



**DAD:** Doesn't the wind in our hair feel great when we're cruising, Max?!

**MAX:** Aren't we going awfully fast, Dad? The sign we just passed said 30, and you're doing almost 60! (*HARI smiles gleefully and strokes his/her hair as the wind from the fan rushes through it.*)

**DAD:** It's O.K., Max. Look, these speed limits are meant for really old and incompetent drivers—not for us. Anyway, this ragtop Z-3 isn't made to go 30! It's bad for the engine to go that slow...

**MAX:** O.K., Dad. Wow, this is great! (*HARI pats them both on the back.*)

**NARRATOR 1:** Well, we learn from a lot of different sources, don't we?

**NARRATOR 2:** Especially from people we admire.

**NARRATOR 1:** How do you think Max's Dad would feel if he hit a pedestrian he didn't see in time while driving so fast on our narrow roads?

**NARRATOR 2:** That could alter Dad's whole life for the worse, not to mention Max's, and, of course, the unfortunate pedestrian's.

**NARRATOR 1:** And that's the kind of trouble that our Yetser Ha-ra can get us into. (*DAD and HARI depart. MAX moves to a chair on the side of the stage and remains seated through the next scenes.*)

#### **SCENE 4:**      **The Past—Atrocities**

**NARRATOR 4:** In fact, the bad impulses we just saw are pretty minor compared to the worst evil within the lifetime of people living today.

**NARRATOR 3:** There are great lessons to be learned by all of us about what happens when evil impulses are unleashed, remain unchallenged, and then completely take over.

**NARRATOR 4:** Some of the most dramatic of these examples of evil unleashed and largely unchallenged for a long time occurred in Nazi Germany in the 1930's and 1940's—a time called the Holocaust, or the Shoah.



**NARRATOR 3:** Nazi thugs terrorized and killed marginalized groups, and the list of marginalized groups grew over time to encompass anyone perceived to be different from the Nazis or critical of them.

**NARRATOR 4:** First and foremost, Jews; then gypsies, gays, the mentally challenged and those with perceived physical deformities; then ordinary citizens who spoke out at all against these atrocities.

**NARRATOR 3:** Eleven million people in all, one and a half million of them children: dead in horrible concentration camps or simply killed on the streets or in their homes. *(NAZI THUGS—dressed in brown, wearing any period hats that are available and wielding clubs—beat an innocent GIRL. Then, archival photographs from the period interlaced with artwork from children in a “model” concentration camp are projected on a screen set so as to be visible to the congregation. Evocative music that is ironically hopeful in light of the atrocities shown. A Candle Blessing sung by a Cantor can be played without narration.)*

**SCENE 5: The Past—World War II**

*(Five persons living in that time appear, dressed appropriately as discussed under the “Costumes” heading above.)*

**NARRATOR 4:** Here is one among 6 million Jews murdered in this period. *(ANNE FRANK enters & goes to center stage.)*

**ANNE FRANK:** I am Anne Frank, a Jewish teenager living in the Netherlands. The Nazis invaded my country, and my family and I had to go into hiding. Eventually, we were discovered and sent to horrible prisons called concentration camps where we died. While I was in hiding, I kept a diary, which was found after the war. It tells of my hopes and fears during my daily life in hiding.

**NARRATOR 3:** Many non-Jews were afraid, or didn’t think it was their concern, or actually supported Nazi atrocities. But some brave people acted on their good impulse—their Yetser Tov—and spoke out. Here’s the Polish Catholic monk Father Maximilian Kolbe: *(FATHER MAXIMILIAN KOLBE enters & goes to center stage.)*





**FATHER  
MAXIMILIAN  
KOLBE:**

I used the monastery I headed as a refuge for those persecuted by the Nazis, mostly Jews. There were so many that my monastery was filled to overflowing. Eventually, the Nazis came and took me away to a concentration camp where I suffered and died.

**NARRATOR 4:**

Now, here is the Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg: (*RAOUL WALLENBERG enters & goes to center stage.*)

**SWEDISH  
DIPLOMAT  
RAOUL  
WALLENBERG:**

I served as a diplomat for my neutral country of Sweden. Thousands of Jews came to me in desperation after the Nazis took over in Hungary. They wanted diplomatic papers—passes—from me. With these passes, they had the hope of life. So, with the approval of my King, I began issuing many passes and paying bribes to free Jews. I did this saving work until the end of the war when I, too, was imprisoned and died.

**NARRATOR 3:**

Some of these heroes of conscience are much less well known, like another diplomat who acted with great courage. He is Chiune Sugihara, the Japanese consul in Lithuania, and his wife. They also helped Jews to escape the Nazis by issuing thousands of diplomatic passes, even though their country became an ally of Nazi Germany. Even though it was very dangerous for him personally, he issued those passes against his government's orders. (*CHIUNE SUGIHARA enters & goes to center stage.*)

**JAPANESE  
DIPLOMAT  
CHIUNE  
SUGIHARA:**

My acts to save Jews from death were what my conscience told me I should do. But they caused me to be fired from my government position in Japan in disgrace because I had failed to follow my government's orders not to interfere with Nazi murder of Jews. When asked once to explain why I did what I did, I replied, "I did what was right because it was right."

**NARRATOR 3:**

He was following his Yetser Tov, and he is now highly honored as a "righteous gentile"—a non-Jew who acted with courage to do right at great personal risk in the midst of the Holocaust. Thousands survived the Holocaust because of what this one man and his wife did.



**NARRATOR 4:** And there are more examples of courageous individuals who used their good impulses to act at great risk against this enormous evil.

**NARRATOR 3:** Like Oskar Schindler and his Jewish business manager.

**NARRATOR 4:** Sadly, there are very few such examples. Most people thought they could do nothing and wound up doing just that. Their fear was palpable and kept them from listening to their Yetser Tov.

**NARRATOR 3:** Even more sadly, many people listened entirely to their Yetser Hara and even helped the Nazis in their killing of Jews.

**NARRATOR 4:** But one last example involves a whole country following its Yetser Tov under inspired leadership. Let's listen: *(THE KING OF DENMARK enters & goes to center stage, flanked by two DANES; all wear yellow Stars of David.)*

**THE KING OF DENMARK:** I am the King of Denmark. After the Nazis invaded my country, they made my Jewish citizens wear yellow Stars of David on their clothing so that they could be subjected to slurs, beatings, imprisonment and death. But I told the Nazis that we would not tolerate atrocities committed against our citizens, whether Jewish or not. So my citizens *(pointing to two DANES)* and I, even though we were not Jews, nevertheless wore the yellow Stars of David that the Nazis required all Jews to wear. Faced with my people's resistance to their terror tactics, the Nazis were slower to act, and lives were saved.

**NARRATOR 3:** It is tempting to believe that atrocities happened only many years ago. Or that they happen only in places far removed from America, like the Sudan in Africa. Horrible ethnic cleansing is still going on there.

**NARRATOR 4:** Sadly, this is not the case.

