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American Exceptionalism Is Exceptionally Ignorant and Dangerous¹

Rabbi Barry Silver

I have always been inspired by the Sioux victory in Custer's Last Stand, where the good guys for one brief moment defeated those who waged genocide against them. With a Bible in one hand and a gun in the other, Americans justified their rape, pillage and murder of Native Americans across the continent as their "manifest destiny", which they claimed was God's plan to replace indigenous people in America with white Christians, just as their fictional Biblical God commanded his chosen Jewish people to eradicate the native Canaanites.

Reflecting on America's original sins of genocide and slavery, Thomas Jefferson remarked "I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that his justice cannot sleep forever." The deist Jefferson presciently foresaw "nature's God" exacting retribution for America's original sins of genocide, slavery and destruction of the planet, with the natural consequences of Civil War, racial unrest, and environmental collapse. Today America's natural beauty and precious western forests are literally going up in smoke due to our insatiable desire to "conquer nature" rather than live in harmony with it.

Our misguided Governor "death Santis" seeks to inflict revisionist history upon our children by teaching them "American exceptionalism" where the white history of slavery, genocide and misogyny is literally whitewashed. The only thing exceptional about them is the "exceptional" arrogance and ignorance of their fascist "America First" agenda, an obnoxious slogan shared by Trump and pro-Nazis of the 1930s who wanted to keep America out of WWII.

DeSantis wants to further abuse children by forcing them to pledge allegiance to the "Judeo-Christian" God who provides theological justification for slavery and genocide in America and Canaan. The first step towards freedom is the liberation of the mind from slavish obedience to a celestial dictator who demands constant praise, obsequious devotion, and murder in his name.

As Santayana said, "Those who cannot remember their past are condemned to repeat it." Thus, today we see genocide in Brazil, where farmers are setting fire to the Amazon, our best defense against climate change, and converting the lungs of the Earth into grazing land for cattle which are slaughtered and sold to American corporations like McDonald's and Burger King, to increase their profit margin by a few pennies with cancer causing, unhealthy beef.

After Custer's defeat at the Little Big Horn, America went on a rampage to wipe out the Sioux militarily and by announcing the discovery of gold in their sacred black hills of South Dakota, which unleashed an onslaught of greed, pillage and murder. Today, history repeats itself as gold mining intruders ravage the Amazon and its indigenous inhabitants. Fighting with the courage of the Sioux and the Jews of the Warsaw ghetto, the natives face seemingly insurmountable odds in their desperate struggle for survival against an implacable enemy that seeks their destruction. The

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disappearance of the Amazon rainforests spells disaster not only for its inhabitants but for all humanity.

Naturally, Trump and his cultish followers are allied with the murderers who are burning the rainforest in an Amazonian holocaust led by Trump's friend, Jair Bolsonaro, the President of Brazil who shares Trump's view of our precious planet as another commodity to exploit for financial and political gain. Trump's most ardent supporters are fundamentalist Christians and Orthodox Jews who are so focused on their imaginary next world ("olam habah") where God's chosen live happily ever, that they have no time or interest to worry about this one. History has repeatedly shown the harm that ensues when "God's elect" seeks to carry out God's plan against "the other". Trump believes none of this, but happily exploits the reservoir of gullibility and abject servility to authority among the believers towards their self-proclaimed "chosen one", who inspired them to storm the Capitol in a failed insurrection and who continues to threaten democracy, our health and our planet by spreading the virus of ignorance about the election results, climate change and the vaccine.

Inspired by the slogan of Israel, "If you will it, it is no dream" Jews know that miracles do happen, especially for those who cause a little "good trouble". As we approach the Day of Atonement, may the Jewish people atone for the misuse of our Bible, and unite to take up our historic role as the light to the nations, defenders of the oppressed, and protectors of our precious Earth.

Rabbi Barry Silver welcomes your comments and inquiries about Cosmic Judaism at barryboca@aol.com

