

Advice for the Long Haul Ahead

By Phyllis Chesler

Dear Reader:

I had prepared this for the ending of my not-yet-aired interview with Feminists Against Antisemitism. Upon re-reading this for publication, I realized that such essentially psychological advice applies to many struggles far beyond the ones I initially had in mind.

Please bear them in mind for navigating whatever moral and intellectual battle in which you may find yourself.

Those of us who are pro-Israel and anti-radical political Islam have slowly but surely been driven out of our academic departments, our media positions, and our professions. Some of us stay to battle on; some of us sue or settle or retire but no matter the outcome, our work environments eventually become too hostile to continue enduring. Thus, even without a Nazi-like legalized exclusion, the same goal has been accomplished from "below," from those who've been indoctrinated in schools and online by the funded, non-stop, and coordinated demonization of Israel—and from "above" from hostile or indifferent political leaders, administrators, and international organizations.

Some of us stay on to continue standing against such hate—evil, really— in order to document and expose it all. Some of us sue—and win. Others leave quietly. Or not so quietly. Long before 10/7, most of us became 10/8 Jews.

To my surprise, even I eventually chose to end certain former friendships because their animus towards Israel and their glorification of barbarism became unacceptable. Toxic.

Disgusting. I no longer had any time to waste on continued verbal combat, even for the sake of long-time friendships or for feminist collegiality. I no longer wanted to have to hold my nose and step around the manure.

In order to do so, one must have—or one must create—other friendships, other alliances. It is possible to do so. In the past, truth-tellers and Israel defenders have lost much more. They've lost everything.

Take absolutely nothing personally. And learn how to move fast in order to avoid all the speeding bullets. They are not personal.

Understand that the true measure of your power is in the strength of your opposition. If you have no opposition, you are not making a difference.

Learn to embrace the struggle; do not necessarily expect triumph or quick successes.

Be prepared for a life-long battle accompanied by unending and unpredictable consequences. This is what a war of ideas and a struggle for fact-based truth against hate propaganda entails.

Create a support group (not for personal or emotional reasons) in order to exchange vital information, to offer assistance and information where possible, and to work on particular issues together at the same time. The support is to enable you to do this work.

Document everything, both for the historical record and for possible legal action or media coverage. Also, do it in order to share such information with others.

Find techie types who can try to override false Blood Libels about Jews and Israelis—and about radical political Islam and Jihad terrorism.

Work with anti-Islamist Muslims and ex-Muslims and create

alliances. We are all fighting essentially the same battle for truth and tolerance over Big Lies and hatred.

Work with Christians and Conservatives. Be wary of all the “As a Jew” Jews, who are fatefully committed to assimilation and to “Palestine.” Work with Orthodox Jews who are also pro-Israel and pro-Judaism and pro-West—yes, even if you believe they are misogynists in their own lives. Really, who isn’t? I am strongly suggesting diplomacy, and I only wish that I could continue being “diplomatic” with other feminists. Alas, for me, at least at this time, it is too hard to do since so many are faux feminists and no longer stand for anything that I believe in. With some exceptions, they do not embody honorable feminist positions and do not uphold their own feminist principles.

Work with men. I cannot stress this enough. At least if they are genuine allies in the battles that you’ve chosen or that have chosen you.



Never follow a herd—they are invariably followers, not leaders, and they are often cowards and easily brainwashed.

Try to be a leader—even as you need to find allies and work on coalitions. Try to learn how to “go it alone” as well as learn how to compromise.

If you lose one battle, that does not mean you will lose the next one or the one after that. One battle does not amount to losing the entire War.

Learn how to tolerate—even celebrate—differences but only as long as those with different opinions do not shoot at or silence you.

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