

# **Big Lies and the Anti-Semitic Propaganda**

**An Essay by**

**Norman “Nourollah” Gabay**

*Edit & English Translation by Payman Akhlaghi*

*لطفاً نسخه فارسی این برگ از آلبوم را بیشتر در صفحه آغازین این فایل ملاحظه کنید.*

Although repeating a lie won't change the reality, but as our ancestors had found out, and the modern psychology would agree, [1] a lie repeated can produce the feeling and belief in the vulnerable audience that, “what's being said must certainly be true.” The Nazi leaders, particularly Hitler and his head of the propaganda, Joseph Goebbels, clearly were aware that a lie can be believed, so far as they thought, in effect, “the bigger the lie and the more it's repeated, the easier the people would come to believe it.” [2]

As history attests, the big and repeated lie has always been one main weapon for the enemies of the Jewish people to prepare the grounds for widespread harassment, and even the massacre, of Jews. From the old big lie that “Jesus of Nazareth, a Jewish rabbi, was executed by Jews” to the big lie that “Jews used the blood in baking the *matzah*”, to the publication of the fictional and mendacious *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* in Russia, or Hitler's *Mein Kampf* in the formative years of Nazism, Jews have constantly paid too heavy of a price for the lie-mongering in various forms carried out by their enemies.

Sadly, the means of baseless propaganda even in our time — or perhaps especially in our time, precisely because of the broadened reach of the media and the ease of access thereto — is still in use by those who wish ill for the Jewish people. The large number of the lies against Jews that have been spread since the crimes of October the 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, including partial or incorrect news, wholly false claims, or misleading images, even a misuse of the artificial intelligence to make baseless ideas look real and hence mislead the minds, it all makes the obligation to tell the truth, and to remain active in correcting the minds, more necessary than any other time.

I should point out that undoubtedly, Jews have not been the only victims of the big and small lies. For instance, and sadly so, we saw how by drawing on a bunch of astounding lies, some people managed to topple the reign of the Pahlavi Dynasty, those servants of the people, and made the Iranians come to regret what they'd done, so far as the majority of them would be heard today, citing a national poet, "What befalls us comes from us;" that is, "we are responsible for what happened to us."

Thus, we should learn our lesson and keep in mind that, as a Persian proverb goes, "Not everything round is a walnut", and not everything we see or hear is necessarily true. Let us learn when faced with an idea, a claim or an image, to put our emotions aside, consult with our own reason, and even as we take into account the pure or impure intent of the speaker, examine the facts objectively, without prejudice and without taking sides, and evaluate the truth or falsehood of the claim or the image, as they really are.

Norman "Nourollah" Gabay

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