

We all learn about the Holocaust. We all learn how horrendously the German people were treated by Nazi Political Party. We all learn how truly evil the Nazis were. But to me, learning about the Holocaust isn't all about the evil. It's also about the good: People who risked their lives for others, people who fought for what they believed in, and people who knew wrong from right. These people were the resisters, the protectors, the ones who shouldn't be forgotten.

These people weren't always the biggest leaders or the biggest countries, but they all risked everything and anything they had to protect the Jewish people. One of these countries was the island of Zakynthos. Their story, in my opinion, is the most inspiring one of all.

Zakynthos is an island off the coast of Greece, about 1,600 miles away from Germany. Their story starts in September 1943 when Nazi officials demanded their mayor, Lokas Karrer, to hand over a list of the 275 Jews living on the island. He went to Bishop Chrysostomos for help. They turned the list into the Germans with only two names: Mayor Karrer and Bishop Chrysostomos. The Bishop courageously told the Germans, "'Here are your Jews. If you choose to deport the Jews of Zakynthos, you must also take me and I will share their fate.'" During this exchange of messages, the Jews fled for their lives into the mountainous villages, where they were hidden by faithful non-Jewish neighbors. The entire island knew what was happening, how dangerous it was, yet none reviled the hidden Jews.

Ten years later a disastrous earthquake struck Zakynthos, and left them devastated and pained. The first boat sent to help the victims of the earthquake was from Israel with a note that read, "The Jews of Zakynthos have never forgotten their Mayor or their beloved Bishop and what they did for us."

This story reminds me that the Holocaust isn't all about the evil, the hatred, or simply, the bad. We also need to take the time and think about the good, kindhearted people who knew the difference between wrong and right. The people who risked their lives, to save all of the 275 doesn't seem like much, but to them, it was their entire universe. 275 'universes' saved because of the people of Zakynthos. And they are the true reason we should never forget the Holocaust.

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