

Last Will and Testament

Zipporah Birman, a graduate of the Rozhishch HeHalutz HaZair, was active in the Tel Hai Hachshara Kibbutz in Bialistok when that city was captured by the Germans. She was in the resistance movement, and fell in the Bialistok ghetto rebellion in August, 1943. After the war, the archives of the underground were located buried in the earth outside of the ghetto. There, included in a letter addressed "My friends, the Halutzim", her last will and testament was found, in which she wrote :



Zippora Birman.

"There is no alternative, no other way but to die an honourable death together with all the thousands who are going to their death and that without fear.

We know that the Jewish people will not perish. It will still grow and blossom forth as a nation. It will arise and avenge the spilled blood of the innocent.

Yes, this is my appeal to you, friends, wherever you may be. You must undertake the absolute debt to avenge us. Not one of you must rest, sleep peacefully at night or find peace of mind during the day. As we, here, are in the shadow of death, so you, there, are the source of revenge for the blood that has been spilled.

Cursed be the reader of these words who suffices with a sigh and afterwards goes back to his daily routine. Cursed be the person for whom it is enough that he drop a tear and cries for our souls.

It is not that which we want. We did not cry even for our parents. We conquered our tears, and looked in silence at the dead bodies of our friends, shot down like dogs.

We call to you for revenge, revenge without mercy, without feeling, without talk of "good" Germans. For a "good" German — an easy death. He will die last, as they promised the Jew who for them was good; thus they should be shot last. This is what all of us demand. This is the will of the people who will perhaps fall tomorrow; who are about to fight with honour and to fall honourably.

REVENGE! This is what we demand of you, who did not suffer Hitler's hell. This is something you must do, even should it endanger your lives. Our bones shattered in all of Europe's corners will not rest, our ashes spread throughout the crematoria will not find peace until we are avenged.

Remember; and fulfill our will — your duty."