

# Moshe Siselsender

**Is a person permitted to renounce his conversion to Judaism in order to save their life ?**

**THIS IS A FICTITIOUS CASE WRITTEN TO ILLUSTRATE JEWISH LAW THE SETTING OF THE STORY OCCURS DURING PERIOD IN JEWISH HISTORY IN THE YEARS 1500s IN SPAIN WHEN A JEW OR CONVERT TO JUDAISM CAUGHT**

# PRACTICING JUDAISM WOULD BE BURNED AT THE STAKE.

X lived in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century. He was a Morano- a member of the 250,000 Jews who remained in Spain after August 1492 when all Jews and Moors were forced to convert to Christianity or be exiled from Spain. Any Jew or Moore remaining in Spain caught practicing their religion was burned at the stake.

## ANALYSIS .

X was a Morono . His father already converted. He was raised with little or no Jewish background . It was life threatening to observe or teach Judaism. His parents did the right thing in not observing or have their children observe Judaism otherwise they would be burned at the stake.

Pekuach nefesh doche kil hatorah kulo. The saving of life trumps all laws. Yoreh Dayoh 157:1

One is obligated to violate all laws to save one's life or the life of another. True, one is obligated to sacrifice their life not to violate the sins of murder fornication with a married woman and idol worship.

Christianity believes in God. However the God figure is a unit of the Father the Son and the Holy

Ghost . Each of these entities is separate and apart and distinct. Each of these entities have different roles or attributes. The distinct entities are united as One. Christians believe that this union is a Divine mystery. They also believe that God the Father got a married Jewish virgin pregnant and she gave birth to the Son. The Son at age 12 debated the Jewish sages about religion. When the Son was in his early 30s he became a threat to the people in power was tried found guilty and was handed over to the Romans and crucified. He

was dead for three days . He rose from the dead and joined the Father in heaven and became part of the Trinity.

The ancient Egyptians believe in a similar religion. The Mother is called not Mary like the Christian mother of God , but Osiris Marie. She is not a mortal , but a Goddess. The Son God is called Horus. But he is not killed, but his father another God Isis. Isis is dead for three days. He is sent to hell to be purified. After three days his wife Osiris Marie resurrects Isis, who

then joins the Father God his wife Osiris and a constellation of other Gods in a confederation - All the Gods and Goddesses are distinct but mysteriously One.

The Buddhists have the elephant God get the married queen whose name is Maya pregnant and Buddah is born. Buddah is also a threat to those in power. He is tried found guilty but by some freak of luck is

not executed. However he flies to heaven where he joins the father God together with a whole host of other Gods and Goddesses.

The same series of events occur in the Persian religion. However it is not the son who is born from an immaculate conception , but the mother of the son. The son is the one who becomes a threat to those

in power. He is tried found guilty is executed is dead for three days .

Then he rises from the dead flies to heaven and joins the father God and other Gods and Goddesses.

The same series of events is behind the Hindu religion. They also claim to be monotheistic in the same sense as the Egyptians the Buddhists and the Christians.

The religion of the ancient Greeks and ancient Romans and ancient Babylonians had all the same

elements . The Son God has an immaculate birth. His mother is a married virgin. He antagonizes the people in power. He is tried found guilty crucified is dead for three days rises from the dead flies to heaven and becomes part of a confederation of Gods and Goddesses . Each God is separate and distinct and has roles or attributes. But all the Gods are united in a confederation and therefore all Gods are really One.

Each of these religions supercedes all other prior religions. All people

must accept the new faith ,  
otherwise they will die by burning.  
As well as have eternal death in  
hell.

All these Middle Eastern and  
Eastern religions as well as  
Christianity have similar rituals .

The faithful- for communion -  
partake of a biscuit and drink wine.  
They believe that they are

consuming the body of their Savior and drinking his blood and thus are united with God. This ritual is part of every mass celebrated in the Catholic Church. This mass is celebrated at Baptism Confirmation Weddings and Funerals. It is also celebrated at prayer .

When the early Christian fathers were asked as to the identical resemblance of their theology to the other Eastern and Mid-Eastern religions they replied the following.

The other religions were the work of the devil. Only Christianity is the true faith.. Never mind the identical pattern identical rituals identical prayers. The others were the work of the devil. It is only Christianity that has the true faith.

Christianity is called in Hebrew a belief in shutfos it is a belief that the distinct Gods have a partnership. Such a belief system is permitted for non Jews but prohibited for Jews. See Ramo Orech Chaim 157 and citations from talmud and Rishonim.

All agree that it is forbidden for a Jew to adopt any religion other than Torah Judaism. However one is not called to sacrifice his life as an act of Kiddush Hashem if one is forced

to adopt Islam.

The Rambam ruled in Igros Taimon that Jews forced to adopt Islam are not obligated to sacrifice themselves.

Furthermore, the Mitzvah of Kiddush Hashem exists only if 10 Jews witness the execution. These Jews must all be one million percent observant of all laws of the Torah.

Furthermore, who says that his mother was Jewish ?

Even if she was and x had to sacrifice his life if he refused he still would receive olem habo . Life after death eternal life. One is not punished for violating any sin if he is forced. That would apply even if he practices all Church rituals.  
Rambam Yesodai hatorah 5:1,2,3,4

Furthermore according to the

responsa of Rav Yehuda son of Rosh in Shomayim Rosh one is forbidden to sacrifice his her life when the Sanedrin is not in existence Kiddush hashem is taking of your own life must be preapproved by the Sanehdrin sitting at the gates of the Holy Temple. We do not possess the Holy Temple for 2000 years. We do not have a Sanehdrin since the year 400 ACE.

FOR ALL THESE REASONS x does not necessarily have to renounce his Judaism . He can

remain Jewish and still elect not to burn at the stake but make believe that he accepts Christianity.

However as soon as he has an opportunity to escape and go to an other country where he can practice Judaism he is mandated to do so.

However if he is a Christian and converts to Judaism with out full disclosure that he will be killed for doing that , he is free to renounce Judaism since he was not aware what he was getting into.

I personally refused to officiate

an Orthodox conversion for a prospective convert who was a student studying in the USA. He came from an African country where a belief in Judaism would put his life and the life of his family in danger. Would he have been converted I would have annulled such conversion.

The Rabbis of the Talmud went even further. Following the exile of the ten tribes of the Northern Kingdom by Assyria, they declared all the members exiled non Jews.

rebellion in 130ACE had the support of many Talmudic personalities most notably Rav Akiva. Rav Akiva was tortured to death together with nine other Torah scholars many were burned to death. This time around Rome forbid the study of Torah.

Thus Jews living in countries other than Israel survived.

Thus was born the strategy of having Jews scattered over all the four corners of the earth.

This strategy enabled Jews to survive until the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

European anti-Semitism for 2000 years decimated the Jewish people. Josephus writes that in the time of Solomon there were 60 million Jews. If that is the case we should have billions of Jews today. Why in 1650 there existed no more than one and a half million Jews ? Why at the eve of the second World War there were no more than 18 million Jews. The answer is that the European anti-Semites forced the Jews to convert or massacred them.

Those Jews who remained were the Children of the most intelligent

shreddest strongest. of the species. It was a question of survival of the fittest.

Afer the murder of 6 million Jews And one million Jewish children by the Nazis with the total complicity of the Europeans and Roosevelt the only responsible srategy is for Jews to have Israel . Until Messiah will come Jews must rely on their own strength. God ill help the Jews survive if the Jews help themselves.

The Europeans are sworn

**enemies of the Jews.**

The Torah the word of God clearly spells out how to treat such people.

“WHEN SOME ONE ARISES TO KILL YOU PREEMPT AND KILL HIM FIRST.”

LET ALL OF ONE BILLION EUROPEANS AND ONE BILLION MUSLIMS KNOW THAT THEY WILL BE HISTORY IF THEY ATTACK THE JEWS IN ISRAEL.

They thus removed the barriers and distinctiveness from those Jews exiled . They permitted them to assimilate in the foreign countries and thus save their lives.

They were following the reasoning that I outlined above. No laws exist in order to save a human life . Pekuach Nefesh Doche kol hatorah kulo.

In retrospect having two

thousand years history one can appreciate the decision of the ancient Babylonian community to refuse to return to Israel with Ezra Nechemia. According to what is related in the books of Ezra Nechemia Daniel no more than 24500 Jews returned to Israel. Even after the second Temple was built the over whelming majority of Jews remained in Babylonia. Why ?

The answer is because the Jews were aware that it would be suicidal for all Jews to go to Israel . . . The Jews did not want to place all their

eggs in one basket. With the turn of fortunes that was prevalent at that time with empires rising while others were dying the Jews refused to have all Jews remain in place.. A Country or Empire that was friendly to Jews at one time would change rulers the old rulers would be killed or over thrown and new rulers hostile to Jews would gain control. Thus the Jews would have a greater chance for survival if they were spread over the entire world rather than all in one country.

The rationale of this policy is best illustrated in the Bible book of Daniel.

Daniel interpreted the emperor Nebuchadnezer's dream as translated by Malbim that the Babylonian empire would be conquered by the Persian Empire. They in turn would fall to the Greeks. The Greeks would fall to the Romans. Daniel even foresaw The Egyptian queen Cleopatra with Anthony He foresaw the

destruction of the second Temple by the Romans.

Thus the Jews saw that their best chance for survival would be to be dispersed over the four corners of the world.

On one hand the Jews under the Maccabees fought sacrificed their lives against the Greeks and gained independence for 200 years. This is celebrated at Chanukah.

However their independence was cut short by the entry of Rome in 66 BCE.

IN 70 ACE the Jews revolted against Rome. It was suicidal.

The RABBIS OF THE Talmud led by Rav Yochanon Benzakai reached an accommodation with the Romans. They agreed to surrender and Rome promised to ensure their safety and guarantee the safety and support of the schools of Talmud studies.

Other Jews followed their example or on their own reached the same conclusion. Josephus a commander in the north of Israel surrendered and was not harmed. After the war

he wrote 20 books tracing the history of the Jews from the time of Moses their entry to the Holy land up to his time.

Would the defenders and martyrs who took their own lives rather than surrender have been forgiven by the Romans or would they have been crucified like the Roman executed many Jewish prisoners? The Romans killed one million Jews during the rebellion in 70 ACE and the rebellion against Rome led by Bar Kochbah in 130 ACE. The Bar Kochba