

Adress at the Inauguration of the "Way of Human Rights



"You and I together are standing here in the „Way of Human Rights – Lo Tizach“ (You shalt not kill) that passes throught the Germanisches Natinalmuseum in the old City of Nuremberg,. I stand here among you, look at the work and ask myself: is this work of mine good?

Nobody asked me to write the “Universal Declaration of Human Rights” onto these 29 columns and an oak tree. It was the place itself that called for it, this place, Kartäusergasse in the Germanisches Natinalmuseum in Nuremberg. Nuremberg – the city of culture, of Dürer, of the Nuremberg Laws, the Nazi Pacial Laws, the Muremberg of Hitler.

This is not a memorial to the Holocaust, it is not a monument. It is a street where people wlak, which they stroll through and read the 30 articles of the Human Rights Declaration in German and other languages. Article by article the memory of events long gone is revived – and so is hope.

I walk along this street with my grandmother who was brutally murdered by the Nazis and does not have a grave, and I read article 1 in Yiddish on the first column: “ALLE MENSCHEN ZAAENEN GEBOIREN FREI UND GLEICH IN RECHT UN IN CAVOD” (All human beeings are born free and equal in dignity and rights). She was murdered in Lwow (Lemberg) in the middle of the street in 1941. I walk along this street with my uncles and aunts and cousins who vanished in clouds of smoke while I grew up in Isreal, in the dunes of Tel Aviv.

I take yo by the hand, little Anne Frank – at that time I was younger than you – and together we go to read the third article of the Human Rights Declaration which is written in your language, in Dutch on the third column: “RECHT OP LEVEN; VRIJHEID EN ONSCHENDBAARHEID VON DE PERSON” (Right to life, liberty and security of person).

And I see children, many children whose right to life was not respected. Is there a God after all? Was man created as his image?

I read these articles, all of them, so that a thing like this can never happen again, anywere on this globe. In the Old Testament, in Leviticus we can read: VÉHAVTA LÉREACHA CAMOCHA (You shalt love your neighbour as yourself). It takes only three words to sum up the entire Declaration of Human Rights.

I ask myself: doesn't the fact that this work is to be found close to the place where the Nazi Rallies took place, indicate the victory of mankind has won over Nazism?"

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