

“Jewish youth – do you want to live?”

English translation of Hungarian speech by Gál György András

My brothers! We have travelled part of our road. Until now, God has not turned away his benevolent face, and now we open up our souls to the future. It looks at us with a thousand eyes, and we calmly and firmly accept its gaze. We are not afraid of its threatening stare. We smile wholeheartedly at its kind face.

What has passed we look upon fondly, the sombre memories beautified by the mood of the farewell. What has passed was the prelude of the coming struggle, a taste only, promising and laying the foundation. We are 18 years old, and during the years that have passed our consciousness has blossomed, our thinking grew wings, we grasped the world and life, we found in everything and in ourselves the ultimate reason... God. We experienced the heights of wild joys and fell into the depths of painful sorrows. We shifted and formed but never gave up one thing: an unrelenting longing for understanding and knowledge. We became aware of ideas: of freedom, of truth, of equality, and we became enthusiastic for them. Culture, this mighty stream of God, captivated us, and books became our loyal friends. Even if wild storms ravage, and angry waves collide, still it was beautiful, what we lived until now, useful, encouraging and inspiring.

Towards what we are starting now, the future, near and far, places in front of us insurmountable and immeasurable tasks. The soulless prophet shouts towards us with an empty heart and a full throat: “Jewish youth – do you want to live?” Fake it, deny yourself, and then you can be reborn in grand lies and universal denial. You have no other path! The ungodly weapon-bearers, the eternal barbarians, they want to shatter our self-awareness, annul our trust, trample our hope.

But we do not fear. God is living, gave himself to us, his faith strengthens us. He gave us the struggle, and we struggle; the hope, and we hope; the enduring courage and willingness. He gave us our youth and acquainted us with sweet freedom and taught us to value the spirit and civilization. What hell can crush what he built in our souls? Who could destroy our faith in God and everything that his divine grace gave us?

Our religion commands us: Kedoshim Tihyu Ki Kadosh Ani Adonay Elokeichem. We should seek God’s holiness. He is eternal and infinite; we are only finite cells in the universe, but we try to follow him with deep human humility, with constancy and faithfully.

In our souls, as in our ancestor’s souls, God and eternal ideals live, perpetually and inextinguishably. We remain with these ideals until our death. We remain children of God, faithful and good children. Our entire life, we remain Jews, in the severe meaning of the word.

For those who go toward a new world, in search of new life and bread, because there is no place for them in this country, for those who are searching not for a homeland, but only a place beyond the ocean, I am saying: my sweet brothers, you will never ever forget about the real Europe and the true European spirit, and even less our sweet homeland, Hungary. Do not ever forget that Petőfi and Eötvös were European Hungarian. And remember us fondly, because our hearts will ache after you and for you. Work, without losing faith, because that is the goal and the life. The time will come that we meet again and embrace each other. My brothers, God help you!

And those who remain here. Our fate will be very, very difficult, but we are young and we believe in God. That is enough to overcome all misery, obstacles, if needed death, in the struggle for a better world. We start on our path proudly with our heads held high, to build, to struggle. Adonai li v'lo ira (God is with me and I shall not be afraid).

Our support is God and the truth, so what is to be feared? Who could hurt us, what could scare us? There are ruins all over Europe, from these we must build, and we will. This is our task. We will fulfill it, we are Gods' indestructible soldiers.

My brothers in departure, the road is in front of us, the true and only one. It is full of steep hills and traps, but we go forward. Freedom is singing in our hearts and truth is pounding in our brain. In our hands the bible is our shield, and in our soul lives God. My brothers, we are brave and strong, let's start with our heads held high and hearts open... God will help.

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Gál György András

Translated by: Susan Haydu (George's sister), and Agnes Bleiwas (George's niece)

Photo of George



Detail of speech

