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“Nobel Prize Winners”

by
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Alfred Nobel, a world- renowned Swedish scientist and industrialist who is best known for the invention of explosives, including dynamite, died in 1895 with an estate worth today’s equivalent of several hundred million dollars. Part of his will, shown below, designated that 94% of his wealth should be used to encourage and reward those who contribute to the good of mankind.

“The whole of my remaining realizable estate shall be dealt with in the following way:

The capital shall be invested by my executors in safe securities and shall constitute a fund, the interest on which shall be annually distributed in the form of prizes to those who, during the preceding year, shall have conferred the greatest benefit on mankind. The said interest shall be divided into five equal parts, which shall be apportioned as follows: one part to the person who shall have made the most important discovery or invention within the field of physics; one part to the person who shall have made the most important chemical discovery or improvement; one part to the person who shall have made the most important discovery within the domain of physiology or medicine; one part to the person who shall have produced in the field of literature the most outstanding work of an idealistic tendency; and one part to the person who shall have done the most or the best work for fraternity among nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses... It is my express wish that in awarding the prizes no consideration whatever shall be given to the nationality of the candidates, so that the most worthy shall receive the prize, whether he be Scandinavian or not.” The Nobel Prizes in the specific disciplines (Chemistry, Physics, Physiology or Medicine, Peace, and Literature) and the Prize in Economics, which is commonly identified with them, are widely regarded as the most prestigious award one can receive in those fields. The first awards ceremony was held on the anniversary of his death, December 10th, in 1901 and has awarded hundreds of Nobel Prizes to deserving men and women.

Nobel’s intentions were honorable and worthwhile and the last line dealing with these bequests is especially telling indicating that *“no consideration be given to the nationality of the candidates...”* That line, and an e-mail I received, inspired this article to check on two specific nationalities that have been at war with one another for centuries and see how their progeny have fared in receiving Nobel Prizes. I’m referring to the Muslims and the Jews. Currently the Islamic population of the world consists of approximately 1,200,000,000. (That’s 1Billion 200 Million,) which represents 20% of the world’s population. The current Jewish world population is 14,000,000 (14 Million), which only represents .02% (2/10 of 1 per cent) of the total world population.

In the areas of Literature, Peace, Economics, Physics and Medicine the following number of Muslims have received Nobel Prizes: Literature – 8 recipients; Peace- 4 recipients; Economics – Zero recipients; Physics – Zero recipients; and Medicine – 2 recipients. A total of 7 recipients in 117 years. In the same time period Jewish recipients have received: Literature – 10 recipients; Peace – 8 recipients; Economics – 13 recipients; Physics – 53 recipients; Medicine – 43 recipients. A total of 129 recipients.

An amazing difference, one would have to agree. To what one factor should we attribute this overwhelming difference... political favoritism? I think not. Folks, although there are millions of people who will not agree, the real reason Jews have received more of these honors than Muslims is purely the religious ideology of both groups and the extremist and or permissive attitudes of those who lead them.

One can look at today's newspaper headlines and TV lead stories and immediately determine the ideology and/or nationality of the individuals involved whether they are Jew or Muslim. If we hear about a hijacked plane, or Olympic athletes held hostage or schools and hospitals blown up by suicide bombers do we automatically think Jews did it? No way... we know extremist Muslims were involved. If we hear of young children being trained to kill by strapping bombs to their backs and destroying as many innocent civilians as they can do we think the Jews are responsible? No! Are all Muslims terrorists? No... but those who aren't only comprise a small percentage of the religion and, seemingly, are doing nothing to remove those from their ranks who are terrorists.

As a people, it has been members of the Muslim population all over the world that has been the perpetrators of many, if not all, of the terrorist acts that have taken place in the world in the last 50 years, killing hundreds and thousands of innocent people for no reason other than they were told to. Jews do not teach such barbarism to their young children. Jewish leaders do not declare a Jihad against all those who believe differently than they do.

Maybe the Muslim leaders of the world should spend less money on bomb making materials and invest it in better education for their children and stop blaming Jews for all their problems. Muslims ask for acceptance and respect from all of us but do nothing to stop those who are killing us. If the leaders of a people do not believe in the sanctity of human life and living in peace with all their neighbors, how can their followers be expected to win prizes that honor them for their contributions to the safety, health, enrichment and prosperity of their fellow man? They can't for there are no contributions.

If you say I'm wrong in my thinking dwell on these words of two former Jewish leaders... "If the Arabs put down their weapons today, there would be no more violence. If the Jews put down their weapons today, there would be no more Israel." (Benjamin Netanyahu.)

"When Muslims love their children more than they hate Jews, there will be peace." (Golda Meir.)