupation and Hitler's terror in Germany. As children they saw their homes and communities destroyed and loved ones killed. They survived deportation, labor camps, concentration camps, starvation, disease and isolation." This is a moving personal account of history. Urbanowicz and Auerbachers painful pasts and similar experiences should guide us to make correct decisions for the future." Aldona Wos, M.D. Ambassador of the United States of America, Retired, to the Republic of Estonia Daughter of Paul Wos, Flossenburg Concentration Camp, Prisoner Number 23504 Most Holocaust survivors are no longer with us, and that is why this volume is so important. It is a moving testimony by two courageous women, one Catholic and one Jewish, about their youthful ordeals at the hands of the Nazis. They succeed in ways even the most astute historian cannot they literally capture history and bring it to life. It is sure to touch all those who read it. William A. Donohue President, Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights Such an original book, written jointly by both a Jewish survivor and a Polish-Christian survivor of the Holocaust, *Children of Terror* points the way toward fresh insight, hope and redemption. If Never again is to be more than a slogan, tomorrow's adults must be nourished and informed by books such as this. A fabulous piece of work, perfect for the young people who are our future. Rabbi Dr. Hirsch Joseph Simckes, St. Johns University, Department of Theology The authors were born in the same year but into different worlds: one a Polish Catholic and the other a German Jew. Despite their dramatically different traditions and circumstances, they shared a common trauma the confusion and fear of being a child in wartime. Auerbacher and Urbanowicz vividly describe the saving power of family, place, and tradition. Young readers of *Children of Terror* will come away with a deeper understanding of the Second World War and a profound admiration for the books authors. David G. Marwell, Ph.D., Director of the Museum of Jewish Heritage A Living Memorial to the Holocaust

### **Hidden in Thunder**

First Published in 2012. Routledge is an imprint of Taylor & Francis, an informa company.

### **Wrestling with God**

In rethinking the events of the Holocaust years, the author wonders at what the Jewish people have become and what we can make of what we know and have experienced.

## **Children of Terror**

Echoes of The Holocaust Survivor and Their Children and Grandchildren speak out Essays, poems, stories

## **The Power of Witnessing**

A valuable and important addition to the literature of Holocaust and Survivors of World War 2. Professor Kooistra was Chaplain at the University of Waterloo in Ontario after he emigrated to Canada from Holland. During his tenure at Waterloo, he created a Study Group which made oral histories of Holocaust victims and Survivors. From this vast wealth of material, he has now prepared this book. The book has a definite Dutch focus. It provides important new information about the persecution and deportation of Dutch Jews as well as how many Dutch Jews were hidden and saved in Holland. Written for both Jews and non-Jews. The most amazing stories are tales of survival by non-Jews in concentration camps. Many of the stories are astonishing and painful. Heroism -- yes, but also chance, confusion, the unexpected. An important contribution both to history and to literature.

## **A Season for Healing**

Memoirs of Avital, born to the Doft-Lipschitz family in Bilke, Ruthenia (now in Ukraine), in 1929. Pt. 3 (pp. 101-166), \"Imprisoning the Jews\"

## **Echoes of the Holocaust**

This memoir is a fascinating portrait of mother and child who miraculously survive two concentration camps, then, after the war, battle demons of the past, societal rejection, disbelief, and invalidation as they struggle to reenter the world of the living. It is the tale of how one newly takes on the world, having lived in the midst of corpses strewn about in the scores of thousands, and how one can possibly resume life in the aftermath of such experiences. It is the story of the child who decides, upon growing up, that the only career that makes sense for him in light of these years of horror is to become someone sensitive to the deepest flaws of humanity, a teacher of God's role in history amidst the traditions that attempt to understand it—and to become a rabbi. Readers will not emerge unscathed from this searing work, written by a distinguished, Boston-based rabbi and academic.

## **Where was God?**

Drawing on interviews and survey materials, Aaron Hass provides a vibrant account of the experiences of Holocaust survivors' children.

## **Not to Forget, Impossible to Forgive**

A Holocaust memoir from the viewpoint of a precocious teenager fighting for her life and her family.

## **After the Holocaust the Bells Still Ring**

Jewish Identities in Poland and America sheds new light on the impact of the Holocaust (Shoah) upon two distinct, yet interrelated, Jewish diasporas. It explores how the awareness of the Shoah has affected the concepts of Judaism and Jewishness. The book demonstrates how the perception (and memory) of the Holocaust has been appropriated by Jews in Poland and America, and how it functions as a group identity and identification. It examines 'the Jewish way' of coping with the Shoah, and whether there is any one typical Jewish way. The book also demonstrates how being Jewish, or belonging to a specific ethnic religion (to some: irreligion), differs from the social experiences of many other groups and how the revival of Jewish community spirit, accompanied by a withdrawal from the world of traditional biblical faith, has led to the

emergence of a new social paradigm: belonging without believing. Has Holocaust memory and imagery had its share in this phenomenon? Has it brought many to atheism? Do American Jews share the same experience with Polish Jews in this respect? Using a comparative approach, *Jewish Identities in Poland and America* explores these questions.

## **God's Presence in History**

I am the child and grandchild of Holocaust and what I call Diaspora survivors. Their experiences during these traumatic events and how these have affected my life is becoming more and more apparent as I get older. So much so that it became clear to me that I would have to express these life-long feelings in a book that traces the origins from the time of my parent's childhood until now. The impetus for this book began as an answer or explanation as to why I almost never say 'I love you' to my children or anyone else for that matter. I now have begun to understand that in the generation of my grandparents the concept of love and affection for a child was so destroyed as to eliminate the possibility of doing it again in the future. To become so attached to someone, even your own child or grandchild, just became almost impossible. It was as if the expressing words of love after the horror they had been through would somehow reduce or demean the enormity of their tragedy. If you could love again, then how bad could it have really been? The ability to love became detached because who would be willing to chance fate again and love someone who might be taken away from you? Obviously these feelings were carried over even when my grandparents came to live in post-war freedom in the United States. Once the trust was gone however, there was no bringing it back. Just as perhaps they had once said they had loved their parents and siblings; this love could not be replaced even by a child or grandchild of their own. There have been many books written and continue to be written even at this late date on incredible stories of Holocaust survival by the original survivors themselves. However, as the generation of original Holocaust survivors is gradually passing away into history, it becomes all the more important for their children, or second generation to gather as much of the factual information as possible before it is too late. What began on my part as an attempt to assemble all of the facts of my mother and grandparent's survival of the Holocaust in Romania, has developed into much, much more. I began to realize that not only had my mother's family survived the Holocaust; but that my father's side had also gone through a type of 'survival' in Poland after World War I. First, living through pogroms and anti-Semitism, then emigrating to Palestine where they suffered greatly as well, then to the United States, only to arrive in 1929 the year of the Great Depression. All of this war-caused relocation; forced abandonment of the known to enter the unknown; changes in homeland due to traumatic, historical, wartime events that were not in their control; changing of names from one language to another, had to have its effects on my parents and grandparents, and ultimately on the generations that followed. It is my purpose to discuss the effects that these events had on the 'next' generations, using myself and my family as an example. When there are no Holocaust survivors to speak for themselves, the children and grandchildren will be required to come to terms with the issues that have been relegated to them and deal with them as best as they can. It is my fervent hope to begin this process as a type of unified, generational healing process. Many of us who are alive today have been affected by the Holocaust, Jewish or not, and we still discuss the Holocaust as if it had begun only recently. Yet, almost unbelievably, we are a mere seventeen years from the centennial anniversary of the Nazi's initial rise to political power in 1932. It is my belief that any attempt to break the pervasive silence that was the norm in post-World War II America, Europe and maybe the world, may have positive consequences in helping to unify the global village of today.

## **In the Shadow of the Holocaust**

A Holocaust journey, tearing down the fence between hate and forgiveness. The possibilities of a child of a Holocaust survivor forgiving the people who tortured and killed her family she never met. Faith set out on an odyssey to learn the nature of forgiveness, and her path ultimately led her to the places of her nightmares-and other places that she never, in her wildest dreams, imagined visiting. Faith found herself in the concentration camps where her father was held and at one point she even met with the son of an SS officer! Bigotry, racism, and anti-Semitism all became Faith's targets in her quest to make our world a better place to live in.

And, as she discovered, it all starts with forgiveness. Forgiving should never be confused with forgetting.

## **We Shall Not Forget!**

Examines the question of God's noninterference in the Holocaust and other tragedies in Jewish history. Shows \"how man may affirm his faith even when confronted with God's awesome silence.\"--Back cover.

## **God Does Play Dice**

A study of religious faith and its role in Judaism through examination of the persistence of faith in the most trying circumstances, during the Holocaust. Discusses issues such as the preservation of human dignity (creation in God's image), the authenticity of existence, confronting the final truth, living vs. surviving. Relates many instances of Jewish observance, contending that \"the authentic Jew\" acted from a position of spiritual freedom. The believing Jew knows that evil will not prevail, but the Jews made a mistake when they did not organize en masse during the Holocaust period to fight it. Although Judaism is anti-militaristic, and preaches tolerance and respect for life, the moral duty to stand up and fight against evil should be incorporated into Judaism's value system.

## **God's Presence in History**

Jewish Identities in Poland and America

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