

Shadows of Doubt and Lights of Hope

A number of late events seem to deserve or even demand comment, or at least my 2 cents worth. So lets go with a point of light. I lucked into the gorgeous music of the great Learner and Lowe masterpiece "*Brigadoon*" on Turner Classic Movies, and was baptized with the usual flood of pleasure those arias carry, even as they did when my Lebanon Union High School choir sang medleys of them back in 1956. Those Scottish aires were magical then and still are.

First I heard "The Heather on he Hill," accompanying a choreography of dance by the matchless Cyd Charisse and Gene Kelly: "The morning mist is in he gloaming/ And all the clouds re holding still/ When I arise I will go roaming/ Through the heather on the hill." Kelly and Charisse danced against a background of highlands painted with colors seemingly inspired by an LL Bean Catalog.

The purple of the heather called up those magical lines from Yeats' poem, "The Lake Isle of Innisfree:" There "midnight's all a'glimmer/ And noon a purple glow/ and evening's full of the linnet's wings."// That purple glow that tints the hills around Lake Innisfree is heather. No wonder Bean chooses to heatherize so many of its jackets, skirts and blouses.

Other matchless numbers included "Walking with My Dearie," "It's Almost Like Being in Love," "I'll go Home with Bonnie Jean," and the brilliant finale' "Brigadoon" which ends with this ray of hope: "Let the world go cold around us/ Let the heavens cry above;/ Brigadoon, Brigadoon in thy valley/ There is love."

Kelly and Van Johnson's characters stumble into that mythical village, coming home from V E Day and Hitler's defeat. This fact adds real poignancy to this timeless masterpiece.

Hearing *Brigadoon* again reminded me of the amazing creativity of Learner and Lowe, just two more brilliant Jewish creators. This has to irk many anti Semites, but it reminds us once gain of the Jews' astonishing contributions to world culture, not just in the arts, but in medicine, physics, the sciences, agriculture, literature and elsewhere. It seems truly fitting that God's chosen people," bless mankind with masterpiece after masterpiece, innovation after innovation.

Uncannily, the July, 2024 *Levitt Letter* raised the subject in an article entitled "Why Are Jews Hated." There Rabbi Benjamin Blech found this powerful insight garnered from "The Diary of Ann Frank." "Who knows; it might even be because of our religion from which the world and all peoples learn good. And for that reason and that reason only we now suffer." Rabbi Blech then quotes "the prime prototype of the anti Semite, Adolph Hitler: "Providence has ordained that I should be the greatest liberator of humanity. ... I am freeing man from the degrading self-mortification of conscience and morality. The ten commandments have lost their validity. Conscience is a Jewish invention"...

So Paul's brilliant observation, that "The strength of sin is the law," exposes Satan's role as "the accuser of the brethren," making Antisemitism a spiritual issue. Accusations happen when charges are filed. And since few sinners like being found guilty, it's easy for Satan to convince many that it's all the fault of he Jews.

That sounds radical, but some rabbis see it as perhaps the most plausible explanation for the zeal of many who hate Jews. In short, antisemitism may be Satanically inspired. The New Testament calls it "the spirit of Antichrist," for since "Salvation is from the Jews," (John 4:22) and Jesus is their "king." He, if He is indeed the Messiah, is the real target Satan is trying to destroy. I recommend

Googling up the *Levitt Letter* and that whole article for a deeper understanding of why, more than ever, it is urgent for believers to “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.” Our children’s future peace may well depend on it.

Gene Pinkney 24-06-30- for the Daily News