

Harry Klein

It is Still not Too Late!
[Speech delivered at the] memorial service
for the martyrs of glorious Jewish Częstochowa

Over four decades, the *Surviving Remnant* has borne the obligation not to allow the annihilated martyrs, of the last destruction, to be forgotten.

A world of literature has been created by the Holocaust survivors. Seas of ink and tonnes of paper have been used to describe the troubles, suffering and pain in the hundreds of thousands of books printed, as well as in various other publications that were printed, to immortalise, by the written word, the memory of the annihilated martyrs of the destruction of Europe.

The *Surviving Remnant*, the living witnesses who took part in the march to the “*Akeida*”¹ of annihilation, and were saved by a miracle, have definitely read and researched the Jewish tragedy, and have sought to grasp and decipher there the real goal of the mass murderers which, in such a cold-blooded manner, tortured, murdered and gassed a people, for the sole sin of being Jews.

Now, the question is:

“What has become of all this Holocaust literature? What have we done, so that this literature, which has been published and printed, should also reach the new generation – our children, who did not stand at the “*Akeida*” and did not witness all those horrors? Will it also reach our children or are these books to lie on the shelves of libraries and research institutes, the dust covering up the sorrowful, painful past of a people, which has bled so extensively with the annihilation of six million Jewish martyrs?”

This cry of agony must continue to be borne in the hearts of our children. The new generation must now do the work of not permitting the world to forget - [the world] which stood in indifference and adopted silence. By being silent, they agreed to the mass murders, to the genocide of the Jewish people. “*Silence constitutes admission*”². Their silence constituted an endorsement and affirmation of this mass slaughter. Our duty is to see to it that the voice of protest should continue to be borne by the future generations, reminding the world that such things must never happen again.

We must remember all the Jewish martyrs who were killed by the Nazis - just to remember them as departed is not sufficient. We must also remember their lives and their struggle and resistance in the ghettos during the Nazi occupation. We must also remember their faith and humanity - all this has to be transmitted to the coming generations.

¹ [TN: Heb., “*Binding*”; ref. to the Binding of Isaac in Genesis 22.]

² [TN: In Heb. in the original; quote from the Babylonian Talmud, Yevamot 87b.]

After years of mass memorial service gatherings, after touching ceremonies, after years of organised *yizkor* prayer services for the martyrs, after all the funeral speeches and sermons of the past years - after the Holocaust - it is now that the true work of “*And thou shalt shew thy son*”³ [Exodus 13:8] begins with the new generation, [to tell them] the history of the great Jewish Holocaust in Europe, how six million Jews were murdered in cold blood in the 20th century.

Sadly, very little has been done, up until now, in the field of relaying the history of the Holocaust to the younger generation - the memory is becoming increasingly alien and distanced from Jewish youth.

³ [TN: In Heb. in the original; ref. to the biblical commandment to tell one's children about the exodus from Egypt.]