

Appendix Sticks and Stones

“Never be bullied into silence. Never allow yourself to be made a victim. Accept no one's definition of your life, but define yourself.”

— Harvey Fierstein

“I am not an angel, ' I asserted; 'and I will not be one till I die: I will be myself. Mr. Rochester, you must neither expect nor exact anything celestial of me - for you will not get it, any more than I shall get it of you: which I do not at all anticipate.”

— Charlotte Brontë, Jane Eyre

“I am a citizen of the world.”

— Sylvia Beach

“All the books we own, both read and unread, are the fullest expression of self we have at our disposal. ... But with each passing year, and with each whimsical purchase, our libraries become more and more able to articulate who we are, whether we read the books or not.”

— Nick Hornby, The Polysyllabic Spree

“It is easier to live through someone else than to complete yourself. The freedom to lead and plan your own life is frightening if you have never faced it before. It is frightening when a woman finally realizes that there is no answer to the question 'who am I' except the voice inside herself.”

— Betty Friedan

“The impatient idealist says: ‘Give me a place to stand and I shall move the earth.’ But such a place does not exist. We all have to stand on the earth itself and go with her at her pace.” **-Chinua Achebe (*No Longer at Ease*)**

“For while the tale of how we suffer, and how we are delighted, and how we may triumph is never new, it always must be heard. There isn't any other tale to tell, it's the only light we've got in all this darkness.” **-James Baldwin (*Sonny's Blues*)**

“As long as we are not ourselves, we will try to be what other people are.” **-Malidoma Patrice Somé (*Of Water and the Spirit*)**

“Healing begins where the wound was made.” **-Alice Walker (*The Way Forward Is with a Broken Heart*)**

"I don't speak because I have the power to speak; I speak because I don't have the power to remain silent" – **Rabbi A.Y. Kook**

“When the time comes, they won't ask what kind of a Jew you are.”

— **Norman Mailer**

“[F]or me, being a Jew means feeling the tragedy of yesterday as an inner oppression. On my left forearm I bear the Auschwitz number; it reads more briefly than the Pentateuch or the Talmud and yet provides more thorough information. It is also more binding than basic formulas of Jewish existence. If to myself and the world, including the religious and nationally minded Jews, who do not regard me as one of their own, I say: I am a Jew, then I mean by that those realities and possibilities that are summed up in the Auschwitz number.”

— **Jean Améry, At the Mind's Limits: Contemplations by a Survivor on Auschwitz and Its Realities**

“I hadn't known up to that moment that I had a surname that was recognizably Jewish, or that people named Marx would be unwelcome somewhere in the United States because of it.”

— **Elinor Lipman, The Inn at Lake Devine**

I was raised in a traditional Reform household, the grand-daughter of poor Orthodox immigrants from Eastern Europe. For them, success in America came at the seemingly small price of relative assimilation. Growing up, I lived a pretty normal life; I had my own prime-time network **TV show** from the ages of 14 to 19, which meant my physical appearance and clothing choices were dissected on a weekly basis in gossip magazines and on television. I was pretty impervious to media critiques of my style. I had no real sense of my own physicality and took for granted the feminist idea that I should be able to walk around naked without harassment. But I soon learned that not everyone was a feminist.

After graduating from public high school in Los Angeles, I went to college at UCLA, where I met the man who's now my husband. Knowing we wanted a traditional wedding ceremony, we started studying Judaism together to prepare for it. At first my lessons with an Orthodox instructor were almost anthropological—I was curious as to how Judaism viewed marriage and sexuality, but I did not really intend to increase my level of observance. The more I learned, however, the more my previous distance from traditional Judaism disappeared. I was also a serious person in general, and chose a wedding dress that reflected my serious attitude about marriage. Entering a sacred covenant before G-d, I wore an ankle-length, high-necked Victorian

dress with sleeves past the elbow and a heavy veil, reminiscent (I hoped) of the matriarchs Leah and Rebekah.

- Mayim Bialik

I'm looking for someone serious, who I can set up home with, someone who comes from a warm, loving family like mine, who has values like mine.

- Bar Refaeli

I am committed to this group. There is no other group like it in Israel that prays together, from all the streams in Judaism. They are my sisters...I conducted a religious ritual contrary to local custom, which harms the sensibilities of others. The rabbi of the Western Wall called the police....I have been going there for the past 24 years. I am the local custom. Women of the Wall is the local custom, and yet we will never be the local custom.

...Progress is made in small steps, but we passed the point of no return. There will be bat mitzvahs at the wall. Women will pray there. The divider [between men and women] will also disappear. It will happen at some point. It's what the public in Israel wants. When the divider goes, the barrier in the brain will also fall and we will start to see things like freedom of choice.

- Anat Hoffman, Israeli activist, feminist, community leader, founder of Women of the Wall and Director of Israeli Religious Action Center

If we speak truthfully about the pain, joys, and contradictions of our lives,
If we listen to others with sensitivity and compassion,
If we challenge the absence of women in traditional texts, chronicles of Jewish history, and in the leadership of our institutions, *dayeinu*.
If we continue to organize, march, and vote to affirm our values,
If we fight economic injustice, sexism, racism, and homophobia,
If we volunteer our time and money, *dayeinu*.
If we break the silence about violence against women and children in the Jewish community and everywhere,
If we teach our students and children to pursue justice with all their strength,
If we care for the earth and its future as responsibly as we care for those we love,
If we create art, music, dance, and literature, *dayeinu*.
If we realize our power to effect change,
If we bring holiness into our lives, homes, and communities,
If we honor our visions more than our fears, *dayeinu v'lo dayeinu*.
It will and it will not be enough.

- The Ma'ayan Passover Haggadah, 2002

We All Stood Together

For Rachel Adler

My brother and I were at Sinai
He kept a journal
of what he saw

of what he heard
of what it all meant to him

I wish I had such a record
of what happened to me there

It seems like every time I want to write
I can't
I'm always holding a baby
one of my own
or one for a friend
always holding a baby
so my hands are never free
to write things down

And then
as time passes
the particulars
the hard data
the who what when where why
slip away from me
and all I'm left with is
the feeling

But feelins are just sounds
the vowel barking of a mute
My brother is so sure of what he heard
after all he's got a record of it
consonant after consonant after consonant

If we remembered it together
we could re-create holy time
sparks flying

- Merle Feld

“I don't need you to agree with me, I need you to care about me!” – Rabbi Jonathan Sacks