

Rise & Fall – a semi-musical play by DMDelinferni, Jr

(A large screen will show all of the migrations as well as the current location of the drama)

Prelude – All musical lines

Act I- Bereshit

Scene 1 Prelude Line 1/ Circa 1750 BCE Ancient Chaldea/ "Carmena Burana"

Mob:- (Pillaging, looting, stealing) To hell with rules!....Fuck the Law!.... Let's all take what we can!...To hell with Hammurabi!...Power to the people!...We make our own rules!

(Screen shows looters in LA/Minneapolis/Ferguson)

Scene 2 Prelude Line 2/From tier above the fray/ Circa 1750 BCE Ancient Chaldea

Abraham:-

Here doth man his nascent nature show, that underlies the certitude of shame, why we must task to lasso in that bull that e'er demands the freedom to disdain.

(A huge crash is heard.)

And there my brothers, lies the famous Stele – those 12 tablets on which are carved all of our 282 sacred laws handed to Hammurabi by Shamash, our noble God of Justice, which begins: *"I am the king, the brace that grasps wrongdoers, that makes people of one mind. I am the great dragon among kings, who throws their counsel in disarray."*

Please go and gather all remains these tablets Let us forever keep them safe and holy.

Scene 3 Prelude Line 3/ Chaldea Circa 1600 BCE– Moaning Hyksos, hungry, starving, sacks on their backs

From tier above the fray

Jacob: Alas and wo are we! To stay and starve or brave the stark vicissitudes and, remotely dally the ever-present angel of death.

The Land of the Mizra is filled with grain and treasures, and is also quite weak. Her pharaohs are indolent as our rivers have dried up and we are left starving. Come, my Brethren. Let all those who accept follow our stomachs that we may hope to find among the worthy Mizra those who will accept our circumscriptions as not unduly burdensome.

Crowd:- (Murmuring) We won't go!We are with you Father Jacob....He is nuts!...So we stay and starve?....Ridiculous! ... Only hope. Dangerous!

Lights

Scene 4 Prelude Line 4/Avaris, Lower Kingdom of Egypt, Circa 1567 BCE Sound of advancing warring troops

Jacob: We - who are here referred to as the "Hyksos" (or "Shepherds") - have years ago lost the Upper Kingdom to the Mizra, and now the powerful Amenhotep advances on us with his hordes from Memphis and we must all flee otherwise submit to a depraved captivity. Hurry Judah. Let us beat a hasty retreat.

Judah:- No, father, our sacred secret is not only well hidden here but secure here in Avaris. Our only hope is for some to remain. If slavery is our reward, then so be it in order that civilization might have some small chance of surviving.

(Exit Jacob and followers leaving Judah and his behind.)

Scene 5 Prelude Line 5/ Circa 1350/ Amarna, Egypt

Yuya (Joseph):- O mighty Akhenaten, we have succeeded beyond our wildest imaginings since those childhood musings together.

Akhenaten:- Yes, my brother Yuya. Aten, the Awesome Ruler of the Sun, is now supreme, and with Him, and in no little part with thanks to you, the Law you have brought have given our people a single common ground for understanding and behaving.

Yuya (Joseph):- Well, best friend and Holy Pharaoh, 'tis all true. Would thatbit might be easily sustained. Nevertheless, the Priests of Isis and Osiris in Memphis are furious at their loss of power, prestige and wealth and have aligned with those of Ramses in Thebes to incite rebellion. We must tread very carefully.

Akhenaten:- I hear and respect your counsel, dear brother, but I cannot let the forces of darkness prevail upon the Magnificent Light that has been spread amidst our land. There will undoubtedly be great battles. And we will fight them with every essence of our being. And with the help of Mighty Aten, we shall prevail in the end.

Lights

Scene 6 Prelude Line 6/ Circa 1274/ Amarna, Egypt/Exodus

Moses:- The land of Mizra is greatly oppressed with sickness and famine, and I have used this to try and negotiate our release.

Aaron: To what end?

Moses:- Alas, Ramses' heart has once again hardened and he no longer wishes to listen to our pleas.

Aaron: And what is it that you suggest we do?

Moses:- Release the potion among Pharaoh's army and, then, make our escape.

Hear me, O ye oppressed peoples of the Levant, as we sing:-

Let us sing unto Aten a new song,

Who is like You among the gods?
Who ranks among You for holiness?

Aten - our strength and song
He who will become our salvation.
He - our Aten, and we will glorify Him.
Aten - a man of war. Aten be His name.

He is greatly glorified.
Horse and rider will He throw into the sea.

Who is like Him?

Yisrael:- But why do they hate us so?

Moses:- Because we have dedicated our whole being to improving the world we live in.

Yisrael:- But that does not answer the question.

Moses:-Then, perhaps it is a poor question? The AmMitzrayim have many causes for hatred and envy. The first is our ancestors' domination over their country. Then too, we were tax collectors. The sacrifice of the ram – their God - created bitter enmity among them, and because our religion is as different from that which is law among them as the nature of God differs from that of irrational beasts. For them it is the custom of the fatherland to think of animals as gods.

Lights/Curtain

Act II- In the Desert (of Milk and Honey) and the Fertile Crescent

Scene 1 *at the borders of Jericho circa 1234 BCE*

Moses:- “*E qui il maestro e finito!*” I am constrained from entering our Promised Land. Joshua shall take command from here. Aaron will remain our High Priest. May Atenai continue to bless you!

Yisrael:- How constrained? And by whom?

Moses:- As it shall be written and ordered by the Holy One, Atenai, Blessed Be He, for I have sinned and literally broken his commandments. And, as I never circumcised our son Gershom as He had prescribed (- and was only rescued thanks to Zipporah’s vision and decisiveness.).

Yisrael:- But surely the Holy One, Blessed Be He, can forgive you, especially for all of your sacrifices? Your love duet is unfinished.

Moses:- “‘Twould be nice, yet, alas, the Angel of Death has all but consumed my flesh with mortal fever. Adieu.

Lights

Scene 2 *in Shiloh circa 722 BCE*

Hosea:- Thou, His Holy people, hast forsaken the Holy commandments with your idols - as it is written, thou shalt no longer make any graven images.

Here in Shiloh where the Ark of the Covenant has come to Its Holy rest- all of the Akadian gods - literally and figuratively subsumed by and into Elohim Atenai pay tribute. Israel shall cease to exist.

Yisrael:- But surely, the Holy One, Blessed Be He, cannot care whether we make silly icons or not?

Hosea:- He has spoken and His commandments set in stone, does that answer your question?

Yisrael:- Why should that make any difference to the All-Powerful?

Hosea:- Why don’t you ask that question to the Babylonian hordes?

/Theme form Nabucco/Troops enter and slaughter/Lights

Scene 3 *in Jerusalem circa 586 BCE*

Jeremiah:- Hereby and hereon I predict Jerusalem’s coming destruction by the infidel invaders from the north.

You, the children of Israel and Judah have forsaken Yah Atenai by worshiping the idols of Baal and burning her children as offerings to Baal. Josiah tried and failed *teshuvah*. This nation has deviated so far from Yah Atenai’s laws that you have therefore completely broken His covenant, causing Yah Atenai to withdraw His blessings.

The nation of Judah therefore will suffer famine, foreign conquest, plunder, and captivity in a land of Babylon.

Yisrael:- But surely it is the failure of our kings to live up to their treaties with Nebuchadnezzar that has caused his wrath and war upon us?

/Theme form Nabucco /Troops enter and slaughter/The temple is destroyed/Lights

Scene 4 *in Babylon circa 516 BCE /”Va Pensiero”*

Ezra:- We have not been idle during this captivity, but have assembled all of the holy documents and oral traditions of our people

into a great Teaching Scroll and associated Prophecies and Writings.

Yisrael:- I have read almost all of your assemblage, and most of its historicity is extremely questionable, at best. Where is the story of our Mitzraic origins, Akhenaten and Amarna?

Ezra:- The Land of Mitzrayim still harbors hate for that period and all that went with it. Were we to let it be known that we are the inheritors of that tradition and, by the way, right next store, what do you think would be the consequences? Besides, as you may or may not know, the evil Nebuchadnezzar has been defeated by Darius, and I have interceded with Ataxerxes, the current Ruler of Persia, to allow for us to return to Jerusalem and rebuild our Sanctuary there. Herein is the missive I received from him:-

From, **Ataxerxes**, king of kings,
To **Ezra** the priest, teacher of the Law of the God of heaven:
Greetings.
Now I decree that any of the Israelites in my kingdom, including priests and Levites, who volunteer to go to Jerusalem with you, may go. You are sent by the king and his seven advisers to inquire about Judah and Jerusalem with regard to the Law of your God, which is in your hand. Moreover, you are to take with you the silver and gold that the king and his advisers have freely given to the God of Israel, whose dwelling is in Jerusalem, together with all the silver and gold you may obtain from the province of Babylon, as well as the freewill offerings of the people and priests for the temple of their God in Jerusalem. With this money be sure to buy bulls, rams and male lambs, together with their grain offerings and drink offerings, and sacrifice them on the altar of the temple of your God in Jerusalem.
You and your fellow Israelites may then do whatever seems best with the rest of the silver and gold, in accordance with the will of your God. Deliver to the God of Jerusalem all the articles entrusted to you for worship in the temple of your God. And anything else needed for the temple of your God that you are responsible to supply, you may provide from the royal treasury....
And you, Ezra, in accordance with the wisdom of your God, which you possess, appoint magistrates and judges to administer justice to all the people of Trans-Euphrates—all who know the laws of your God. And you are to teach any who do not know them. Whoever does not obey the law of your God and the law of the king must surely be punished by death, banishment, confiscation of property, or imprisonment. the LORD my God was on me, I

took courage and gathered leaders from Israel to go up with me.

Scene 6 in Elephantine, Egypt circa 410 AD

Hananiah:- The Priests of Khnum are advancing upon our Temple at Elephantine and are about to destroy it.

Yisrael: But why?

Hananiah:- Because we sacrifice their holy Ram on our Passover and because they perceive us, not wrongly, as agents and tax-collectors of the Persians – whom they also despise

Troops enter and slaughter/The temple is destroyed/Lights

Scene 7 in Jerusalem circa 70 AD

Rabbi Akiva:-The oppressive Roman Centurions are back and this time their hostility knows no bounds. The temple will be destroyed. All who will please follow me to Masada.

Yisrael:- Why do the Romans hate us so much?

Rabbi Akiva:- Could it be because we are so stubborn, stiff-necked, self-righteous, obstreperous, argumentative, unwilling to bend, rude and often downright nasty? Or possibly because we think we know how everybody else should behave? Maybe it's that we're so much smarter and more successful than other folks and they're all jealous? You tell me?

Troops enter and slaughter/The temple is destroyed/Lights

Act III – The Inquisition

Scene 1 in Cordoba circa 1200 AD

Maimonides:- Here we are in the golden age of enlightenment! Thanks to the Arabs and their beautiful expression of Islam there is peace and harmony all along the Iberian peninsula.

Yisrael:- Are you implying, Rabbi, that we Jews have no longer anything to fear?

Maimonides:- As long as we stay true to our ideals, follow the teachings of our ancestors, treat others with the respect they deserve, and love our God with all our heart, all our soul and all our might, we should be ok

Scene 2 in London, England circa 1391 AD

King Edward I:- ...and with the authority vested in me I decree that this Isle shall be forever non grata for and hereby banned of all Jews!

Yisrael:- Why are they doing this to us?

Rabbi:- Many reasons? The most obvious that our cleanliness commandments have kept us from succumbing to The Black Plague, and therefore they think we somehow caused it. Plus add to that the absurd “blood libel.” And our history as tax collectors for the greedy monarchs. At any rate, it does not matter, we must make our escape.

Lights

Scene 3 in Granada circa 1480 AD

Torquemada:- What gives you such enormous strength to oppose the option to survive?

Joseph Ibn Shem-Tov:- First of all, my heritage.

Secondly, the Great Lie #1 of Christianity which appears on Page 1 of every New

Testament in the Book of Matthew. What is the purpose of showing the generations of Jesus who is also called the Christ? To show the genetic connection between Jesus and David to fulfill the Prophecy of Isaiah that Jesus was the true Messiah? If so, then why is the connection through Joseph (the husband of Mary the Mother of Jesus?) Indeed, if Mary were a Virgin who was inseminated by the Holy Ghost (in order to be consubstantial with God?) then Jesus could not have been related through David as somehow implied. So was Jesus the Messiah, or was He a part of the Trinity? And was not the original connection through Joseph obviously and corruptly edited out at a later date to show that Jesus was indeed consubstantial with God?

Thirdly, the Great Lie #2 there indeed ever was a historical Jesus for which no record exists in our rich heritage of written narration.

No, I refuse to convert to your Bogus Nonsense and I hereby condemn you as well as all of your co-tormentors to an everlasting hell!

Torquemada:- You think you are so smart, don't you? Then die, Jew Bastard!

Burned at the stake

Scene 4 in Cordoba circa 1492 AD /Borrowed from Dostoevsky)

Jesus returns to earth and is appalled by what He sees.

Overwhelmed, yet recognized by a Jew of the appropriate personnel

Jesus:- Incredible! People maimed and massacred and all in My Name. Take me to see the ultimate perpetrator of these heinous atrocities - the Grand Inquisitor, himself.

Face to face with His Holiness, Why have you betrayed me?. Men being tortured and killed – and in My Name? This is obviously not what I desired - not ever in my wildest fantasies imagined could or would these occur from My Ministry on earth. My wish was only for a society of warmth and beauty in which men were free to perform acts of goodness and righteousness purely for their own sake. I encouraged, nay intended My disciples to desire for man only the freedom to chose for himself the pathway to goodness and mercy. What the Church and the Grand Inquisitor were doing can only be considered as anathema!

The Grand Inquisitor, *having listened quite politely and most intently to the unbridled displeasure his Deity has displayed, remains, however, totally unshaken.*

Essentially, we [Your Holy and Apostolic Catholic Church] know what You were trying to establish. After all, he continues, we are not all idiots. But do You remember Your response to the temptations in the wilderness - in particular, to the old biblical question about whether man does live by bread alone? Well, the problem, Dear Lord, is that the answer to that most rhetorical of questions which You implied was totally and completely mistaken. Why? Because, YES, man DOES, in fact, live by bread alone. He only desires and cares about the peace of mind he can have from the knowledge that he can have bread on his table when he gets hungry. You offered man what, Jesus, freedom? - the freedom to do what? - to chose between right and wrong, good and evil, justice and injustice? The problem is that man cannot make these choices on his own. More especially, he cannot be expected to make these choices in a direction which You would see fit. Moreover, he desires that he not even be allowed the opportunity to think about the possibility of trying to make a choice. He prefers, nay, demands the peace of mind and security he can have from knowing that his basic needs, i.e., bread, will be available to him. In exchange for that security, he gains

additional peace of mind from knowingly, willfully, and lovingly abandoning to us the pain of choosing between moral alternatives. We tell man how he must lead his life and put bread on his table in return for which he is eternally grateful!

Needless to say, Jesus is stunned, and legitimately at a loss for words. About all he can summon up the energy to do at that point in time is to kiss the Grand Inquisitor upon the lips and head back off to Heaven a sadder, and yet wiser Numen/ Lights

Scene 5 in Cordoba circa 1550 AD

Marrano: 'tis better in the mind to suffer the slings and arrows of this outrageous fortune and, by not opposing, sublimate them.

Yisrael child:- But why do you and Mama light these candles every Friday night?

Marrano:- In the hope that some day you will understand and do the same!

*They both light the candles and cross themselves.
Foolowed by Lights/Curtain*

Act IV – The Holocaust

Scene 1 in Munchen, Bayerische circa 1853 AD

Yisrael:- Maestro, why do you appear to hate us so?

R.Wagner:- If you must know it is because I am deathly afraid and am almost irredeemably anxious that I am, in fact, one of you.

Yisrael:- How so?

R.Wagner:- First I am short and have a huge head. Secondly I was born 6 months after my putative father had died of typhoid fever, and remained unbaptized for three months until my mother had consulted with my soon-to-be step-father Ludwig Geyer. Third I look just like my younger half-sister. Fourth my mother, Johanna Rosina Patz, was a consort of the syphilitic profligate Count Constantin von Sax-Weimar (brother of the Duke Karl Augustus) well before she married my father Friedrich Wagner. She also claimed to me that she was a “descendant” of the Prince of Saxony. Her life always appeared to him to be surrounded in mystery. I was never ever really sure about his mother’s real ancestry. Fifth, I am incredibly talented and intelligent.

Yisrael:- Is that what your Ring saga is really about? An exorcism of those fears?

R.Wagner:- Perhaps. Look at Siegfried’s racial background:-

- A descendent of the “most hated race on earth” (the Walsung’s?)
- A race - half God, half human
- A race which was quite inbred and incestuous
- A very prideful race
- A very clannish race

- A quite boastful race
- A very self-righteous race
- An inordinately “victimized” race
- A race quite matriarchal in its very structure

Yisrael:- Then who or what do the Niebelungs represent?

R.Wagner:-

- A race of short-people?
- A dark, secretive race?
- A nasty race?
- A race which could sacrifice love for greed?
- A race interested in its own consuming power?
- A race of schemers and monomaniacs?

What do you think?

Yisrael:- Is that why your second wife Cosima (Liszt) always said that in order to understand you...

R.Wagner:- ...cherchez les Juifs? What do you think? Is it any wonder that everything and everyone in The Ring – except for *fire* - had to be purged???

Yisrael:- Why does a Jew always answer a question with another question?

R.Wagner:- Do not go there!

Music from Siegfried’s Death/Lights

Scene 2 in Baltimore, MD circa 1930 AD

Yisrael:- I know that you are a self-confessed Atheist, H.L., but does

Christianity have any redeeming value at all?

Mencken:- In one respect, at least, Christianity is vastly superior to every other religion in being today, and, indeed, to all save one of the past: it is full of a lush and lovely poetry. The Bible is unquestionably the most beautiful book in the world. Allow everything you please for the barbaric history in the Old Testament and the silly Little Bethel theology in the New, and there remains a series of poems so overwhelmingly voluptuous and disarming that no other literature, old or new, can offer a match for it. Nearly all of it comes from the Jews, and their making of it constitutes one of the most astounding phenomena in human history. Save for a small minority of superior individuals, nearly unanimously agnostic, there is not much in their character, as the modern world knows them, to suggest a genius for exalted thinking. Even Ernest Renan, who was very friendly to them, once sneered at the "esprit semitique" as "sans etendu, sans diversite, et sans philosophie." **As commonly encountered, they strike other peoples as predominantly unpleasant, and everywhere on earth they seem to be disliked. This dislike, despite their own belief to the contrary, has nothing to do with their religion: it is founded, rather, on their bad manners, their curious lack of tact. They have an extraordinary capacity for offending and alarming the "Goyim", and not infrequently, from the earliest days down to our own time, it has engendered brutal wars upon them.** Yet these same rude, unpopular, and often unintelligent folk, from time almost immemorial, have been the chief dreamers of the Western world, and beyond all comparisons its greatest poets. It was Jews who wrote the magnificent poems called the Psalms, the Song of Solomon, and the Books of Job and Ruth; it was Jews who set platitudes to deathless music in Proverbs; and it was Jews who gave us the Beatitudes, the Sermon on the Mount, the

incomparable ballad of the Christ child, and the twelfth chapter of Romans. I incline to believe that the scene recounted in John VIII, 3-11, is the most poignant drama ever written in the world, as the Song of Solomon is unquestionably the most moving love song, and the Twenty-third Psalm the greatest of hymns. All these transcendent riches Christianity inherits from a little tribe of sedentary Bedouins, so obscure and unimportant that secular history hardly knows them. No heritage of modern man is richer and none has made a more brilliant mark upon human thought, not even the legacy of the Greeks. ***All this, of course, may prove either one of two things: that the Jews, in their heyday, were actually superior to all the greatest peoples who disdained them, or that poetry is only an inferior art.*** My private inclination is to embrace the latter hypothesis, but I do not pause to argue the point. The main thing is that Christianity, alone among the modern world religions, has inherited an opulent aesthetic content, and is thus itself a work of art. Its external habiliments, of course, are not unique. There are Buddhist temples that are quite as glorious as Gothic cathedrals, and in Shinto there is a dramatic liturgy that is at least as impressive as the Roman Mass. But no other religion is so beautiful in its very substance - none other can show anything to match the great strophes of flaming poetry which enter into every Christian gesture of ceremonial and give an august inner dignity to Christian sacred music.

Scene 2 in Paris circa 1937 AD

Yisrael:- Do the *Goyim* hate us Jewish immigrants because they sees us all as Progressives and Revolutionaries trying to change the world as quickly as possible?

Joseph R.:- The immigrants – alas! – do not assimilate too slowly as they have

accused us of doing, or our sorry way of living. Yes, some do go on to become diplomats and journalists, mayors and dignitaries, police inspectors and bank managers, as much pillars of the community as any of the natives. Only a very few are revolutionaries. Many are socialists from personal necessity. Many see anti-Semitism as an expression of the capitalist economy, though that is not what makes them socialists. They become socialists because they are oppressed.

The majority are working-class or lower-middle class, without proletarian consciousness. Many are instinctively reactionary, from love of property and tradition, but also from the not unjustified apprehension that change would not necessarily improve things for the Jews. As you know, there is a historical feeling, based on plentiful experience, that the Jews will be the first victims in the event of a bloodbath.

The Jewish intellectual may give the revolutionary movement inspiration and focus with his passionate engagement. The Eastern Jewish laborer, in his love of work, his sober cast of thought, his quiet life, is comparable to the German.

Anti-semitism in Austria is to be found equally among the Germans and Czechs, the Poles and Ruthenians, Magyars and Romanians in Transylvania. They manage to refute the old aphorism that when two quarrel the third is the winner. The Jews were always the third party and they always lost.

The Jew is always either the killer of Jesus or Cain – dispossessed and Satanized, who wants to remain different and holy. Unfortunately – particularly the Jewish intellectual - may also come off as “holier than thou” (when he is clearly not.)

Scene 3 in Auschwitz circa 1944 AD

Schwartz:- Never again!

Yisrael:- You sure about that?

Schwartz:- Never again!

Yisrael:- You absolutely sure?

Schwartz:- Maybe?

Lights/Curtain

Act V – Re-establishment Dayenu?

Scene 1 *flashbacks to LA circa 1992 AD,
Ferguson 2014, Minneapolis 2020 AD,*

Imman Louis:- -

Satan, - you know who I'm talkin' about - knowing that people are going to become aware of him, he started in Europe. You cannot, in Europe say that the Holocaust didn't exist. You can say God doesn't exist. There will be no penalty. You can curse God and there will be no penalty. But if you say that there's something wrong with the figures of the Holocaust, if you disagree with the Jewish version of the Holocaust that's considered a hate crime. And in some European countries you can go to jail for such. Well, they're trying to do the same thing in America.

"I don't know how many Jews were killed. I know something happened in Nazi Germany, and if it's one million, two million, three million; it's one million, two million, three million too many. But to deny a person the right to challenge your articulation of numbers and to put you in jail if you deny aspects of the Holocaust...You can't speak about Jews. You can't criticize Jews. If you do, you're an anti-Semite. —

...You can't even engage in constructive argument over the veracity of the figures of the Holocaust. We know something happened, sure, but you can't talk about it. In certain cities in Europe they arrest you and put you in prison for denying such.

The Jews have been so bad at politics they lost half their population in the Holocaust. They thought they could trust in Hitler, and they helped him get the Third Reich on the road.

German Jews financed Hitler right here in America...International bankers financed

Hitler and poor Jews died while big Jews were at the root of what you call the Holocaust...Little Jews died while big Jews made money. Little Jews [were] being turned into soap while big Jews washed themselves with it. Jews [were] playing violin, Jews [were] playing music, while other Jews [were] marching into the gas chambers...

Crowd:- Amen! Amen! Yeah! Right on, Bro!

Imman Louis:-

What had they done to deserve such a harsh judgment from God? Those who are Jews and those who are Christians, those who believe in Allah on the last day, they have their reward from their Lord. There are beautiful members of the Jewish community who are trying their utmost to follow the law and the teachings of Moses and the prophets that God sent to Israel. But there's another Jew who is not really a Jew. He is an imposter posing as Jew. In the Bible, in the book of Revelations [it] says 'Those who say they are Jews and are not, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan.' Who are the masters of Hollywood, how could you be a righteous Jew and promote that which is forbidden by the God of Israel? Come on now. How could you be a righteous Jew and publish the filth that is published daily feeding the minds of the American people and the people of the world filth and indecency, and making it fair seeming in their eye?

Yisrael:- Why can you not understand that we made all of this stuff up in order to control your behavior?

Imman Louis:- But that is just the point. We do understand that, and we hate you for it.

Scene 2 in Pittsburgh PA circa 2018 AD

Rabbi:- What can we say? Two has become three once again. The only things that are permanent now are death, taxes, and anti-semitism.

Scene 3 in NYC Synagogue circa 2023 AD

Lodge:- We Too were Once Slaves

(Or "The Buddha in the Road")

We were slaves once.
We freed ourselves.
We did not disparage our former captors as sub-humans.
We simply took our destiny into our own hands as best we could.

We were slaves once.
We did not impose our sense of morality on others.
We merely decided not to allow slavery to exist within our own culture.
We were slaves once [or even ~~twice~~twice?]
We never demanded our captors or their descendants pay any "reparations."
We picked ourselves up by our own bootstraps and built new civilization[s] which resonate[s] to this day.

We were slaves once.
We escaped to freedom but still accepted the mighty restrictions placed upon us wherever we roamed and managed to succeed where others might have failed.

We were slaves once.
We never blamed our failure to thrive on the greed or neglect of others.
We never accepted any handouts from others which might weaken our self-motivation.
Instead, we competed among ourselves and with others to attain positions of respect.

We were slaves once.
We never demanded or ever needed "affirmative action", never accepted absurd new academic categories, nor created racist agendas to help us move ahead.

We simply received and played the hands which we were dealt.

We were slaves once.
We never stole, looted, or murdered our own kind and blamed it all on the legitimate societal defenders of the peace.
("The fault, dear Brutus...?" "Gee, Officer Krupke?")
We merely accepted the responsibilities which freedom demands.

We were slaves once.
We never tried to reduce mightier civilizations to our own level.
We simply tried to raise the levels of whatever societies in which we found ourselves.

Yes, we were once slaves. And the world still wants to shackle us. Yet will we still persevere?

Or maybe not? Maybe we have arrived? Perhaps are great fortune as well as our ironic misfortune is to have become listened to and appreciated? Maybe even *uber*-appreciated? Look at our Congressional representatives – what an incredibly self-righteous and nasty lot. Senators from Connecticut, New York, and California? The New York Times has its nauseatingly progressive uppity geschmotts going from "Ochs" to "Oakes", telling us what and how to think? And what about those poor, deluded souls administering, propagandizing, and proselytizing in the Academy. Perhaps we have succeeded beyond our wildest dreams in trying to civilize mankind? Perhaps we ourselves have finally been "Peter Principaled?" Have we perhaps gone a step too far? Maybe the poor and the suffering need their theology for their own inner peace and sanctitude? What right can we possibly have to disabuse them of that simple need? Perhaps...

A huge Explosion is heard and seen, followed by Lights & Curtain/Prelude in its entirety/Curtain calls