

# “It’s The Jews Stupid?”?!

Dr. Mitra Makbuleh

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Dear Ones,

Several of you have sent me emails today regarding the anti-Semitic remarks made by the famous Iranian singer, Daryush, at the middle of a concert this past weekend in Las Vegas. Apparently, the singer made the following asinine remarks: *“The Jews are all very destructive... they bring destruction wherever they go.”* You have asked me if I would consider this man to be an anti-Semite and if so, how would I respond to such a lunacy? First, let me say that since I was not there, I have to rely on the reports of eyewitnesses, and *if what they are saying is true*, it only reflects very sadly on this man’s ignorant and debased inner condition and diminished mental capacity.

Unfortunately, Daryush is not alone in this new hateful wave of rush to judgment against the Jews... and let us not forget that there are Jews, Christians, and Zoroastrians who are spreading hateful anti-Moslem/anti-Arab material as well. As you may recall, several weeks ago I wrote an essay as a rebuttal to an anti-Moslem article sent to me titled *“It’s the Moslems Stupid!”* Lo and behold, a few weeks ago I found myself having to write another essay as a rebuttal to an anti-Jewish article sent to me titled *“It’s the Jews Stupid!”* The person who sent this and another article as well as a disturbing propaganda video clip to me is my dear African-American friend Ronald whom I have known for over 27 years. He wrote to me:

Dear Mitra,

I’ve sent you these articles for your opinions... The articles I send for your feedback are not my opinions! I’d truly like to know what you feel is not true and what is true.

Do you think these authors are anti-Semites? I'm simply trying to see what you think, because you are 1. A Jew, 2. Very intelligent, 3. I respect your opinions 4. There is definitely something wrong in the world and before one can hope to fight for change, one must know what to fight.

Your Friend,  
Ronald

*When you have a few moments, read what I wrote to Ronald after I reviewed the video clip and examined the articles he had forwarded to me. I believe you will find the answers to your questions regarding how to respond to Daryush's alleged idiotic remarks. I hope it will help you.*  
Lovingly, Mitra.

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Hi Ronald,

*Thanks for your email. I applaud you for wanting to know if any of the allegations made against the Jews are true, and what might be the origin of the age-old claim of a "Jewish/Zionist/Masonic" conspiracy to take over the world. You are also asking a very important question as to "**How do we define who is an anti-Semite?**" And is it possible to make fair and objective criticism of the Jews and Israel without being down right anti-Semitic?"*

*First, let me tell you an anecdote that is closely related to the topics I am about to discuss. An American tourist goes to Israel for the first time. Upon his return, his friends asked him what was the most amazing thing that happened to him in Israel? He replied, "The most amazing thing that happened to me in Israel was that I met a Jew over there who was a Communist, a Jew who was a Capitalist, a Jew who was a Zionist, a Jew who was an anti-Zionist, a Jew who was religious, a Jew who was anti-religion..." His friends stopped him at this point and said, "What's so amazing about that? You can find these different kinds of Jews here in*

America too!” He shook his head and said, “No! No! You don’t understand... this was all the same Jew!”

My good friend, after a very careful examination, I have found that the video clip and the articles you have sent me contain only half-truths, and *half-truths are worse than lies...* The problem with all the material you have sent me is that the authors ignore or whitewash the tremendous diversity within the Jewish community and purposely promulgate dangerous half-truths intended only to incite hatred and prejudice. While these articles and video clips contain some truths about some Jews or some Israelis at some time, *the authors shamelessly generalize these destructive acts of a few Jews to the entire Jewish population of the world!* These articles also contain many ugly lies and outright distortions. Let us take the articles and videos you have forwarded to me and dissect them point by point, beginning with the most recent one—the article by **Jack Bernstein** from the David Duke website:

1. The author blames the Jews for the Socialist-Communist Movement. Yes, it is true that many Jews were enthusiastic supporters and leaders of the Socialist-Communist movement, mainly because it declared religion and religious bigotry defunct and granted equal status to all peoples, and for Jews who had suffered much at the hands of fanatic Christian mobs, this was very appealing indeed. However, there were also many Jews who opposed Communism and socialism. The most clear proof is that only 7 percent of the population in Israel lives in the communistic (yet highly democratic) Kibbutzim and the rest prefer private enterprise (I lived on a Kibbutz in Israel for 6 splendid months and yet I would never want to live like that forever!). Notice that those who oppose Capitalism have also blamed the Jews for this “Evil”! (Today, in Russia Jews are being blamed for the re-emergence of Capitalism in that country.)

Jews have been blamed not only for Communism and Capitalism, but for every other “evil” in the world: White Supremacists who oppose Black emancipation blame the Jews for this “evil.” It is true after all, that many Jews were involved in this anti-racism movement and some even risked their lives and died a horrendous death while defending the civil rights of the Black Americans in places like Mississippi... but is what these Jews have done “evil”? Those who oppose Feminism blame the Jews for this “evil.” It is true after all, that many leaders of this movement such as Gloria Steinem and Betty Friedan were Jewish... But were these Jews working to promote justice and freedom for all or were they trying to destroy America as the authors of these articles claim? *The only thing these Jews destroyed was the White Supremacists’ vision of a White Christian America where women, Jews, Blacks, and all other minorities remain as disadvantaged, subordinate, and second-class citizens.*

2. Let us assume for a moment that the Jews are to blame for all these “evils.” Here is the million-dollar question: *Why are Jew-Haters like Hitler, David Duke and Ahmadi-Nejad of Iran so afraid of Communism, Feminism, Zionism, Democracy, and Civil Rights Movements?* What is it in these “Jew-instigated” movements that threatens their interests so? Pray tell me, what is so “evil” about wanting equal rights for women? Wanting equal rights for Blacks and all others? Wanting justice for people of all classes of society, or wanting a small piece of land for the Jews as a safe haven among the more than fifty lands for Moslems and so many more countries for Christians where Jews have been persecuted for centuries?
3. No doubt, there have always been Jews who have done terrible and evil things both for their own selfish reasons and sometimes in the name of all Jews and Judaism (Dr. Baruch Goldstein who massacred

a crowd of Moslem Arabs at prayer is one recent example).

*However, even if it were true that some “Jews” are pure evil, why generalize this to ALL JEWS? Isn't this what racist bigots like David Duke have always done with Blacks—blaming them all for the violence, ignorance, and the evil they see in a few of them? How about the many Jewish philanthropists, literary and artistic giants, scientific geniuses and Nobel Prize winners who have contributed so much to humanity, are they all part of the Jewish agenda to take over the world? How about the many educated, intelligent, loving, and philanthropic Blacks like you Ronald, and like Oprah Winfrey, Maya Angelou, Martin Luther King, etc., should they be judged by the violent behavior of a few Black criminals?*

4. It is incorrect and deceitful to try to convince the Jews that if they just oppose and eradicate Zionism and Communism, everybody would love them and accept them. The fact is that *centuries before there ever was any Communist or Zionist movement*, Jews were being harassed, tortured, and murdered in Iran and all over Europe by angry mobs incited by idiotic anti-Jewish allegations perpetrated by fanatic Moslem and Christian clergy. Centuries before Communism and Zionism, the Jews had been blamed for everything under the Sun, the Black Plague, the Blood Libel, Witchcraft, you name it! Today they are blamed for the spread of Aids, the slave trade, teen-age pregnancies, pornography, Hollywood, Blood Libel, etc. (My best friend in elementary school in Tehran did not dare come to my house for a long time because she was brainwashed to believe that Jews put the blood of Moslem children in their Passover Matzoh! The Blood Libel was invented way before there ever was any Zionism or Communism...)
5. Yes, it is true that *some Ashkenazi/Western Jews look with contempt and prejudice toward Sephardic/Eastern Jews* and treat them like second class

citizens (I witnessed and experienced this firsthand while living in Israel). But this is by no means true of all Ashkenazi Jews! Many if not most of them I found to be very kind and respectful of all human beings. (One of them, my dearest and closest friend, Tsipy Nachshon, may she rest in peace, did for me more than any family member has ever done; she literally saved my life in Israel when we were still only classmates at Tel Aviv University). Besides, there were times in history (15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> Centuries) when the reverse was true and ***some bigoted Sephardic Jews were extremely contemptuous of the Ashkenazi Jews*** and would mourn if their son or daughter married one of them! Is there any social group that is free of this nonsense?

6. Yes, as you have said, there is and always has been something definitely wrong with our world. But Jews and non-Jews are equally to blame for it and must cooperate to find solutions. This will not happen as long as we point fingers at each other and listen to pro-Semites or anti-Semites, pro-Zionists, or anti-Zionists. Having lived within several cultures, I have come to realize that ***the only differences among people are differences in levels of consciousness, love, wisdom, and maturity.*** I have witnessed high and low levels among all groups. The solution to divisiveness among the human family must be sought in the neutralization of the poisonous ***“US vs. THEM”*** dualistic mindset and the fostering of mutual recognition and respect. We must encourage the cultivation of a ***unity-in-diversity*** mentality where no group claims any superiority over any other in any shape or form. Many of my fellow Jews hate me for telling them that ***Jews cannot continue to judge non-Jews solely on the basis of their religion and still expect to be respected and loved by non-Jews... the spiritual LAW is simple: As You Sow, So Shall You Reap!***

7. With regard to the article you sent me titled: ***“It’s the Jews Stupid!”*** I find it ironic that only a few weeks earlier I had written a rebuttal to another article called: ***“It’s the Moslems Stupid!”*** sent to me by a Zoroastrian-Iranian. Well, it turns out that it is the authors of these articles who are not only stupid but dangerous as well because of the half-truths they are disseminating. The author of the article you sent me claims for example that: “Adolph Hitler was entirely cognizant of the fact that German Jewry had collectively done their best to destroy the German economy and German nation after the First World War. Does this mean that every German Jew participated in this treasonous pursuit, that every German Jew became wealthy at the expense of their non-Jewish German neighbors? Of course not, but like today in America, most Jews actively participated in covering up the crimes of their criminal co-religionists, which makes them complicit to a certain extent.” As is typical of these types of authors, of course he does not provide any references or example at all for his outrageous claim. Even so, let us assume for a moment that he is right. While there might have been individual Jews in post World War I Germany, as there certainly are some Jews in today’s America, who have exploited the misery of others for their own selfish gains, what does this have to do with ***ALL JEWS*** everywhere? Why punish them collectively for the crimes of the few? What real evidence does he have that “most Jews actively participated in covering up the crimes of their criminal co-religionists...?” What blatant nonsense is this? Are all White people responsible for Hitler’s and Stalin’s atrocities? Are all Black prople responsible for the fact that the late Black attorney Johnnie Cochran covered up the alleged horrific crimes committed by O.J. Simpson? And you my good friend, are you, as a Black man, responsible for all the crimes ever committed by your fellow Black brothers simply because you failed to speak up against all these crimes? I rest my case.

8. *The author of this article also claims that:* “The fact is, Zionism is racist, it is inherently racist, far more so than anything of the old Jim Crow variety. Judaism itself is a racist religion, it’s obvious enough, the entire foundation of Judaism rests on the idea that Jews are a “chosen people,” and the term “people” connotes race and “chosen,” connotes exclusivity – put the two together and you inevitably get “racism.” A no-brainer really - but an idea that Jews have successfully kept hidden from the Goyim cattle.” *and,* “Unless Gentiles become aware of the fact that Zionism is nothing but Jewish Supremacism's latest “ism,” preceded in the past by many others, i.e. feminism, socialism, communism, and that these “ism’s” are nothing more than tactics used in a grand strategy to weaken our will and western civilization itself, we’ll never get to the heart of the problem at hand, we’ll continue to fight wars for the Jews, to kill for the Jews, to arrest and incarcerate people for the Jews, to suppress the right to free expression for the Jews, etc... etc... ad infinitum. The time to liberate ourselves is now.”

*Ronald, in your informed opinion, does this author even have the slightest idea of what “racism” means? A simple trip to Israel would prove to anyone who is not blind that Jews come in all colors and from all races! I am willing to bet that this guy has never read even one book about Judaism and has no clue about its tenets or he would not be making such ignorant remarks as “Judaism itself is a racist religion.” Before they were prohibited and threatened by death if they did not refrain from proselytizing, Jews were actively inviting others to join their path and many historically prominent Jews like Onkelos and Rabbi Akkiba were gentiles who converted to Judaism. Anyone from any race can become a Jew. Can anyone from any race become a Black or a Chinese? **Are some Jews racists? Yes, of course!** Do some Jews think themselves better than others? Most definitely! **But why generalize this to ALL JEWS?** Pick up any book on Judaism and you will find out that Jews are supposed to **“love Mercy, promote justice, and walk humbly with God,”***

and that the whole concept of “*The Chosen People*” is explicitly defined as “*Chosen to serve*” not chosen to be masters of others!

This author also bemoans the fact that the Jews are overrepresented in all aspects of the American society and have too much influence. Should we hate the Blacks because Oprah Winfrey is the most influential woman in the world? Should we call Oprah a racist because she has allowed admission only to Black girls for her exclusive Leadership School in Africa and she is backing Barak Obama for Presidency? Should we complain that Blacks are overrepresented in MBA championships and in all sports? Let us look at how *Mark Twain* viewed the same fact of Jewish overrepresentation in every facet of the American society many decades ago:

“If the statistics are right, the Jews constitute but one percent of the human race. It suggests a nebulous dim puff of stardust in the blaze of the Milky Way. Properly, the Jew ought hardly to be heard of, but he is heard of, has always been heard of. He is as prominent on the planet as any other people. His contributions to the world’s list of great names in literature, science, art, music, finance, medicine, and abstruse learning are also way out of proportion to the weakness of his numbers. He has made a marvelous fight in this world, in all the ages; and has done it with his hands tied behind him. . . . All things are mortal but the Jew; all other forces pass, but he remains. What is the secret of his immortality? (From: Mark Twain, “**Concerning the Jews,**” in *Harper’s Magazine*, September, 1899). Also, let us consider how *Ernest Van Den Haag* writes about this subject in his book *The Jewish Mystique* (page 37-38):

“There is no new industry, or science, no new movement in art or literature, no new theory in psychology or physics, no new movement in politics or religion in which Jews do not play a prominent part. The lives of us all in the West . . . and even of vast areas in the rest of the world have been

strongly influenced, if not altogether shaped, by a view of human fate which is essentially Jewish in cast and origin. Jewish influence continues, not only through our common religious heritage, which clearly bears the marks of its Jewish origin, but also through the constant addition of new, non-religious ideas produced by Jewish scientists and scholars.” *Van Den Haag devotes his entire book to solving this mystery which he looks upon as something positive to be understood and emulated, not despised.*

*Even the Nobel Peace Prizewinner, the **Dalai Lama** of Tibet, has expressed the same positive attitude toward this phenomenon. In his book, *The Jew in the Lotus*, Roger Kamenetz reports: “He [the Dalai Lama] had some questions. . . Jews have done more than merely survive, they have thrived, competed, and excelled. Why, he wanted to know, are Jews leaders in ‘economy, education, scientific research, and other fields?’ (page 221). The point is that we can look at the Jewish overrepresentation in all these social spheres as something negative to be despised or as something to learn from and emulate. Have some Jews abused their positions of influence and power throughout history? Yes, of course! Are ALL JEWS to blame for their sin? No, definitely not!*

9. *As for the tendency of some Jews to abuse the label “anti-Semite” in order to shut up anyone who is remotely critical of individual Jews, Judaism, or Israeli policies, I agree with all the authors whose writings you have forwarded to me. I myself have been labeled an “anti-Semite” and a “self-hating Jew” because I dare to criticize the attitudes of some Jews toward non-Jews, I write about the dangers of Jewish fundamentalism, and I question the ethics of some Israeli policies with regard to the Palestinians. Having said that, I would still consider most of these authors whose material you keep*

forwarding to me as *anti-Semites*. *They are anti-Semites because instead of criticizing individual Jews, they blame ALL JEWS*, instead of remarking on both the great contributions of the Jews to humanity and their negative tendencies, they only point to their short-comings. Instead of pointing out the many great things accomplished by Israelis and the superior condition and the freedom enjoyed by the Israeli Arabs relative to Arabs in other countries, they only point to the terrible condition of the Palestinian refugees without mentioning anything about the role of the Arab and Moslem leaders of oil-rich countries in prolonging this nightmare. *To me, this one-sidedness and this intentional negative generalization is the essence of all bigotry and all prejudice, and it is what separates the anti-Semite from an objective person who is simply criticizing certain Jews for certain behaviors.* This brings me to my last point:

10. With regard to the video clip you had sent me called “*Palestinians Are Still the Issue*,” I watched the video, and I must tell you that like all decent Jews, I do not agree with much of what the Israeli government has done in the occupied territories under the pressure from fundamentalist Jews and power hungry politicians. However, I am very skeptical of the contents of this film about the Palestinian issue because I know firsthand about the long history of total lies and shameless propaganda perpetrated by Arab leaders and the fundamentalist Islamic regime of Iran against Jews and Israel. This video clip claims that Israeli soldiers have smeared feces all over copy machines and have vandalized children’s schoolrooms in Palestinian towns. The Israelis are too smart for that; they know very well that in this day and age with camera-cell-phones and instant internet video access one could incur tremendous damage to one’s image by engaging in such inhuman and idiotic acts. But on the other hand, there might be insanely sadistic people in the Israeli army

just as there are in all the armies of the world. This should not be generalized to an entire nation.

Also, I found this film to be quite unfair and one-sided; it does not show anything about the role of Arab leaders in perpetuating the horrible situation of the Palestinians for their own gain. Neither does it mention anything about the high living standards of the Israeli Arabs and their inclusion in the parliament and even as ministers in the Israeli government, their health and educational level which is the highest among all Arabs, etc. There is plenty of blame to go around...and the Israelis and the Arabs both share in this blame.

This film-maker has it all wrong, *Palestinians are not the issue*. There is enough land and oil money in the Middle East to make a heavenly life for everyone. Look at the Sunni-Shiite fiasco in Iraq. Are Palestinians the issue over there? Why are the Sunni and Shiite Moslems slaughtering each other over there? Look at Darfur where the Arab Moslems are carrying out a systematic genocide against a non-Moslem/non-Arab population... Are Palestinians the issue here? The issue is and has always been *intolerant religious fundamentalism, political greed, and the manipulation of the ignorant masses of the Jews, the Moslems, the Christians, and all others by religious and political leaders*.

Having said all this, no matter whose fault the Palestinian problem is, I must say that like Albert Einstein, I expect it from my fellow Jews to rise to the occasion and show to the rest of the world what they have learned from 2600 years of oppression and suffering. I expect them to act in such a way as to demonstrate to the world what it means to *Love Thy Neighbor as Thyself*...

*My dear Ronald, it is now past 2 AM and I must end this long treatise even though much still remains to be said. I hope I have answered some of your inquiries. Let me know if you have any other questions.*

*Cheers,  
Mitra*

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*Here is Ronald's response to my email:*

**From:** Ronald S.

Dear Mitra,  
This is the most beautiful, thoughtful, and moving article I have ever received from you. THANK YOU!

I think you are remarkable, brilliant, and compassionate. Nobody could have written a more cogent essay especially at 2 am!

You have pitted KNOWLEDGE against IGNORANCE and KNOWLEDGE has won.

Warmest Regards,  
Your Friend,  
Ronald