



By Alessandra Wollner

*Hey Soapmaker,*

Master-Chemist,

Essene Rabbi (self-proclaimed),

*Herr Doktor* without a Doctorate,

I have a story  
for you.

About your **Magic**  
**18-in-1**

**“ALL-ONE!”**

You know—  
your peace-bringing  
foam for the  
**body-mind-soul-spirit.**

And indeed,  
Emanuel Bronner, née Emil  
Heilbronner\*,  
You’ve cleaned up

the physio-psycho-spiritual  
acts of three  
hippy-dippy generations,

*Mazel!*

*\*[Btw,  
dropping the Heil  
after emigrating  
from Germany?  
Good call.]*

But do you know  
from wherever you float, [hopefully in a bubble bath]  
your **pure-castile** now has a **19<sup>th</sup>**  
use? And that  
that use is a *bissel*  
bit sullied

with  
DREAD memory  
BAD BLOOD  
echoes  
of  
**DIRTY JEW**  
?

Of all men  
you know  
ours is a

*story bookended by genocide*  

---

*a storybook ended by genocide*

salt-streaked servitude → shower heads  
that never spouted. And then  
70 years past that brutal cleanse  
in a new desert stands  
a foam-filled glass  
receptaclespectacle  
overcrowded.

After all that  
your grandson [a very nice man, I'm sure]  
recreates

the whole thing?

What would you say/how would you feel, that the meticulously formulated suds of your  
GONNA WASH *THAT MAN THAT MAN THAT FURIOUS MAN WHO KILLED* *your father*  
BERTHOLD Z”L AND *your mother* FRANZISKA 'Z"’L'\* AND MY ANCESTORS, THE ONES I  
NEVER KNEW EXISTED 'Z"’L'\* RIGHT OUTTA OUR HAIR made me feel like I was

\* *Zikrono/a Levracha* — “may his/her memory be a blessing”

**there**

**there**

AUSCHWITZAUSCHWITZAUSCHWITZthereIsaiditAUSCHWITZAUSCHWITZAUSCHWITZ

**THERE?**

Sorry.  
I'm overlathered.  
I'll back up.

First, there was

dust.

Then

Dust

.

then...

DUST.

Then

DUST

And then...

DUST

DUST

DUST

DUST.



DUST EVERYWHERE fucking evvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvverywhere IN EVERY <sup>crevice</sup>  
AND EVERY <sup>orifice</sup> A **WHITE OUT** <sup>the dust</sup> AN ENTITIY A SOUND A TASTE A FORCE OVERTAKING  
EVERY <sup>sight</sup> NOTHING TO SEE HERE BUT

# DUST .

And there I am

a **Jew** wandering the desert

*[of Nevada, on a beach cruiser, wearing sequined booty shorts]*

vision demolished by a mighty pillar of cloud

*[dust storm]*

staggering blind

*[pedaling]*

in search of succor, of shelter, of solace, of...

a shower.

Yes, a shower.

A naked, group shower.

I am a Jew, wandering the desert, in search of a

naked  
group  
shower.

No—  
I know.

I'll explain.

WHEN I told my therapist **I have this dream** to charter a boat to take me out to the Great White breeding grounds off the coast of Northern California, put on some scuba gear and float inside a metal cage while experts chum the water she told me I had a

## Counterphobic attitude

---

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Counterphobic attitude** is a response to [anxiety](#) that, instead of fleeing the source of fear in the manner of a [phobia](#), actively seeks it out, in the hope of overcoming the original anxiousness.<sup>[1]</sup>

# Ok, fine, fair, yes.

I'm counterphobic, ok? I'm totally counterphobic.

But I swear <<**I SWEAR**>> this naked group shower thing was not about that.

It was a dust storm, *zachar*?

It was That Place, *zachar*?

It was A Thing, a Famous Thing, that people seek out there,  
...*zachar*?

Ok, that last one maybe you don't *zachar*\*.

Oh, here—



↑ Have you ever seen a foam machine at Burning Man? Seems like it would be fun. (imgur.com)  
21 submitted 5 months ago by leoinca  
↓ 16 comments share

all 16 comments

sorted by: **best** ▼

↑ [-] **Jovankat** Radically self expressing my pedantry 16 points 5 months ago

↓ Yes.

There is a camp run by the guy who owns a particular band of soap that is quite popular amongst burners that has a foam party/shower set up that is AMAZING. Everyone gets naked and dances together in a huge tent and then you're led into a giant plexiglass tank which is on the back of a semi trailer where you're hosed down with foam and then water.

Here's a [picture](#).

They change their name with the theme each year, last year was Fauxmirage, and they don't advertise their location.

My sneaky sources tell me they will be called "Something Freaky this Way Foams" this year though. ;)

Also rumour is that public showers are illegal in Nevada and the only way this camp is able to get away with what they do is that it's supposed to be a foam "performance" by the people in the tank up on the semi trailer "stage" for the "audience" in the rest of the tent. I'm not sure how true that is. Either way though there are also Burning Man rules about public pool type gifts and the grey water situation would be a nightmare.

\* *Zachar*, Hebrew for "remember" appears in the Book of Deuteronomy 15 times reminding Jews to keep their covenant with God. A synonym for keeping something in mind: not forgetting. <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> According to a 2013 study conducted by the Pew Research Center on Judaism in America

**73%** said Remembering The Holocaust is essential to their identity as a Jew. Above the

**69%** that said Leading an Ethical Life,

and the **43%** that said Caring About Israel,

and the **42%** that said Having a Good Sense of Humor.

Remembering. The Holocaust. That was the top thing they said.

Great. I feel better.

**MEANWHILE...**

**BACK IN THE  
DESERT...**

*I found the showers.*

**Disgruntled, Dust-Crusted, Cold** [booty shorts and a body chain aren't very insulating]

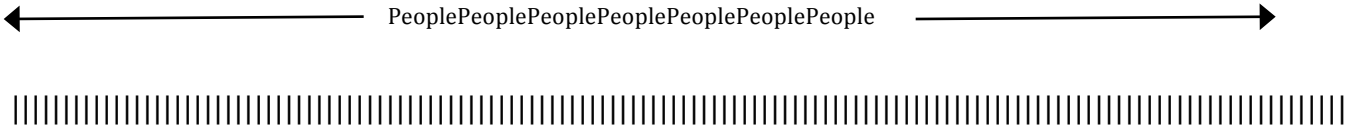
*Lost in a storm so thick it*

*Eclipsed the sun*

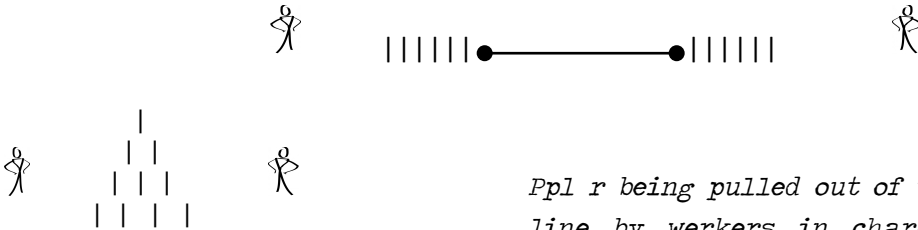
*Shivering and alone and*

*there is a Line.*

Kiosk w/  
greeter



Se  
co  
nd  
Lin  
e  
O  
f  
Pe  
opl  
e  
P  
eo  
ple  
Pe  
opl  
e



*Ppl r being pulled out of the 1<sup>st</sup> big line by werkers in charge of the kamp. If u want to **KUT THE LYNE & GIT 2 THE SHOWERZ FASTR** they sey u kan play a game of tug-o-war orr form a human pyrāmid orr have xtra dust thrown on u. A mann w/ a bullhorn & kaptainz hat iz asking 4 voluntears 4 all this. Anuther mann iz handing out notekards & stubby pencils along the 1<sup>st</sup> lyne, telling us 2 write down r most shameful desire & hand it 2 the woman @ the kiosk who will **STAMP R ARMZ** 2 advance us 2 the 2<sup>nd</sup> lyne & frum there we can*

**GIT INN THE SHOWERS.**

the Thing the Place

**THE  
SHOW**

*This feels weird. And bad and familiar. And bad.*

*i ignore the BadFamiliar & stay inn lyne &  
rite down my mosssst shameful dessire' &  
hand it 2 the blonde womann inn the keeosk who  
takes & reedz & lookss @ me & sez*

***...nothing.***

*Just takesss my kard & stamps  
my arm & tellz me i can move  
2 the 2<sup>nd</sup> lyne.*

*\*No, fuck you, you don't get to  
know it. And neither should she  
have.*

*& wen i get 2 the hed of that, there iz  
a BIG TENT & a mann  
outside the flap  
who assks 2 c my arm & direktz me  
inn  
& tellz me 2 go*

**RITE.**

*Why was I told to go right? The person before me went*

**LEFT.**

*Incide the tent iz flesh.*

evree

l

NAKED

orr

getting

NAKED

&

onse

they

r

NAKED

then

WAITING

inn

yet

another

LYNE.

A gorgeously muskled mann <sup>blak w/ magnifisent</sup>

dredloxx & wite wite smyle holdz the krOwd @

bay b4 a redvelvetrope.

Evree now & then he letz

15 orr sew eager

bodees inn

2 an antichamber we kan almost

c, the penultimate stage.

SeXXXy men

danse & beautifull

womynnn wrythe

inn an elevated sentral kage

fully kLOATHED

inn koördinated top hatz + b & w

StRIPedkostumeSSpandex.

*Their stripes are vertical and skinny, like circus performers,  
not thick and horizontal, like prisoners.*



Innsyde the *sanctum sanctorum*  
there iz 1 lasst (optional)  
stop @ a sTATion  
wHERE u kan

## SHAVE UR HEAD

(orr beard orr chest orr bak orr whatevr i guess)  
b4 u GIT INN THE SHOWER WICH iz  
rite there,  
finally inn  
front of uss, 1 last  
lyne of naked bodEEs waiting  
2 b sprAIed w/ foam &  
kold kold wahter  
insyde a long rektangle  
of glaSSs.







Oh Emanuel, Emanuel,

I know you meant well with your **Moral ABCs** and plea for peace on  
**Spaceship Earth** printed on every bottle and that sure-voiced call—

## ALL-ONE or None!\*

*...Who knew saponifying  
could be such a calling?*

And you are absolutely right; **love can spark  
mere dust to life.** But the epigenetics  
of ancestral trauma\*\* are looking realer  
by the day and if I ever doubted my status

as a Jew [*Jew on the wrong side Shikse on the right*]

I buried that fear right there  
at your grandson's camp feeling

gaslit [*pun unintended but noted*],  
everyone laughing and shuckling  
off their clothes wanting  
in that fat glass box.

E, I'm not sure why  
I'm telling you all this  
[you've been 'Z"L' for quite some time yourself]

all I know is I needed up on  
this soapbox to explain  
how your excellent lather  
became part of history  
accidentally repeating.  
I needed you to know how  
unseife it felt inside  
that soapbox.

\*I see you, E; that six-word prayer—

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, יְיָ אֶחָד.

*Shema, Yisrael, Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai Echad*

**Listen Children Eternal Father Eternally One!**

Gematria: each Hebrew  
letter with its numerical  
value  
8 (Chet) + 10 (Yud) = 18  
Chet + Yud spells חַי  
Chai.  
Hebrew for LIFE.  
Hi  
High—  
E, you made soapmaking  
such Chai and lovely work.

\*"18-IN-1 uses"

\*\*The Torah knew  
already—

*The fathers have  
eaten sour grapes  
and the children's  
teeth are set on  
edge."*

*Ezekiel 18:2*

**Life's Goal**

**By You  
(with a small assist  
by Me)**

**To keep my health,  
to do my work,  
to love, to live.**

**To see to it I gain  
and grow and give  
and give. To feel free  
of threat inside  
a shower.**

**Never contribute  
to oppression; only  
to empower.**

**Always working,  
always searching  
for more truth, more  
light. Always speaking,  
always WRITING,  
for what I find  
good and right!**

O Listen,

*Der oylem iz a goylem. / Der oylem iz nit keyn goylem.*

People are idiots. / People are not idiots.

Yes

We Must

Remember

Also Amen(d).

All-One or None.

