

Dialogue With My Conscience

(by Yvette Nahmia, Athens)

Conscience : It hurts.

Yvette : I know it hurts. It is better to forget about it.

C. : Have you gone out of your mind ?

It would be a crime to forget. I should always remember.

Y. : No. You are wrong. I insist that you should go on with your life as if it had never happened.

C. : Do you really believe I could forget the fact that a group of people drew red Magen David's and red crosses on our shopwindow and that they wrote the inscription "Jewish pigs" outside our door ?

Y. : You should not take those people seriously. They are only a bunch of bumps that like to provoke you.

C. : So what exactly do you suggest, should I tolerate them ? Should I not react ? Should I tell myself "It is not important, don't take it seriously?".

Y. : Yes. That is how I see it should be.

C. : You know that you are wrong.

Y. : What about you ? Would you rather revenge ?

C. : I really don't know. I am thinking about it. One thing is certain. As long as I live here, this event is going to take place and I definitely won't like that at all.

Y. : Everything has its price in life, you know that.

C. : Yes, I can imagine it is so. Perhaps it would be better for me to immigrate to Israel, if I am not prepared to pay the price that living in Athens entails.

Y. : Israel ? What is it what you've got there ? You have everything here :

C : O.K O.K. I know in advance what you have to tell me.
Here in Athens I've got my friends, my family, my house, my life.

You say that it would be hard for me to leave my life, my comfort.

Y. : Exactly. Here you've got a successful future ahead of you.

C. : I know, but tell me, how will I manage to live with the thought that I am the target of a bunch of mad men that want to harm me ? Moreover, I dislike identifying myself with the diaspora Jews of the 30s. I want to believe that I am different that if I were in their position I would not remain idle, that I would react.

Y. : You are exaggerating. We live in the year 2000. What happened then was a tragic event that will never happen again.

C. : How are you so sure. There is a theory that maintains that history repeats itself and if we react as they did, then we will bring about the same situation.

Y. : O.K. If that is how you see it, immigrate to Israel.

C. : Are you suggesting I should escape ?

Y. : You mentioned it yourself that you can't stand being the target of animosity.

C. : I did say that but I did not mean that I should leave.

Y. : What else can you do ?

C. : I can fight them. I cannot let it happen again.

Y. : Do you actually believe you can change the world ?

C. : Not on my own, but with other people yes.