

The Crime of My Very Existence

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NAZISM AND THE MYTH OF JEWISH CRIMINALITY

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*To the memory of George L. Mosse
and his family of colleagues, students, and friends
who carry his spark with generosity, grace, and humor*

*It is I who created the smith
To fan the charcoal fire
And produce the tools for his work;
So it is I who create
The instruments of havoc.

No weapon formed against you
Shall succeed,
And every tongue that contends with you at the law
You shall defeat.
Such is the lot of the servants of the Lord,
Such their triumph through Me
—declares the Lord*

ISAIAH 54:16–17

Third Haftarah of the Consolation (R' eih)

*When the inmates of the house, attracted by Oliver's cries,
hurried to the spot from which they proceeded, they found
him, pale and agitated, pointing in the direction of the
meadows behind the house, and scarcely able to articulate
the words "The Jew, the Jew!"*

CHARLES DICKENS

"Book the Second, Chapter the Twelfth," *Oliver Twist* (1841)

*Someone must have told lies about Joseph K. because,
without having done anything wrong, one morning he
was arrested.*

FRANZ KAFKA

Der Prozess (1925)

