

HEARING ELIE'S ECHO

QUOTES TO LIVE AND LEARN BY

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QUOTES ABOUT ELIE'S ECHO, IMPACT, AND MESSAGE

Today we are all Elie's future, and our future will depend on whether we harness all we have learnt from this eminent voice of Jewish leadership, humanism, and dignity.

Dr. Elana Heideman, student and protégé of Elie Wiesel

This is how I see the visionary in him, because that's what he really believed. And he would say, 'Do something, anything, start somewhere, anywhere.'

Martha Hauptman, Boston University, assistant to Elie Wiesel

Elie Wiesel was one of the greatest Jews of our time, a Holocaust survivor who was the leading world's spokesman of the Holocaust, who taught us the importance of remembering and learning the lesson from the Holocaust. In our hundreds of conversations I heard his daily efforts to find new ways to continue his struggle for a better world. For many people, from all over the world, during his many years of activity Wiesel became a Prophet, A messenger of Humanity. Future generations must continue to witness his great influence.

Dr. Joel Rappel, Founder, Elie Wiesel Archive

I think most people associate him with the Holocaust, which I think is understandable but unfortunate. It doesn't capture who he is as a person.

Professor Michael Grodin

Wiesel was a hero of the Jewish People, and a giant of all humanity.

President Reuven Rivlin

He shared tales laden with symbolism and meaning: of poor peddlers who were seeking riches and ordinary people who craved holiness and the Divine. Tales of people whose lives were steeped in learning, whose good deeds enabled the world to continue on its course...he was a link to something precious that was nearly lost: a tradition and wisdom that seemed completely lacking in the world as I knew it. He spoke passionately about the Holocaust, about seeking meaning in life, about the moral issues of the day. Elie Wiesel challenged us to be better and to do more.

Dr. Yvette Alt Miller

Instead of drawing your attention, for example, to images of horror, [Wiesel] tries — like Primo Levi — to conjure the human being confronted with horror and restores the humanity to that human being. He wants us to look beyond the dehumanization that is associated with genocide and see the person.

Michael Zank, Boston University

I've learned to appreciate his objectivity — an objectivity heavily oriented with idealism. I think he has always exemplified — at least in my experiences with him — a commitment to peace and to justice and to basic human rights.

President Jimmy Carter

He was, as he liked to say, a wandering maggid going from community to community, from venue to venue, from synagogues and universities, gatherings, demonstrations and conferences, national capitals and political forums speaking to an ever changing global audience. His message was: Remember the Holocaust; remembrance must shape our character and has the capacity to transform the future.

Michael Berenbaum

Elie Weisel spent a life time trying to teach humanity that the Holocaust, genocide, race hatred, anti-semitism and persecution must be recognized and fought. Maybe G-d brought him to heaven just now, so the world would not break his heart! With his death, we have lost the last of the giants who unified our nation, stood for justice, defined our people, and reminded us of who we are. Who is like them today? We have lost the last of our leaders, and must pray for guidance and wisdom from our maker in heaven.

Bobby Brown

He challenged us to judge ourselves and see that against us stood purveyors of false pieties... His conscience called us to reject those pieties and to realize that the work of their destruction would put an end to mankind's transcendent yearning for redemptive change and with it the end of morality in the human condition.

We have a duty to continue his work and ensure evil never triumphs, for in that surety rests our only claim to the restitution of our birthright as civilized people. As we continue our work for the victory of universal commonality over narcissistic particularity we need to remember the lesson of the Shoah.

Beryl Wajsman

What I learned through Wiesel was a toughness of spirit I was not used to finding in religious writing...Wiesel eschewed love and forgiveness as well as hate and revenge: "Do not be more just than necessary. An excess of charity may be sinful.... misplaced pity is potentially no less dangerous than unwarranted cruelty."

Julius Lester

Knowing his story is knowing history. To truly appreciate what it means to be a Jew, we must first understand what we have endured as a nation, and what we are going through today.

Jack L

He was both a witness to and a survivor of one of the greatest evils that humanity has ever wrought upon it, but he never used those experiences to project anger, hatred, or negativity. Instead, he took his talents for words and for human compassion to teach the world a lesson that we must never forget. It is our responsibility as individuals to embody traits and values that ensure the continuation of humanity rather than the destruction of it. It is our job as citizens of our respective nations to be a light unto the darkness rather than being an additional shroud.

Elliott Hamilton

I never met you in person, but you were my teacher.
I never heard you speak in public, but your wisdom is part and parcel of my fiber.
I didn't go to your funeral, but I mourn you, nevertheless...
I didn't know you, but your voice helped lend me some of the most important wisdom I have gained in the cycle of my life.
I will continue to live up to and teach your lessons.

Matt Gewirtz

IN HIS OWN WORDS

The witness has forced himself to testify.
For the youth of today, for the children who will be born tomorrow.
He does not want his past to become their future.

Without this testimony, my life as a writer — or my life, period — would not have become what it is: that of a witness who believes he has a moral obligation to try to prevent the enemy from enjoying one last victory by allowing his crimes to be erased from human memory.

I have devoted much time to explore indifference, and again I came to a conclusion that the peril threatening human kind today is indifference even more than hatred. There are more people who are indifferent than there are people who hate, hate is an action, Hate takes time, hate takes energy, and even it demands sacrifices. Indifference is nothing, but indifference to hatred is encouraging hatred and is justifying hatred, so what we must do I mean you peers and mine is fight indifference.

I was convinced that hatred among nations and among people perished in Auschwitz it didn't, the victims died but the haters are still here, new ones. Day in day out week after week and year after year, people kill each other. And so often I say to myself really what are we doing on this planet we are, we are passing the message as well as we can. Communicating our fears, our hopes.

To forget the dead would be akin to killing them a second time.

We must interfere. When human lives are endangered, when human dignity is in jeopardy, national borders and sensitivities become irrelevant. Wherever men or women are persecuted because of their race, religion, or political views, that place must—at that moment—become the center of the universe.

Hope is like peace. It is a gift only we can give to one another.

No human race is superior; no religious faith is inferior.
All collective judgments are wrong. Only racists make them.

The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference.
The opposite of art is not ugliness, it's indifference.
The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference.
And the opposite of life is not death, it's indifference.

I believe firmly and profoundly that anyone who listens to a witness becomes a witness.

So those who hear us, those who read us, those who learn something from us, they will continue to bear witness for us. Until now, they're doing it with us.

At a certain point in time, they will do it for all of us.

Think higher, feel deeper.

One person of integrity can make a difference.

We must use our memory in order to help those whose memory is being threatened, whose life is being threatened.

We must always take sides.
Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim.
Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.

When a person doesn't have gratitude, something is missing in his or her humanity. A person can almost be defined by his or her attitude toward gratitude.

"Where is God? Where is He?" someone behind me asked. ..
For more than half an hour [the child in the noose] stayed there, struggling between life and death, dying in slow agony under our eyes. And we had to look him full in the face. He was still alive when I passed in front of him. His tongue was still red, his eyes were not yet glazed.
Behind me, I heard the same man asking:
"Where is God now?"
And I heard a voice within me answer him:
"Where is He? Here He is—He is hanging here on this gallows. . . ."

We were masters of nature, masters of the world. We had forgotten everything—death, fatigue, our natural needs. Stronger than cold or hunger, stronger than the shots and the desire to die, condemned and wandering, mere numbers, we were the only men on earth.

At last, the morning star appeared in the gray sky. A trail of indeterminate light showed on the horizon. We were exhausted.

We were without strength, but not without illusions.

There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest.

Friendship marks a life even more deeply than love. Love risks degenerating into obsession, friendship is never anything but sharing.

Yes, I have faith. Faith in God and even in His creation. Without it no action would be possible. And action is the only remedy to indifference: the most insidious danger of all.

Since I am a Jew profoundly rooted in my peoples' memory and tradition, my first response is to Jewish fears, Jewish needs, Jewish crises. For I belong to a traumatized generation, one that experienced the abandonment and solitude of our people. It would be unnatural for me not to make Jewish priorities my own.

Human rights are being violated on every continent.
More people are oppressed than free.

To the Palestinians to whose plight I am sensitive, but whose methods I deplore. Violence and terrorism are not the answer. Something must be done about their suffering, inflicted by their own leaders and transformed into hate against the Jews. This must stop, and peace can be achieved.

I trust Israel, for I have faith in the Jewish people. Let Israel be given a chance, let hatred and danger be removed from her horizons, and there will be peace in and around the Holy Land.
