

**תלמוד בבלי תמיד ל"א-ל"ב. Babylonian Talmud Tamid 31b-32a**

עשרה דברים שאל אלכסנדרוס מוקדון את זקני הנגב [...] אמר להם אידין מתקרי חכים אמרו ליה איזהו חכם הרואה את הנולד Alexander III of Macedon (Alexander the Great) asked ten questions of the Sages of the Negev [...] He asked them: Who is to be called wise? They replied: Who is wise? One who sees the consequences of one's actions. [Literally: One who sees that which is born.]

**Sevareid's Law (Eric Sevareid, American author and CBS News journalist, 1912-92)**

The chief cause of problems is solutions.

**"The Rav: Thinking Aloud", by David Holzer (pp. 140-141)**

*[The Rav had been discussing what is required to perform a "sacrificial action". This does not just mean literally slaughtering, but any service to God performed by restricting oneself, such as obeying the dietary or sexual restrictions given in halachah.]*

[...] The sacrificial action must be a free action. It depends on the freedom of the sacrificial action. In order to be significant, the withdrawal must extend from the free decision of the individual either to act or to retreat, to conquer or to experience defeat, and he chose the latter of them.

No undue influence and no coercive circumstances must interfere with the behavior of the person. Sacrifice is endowed with meaning as long as the act of offering was experienced in liberty and [the] unrestricted opportunity of deciding against the deed. If one is constrained by legislation which is provided by effective sanctions, by public opinion, by ulterior considerations to conform to certain codes of morality or ethical standards, then the sublime sacrificial action is desecrated, vulgarized.

The halo which *yahadus* weaves about sacrificial action is born in freedom. Wherever there is a factor of force – in all its manifestations, not only police force – the great dialectical experience of sacrifice is rendered lame.

Only the individual who is capable of disobedience, who is free to rebel, to resist, to protest, to question, to invalidate every standard and dogma – only this individual is able to surrender his admirable power of standing against everything and everybody, including God, and accept instead of triumph, defeat.

**Albus Dumbledore as quoted by J. K. Rowling, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows"**

It is a curious thing, Harry, but perhaps those who are best suited to power are those who have never sought it.

Feedback and critique are appreciated! Email [rabbi@maayan-nj.org](mailto:rabbi@maayan-nj.org) or call 732-266-1214.

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Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN)

<http://www.rainn.org>

National Sexual Assault Hotline: 800-656-4673

Childhelp

<http://www.childhelp.org>

National Child Abuse Hotline: 800-422-4453

### Selected statistics on sexual violence:

1. One in 9 girls and 1 in 53 boys under the age of 18 experience sexual abuse or assault at the hands of an adult. (David Finkelhor, Anne Shattuck, Heather A. Turner, & Sherry L. Hamby, The Lifetime Prevalence of Child Sexual Abuse and Sexual Assault Assessed in Late Adolescence, 55 *Journal of Adolescent Health* 329, 329-333 (2014))
2. 1 out of every 6 American women has been the victim of an attempted or completed rape in her lifetime, and about 3% of American men—or 1 in 33—have experienced an attempted or completed rape in their lifetime. (National Institute of Justice & Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, Prevalence, Incidence and Consequences of Violence Against Women Survey (1998))
3. One in four girls and one in six boys will be sexually abused before they turn 18 years old (Finkelhor, D., Hotaling, G., Lewis, I. A., & Smith, C. (1990). Sexual abuse in a national survey of adult men and women: Prevalence, characteristics and risk factors. *Child Abuse & Neglect* 14, 19-28. doi:10.1016/0145-2134(90)90077-7)
4. In the U.S., one in three women and one in six men experienced some form of contact sexual violence in their lifetime (Smith, S. G., Chen, J., Basile, K. C., Gilbert, L. K., Merrick, M. T., Patel, N., ... Jain, A. (2017). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010-2012 state report. Retrieved from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/NISVS-StateReportBook.pdf>)

The goal of this presentation is not to get bogged down in statistics; even one incidence of sexual violence is one too many. The purpose of citing these statistics is to show the extent of the problem; even according to the **most conservative statistics** (1 and 2), about 1 in 16 children experience sexual abuse before age 18, and about 1 in 10 people are the victim of an attempted or completed rape in their lifetime. The statistics cited in 3 and 4 are more commonly cited, and imply that about one of every five children under 18 experience sexual abuse and about one of every four people experience sexual violence in their lifetime.

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