



Light from the Yellow Star

A Lesson of Love from the Holocaust

ROBERT O. FISCH



YELLOW STAR FOUNDATION



The Mission of the Yellow Star Foundation

The purpose of the Yellow Star Foundation is to help educate young people about the Holocaust, using Dr. Robert Fisch's book, *Light From the Yellow Star*.

Recognizing that there are already many important Holocaust education projects, the Foundation attempts to stay focused primarily on the distribution of Dr. Fisch's book to interested schools and religious schools. While people of all ages seem to be deeply touched by the message of *Light From the Yellow Star*, the Foundation's primary aim is to reach students of junior high and high school age.

The Foundation raises money from individuals and some foundations to print and distribute the book to schools, free of charge, relying on all volunteer help.

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In memory of my father and others
who were persecuted for their faith

With thanks to Anna and all those
who risked their own lives to help save my mother and others
because of their own beliefs

To my daughter, Rebecca Alexandria, and to all children,
whom I love because of my faith in them

And to my friends,
who had faith in me

These Words Are Their Flowers—“They Were Killed by Hatred; Their Memory Is Kept Alive in Love.”

I have been thinking for quite a long time whether any medium is appropriate to describe the scope of the tragedy of the Holocaust. How can sorrow, suffering, and atrocities of this magnitude be expressed? With this book I want to say that it is not the ugliness of hate but the beauty of love which survives in time. History is the result of human emotion, conflict, and interest. The purpose of this book is not to make a memento of this horror but to know it and to learn from it. We need to find out how to prevent the occurrence of such a tragedy again and how to be human beings in all circumstances. We must develop principles of belief which provide a good quality of life, with self-respect as well as respect for others and by others. The Holocaust teaches this lesson: “Love overcomes hate.”



I was 18 years old, living in Budapest, Hungary. My mother worked from 3 a.m. until 6 p.m., six days a week. Her favorite saying was, "A man is as good as his word." From her I learned determination, endurance, and responsibility. My father, an exceptionally good man, loved life and always helped others. His favorite saying was, "Live and let live." From him I learned compassion and laughter. He and I had unlimited joy together. I admired my father above all other human beings. Our parents provided my brother and me with every kind of education, and with things they were not fortunate enough to have had in their youth.

I had just finished high school and was getting ready for further studies. Because I was a Jew, I was not accepted at the university. Instead I attended evening classes at an art school. (My older brother was sent to Switzerland to study and to be away from the political turmoil.) From my infancy, I had a devout Catholic nurse named Anna, who lived with us through the years and became like a second mother to me, providing me with unlimited love and kindness. I attended both Friday service in the synagogue and Sunday Mass. I was taught to respect others' beliefs and ways of life, and our door was always open to those who were less fortunate.

Buda and Pest are separated by the River Danube, but bridges connect them. So it was in my home: different religions were linked by love and understanding.

