

Vegan Revolution: Saving Our World, Revitalizing Judaism by Richard H. Schwartz Quotes

For all these reasons, the honest conclusion must be that it is virtually impossible today to live in accordance with Jewish religious requirements if one is party to the consumption of animal products, especially in Western society; and that a contemporary dietary lifestyle that is consistent with kashrut in practice and in spirit must be a plant-based diet. – Rabbi David Rosen [former chief rabbi of Ireland]¹

I have been deeply disturbed by the seeming lack of concern for universal issues among many of my religious Jewish brethren (as well as most other people). Within their own communities they are very caring and generous, but they often seem to have little interest in applying Jewish values to issues that affect the rest of humanity.²

My reaction to the Judaism of the time is summed up in the following paragraph from one of my articles for the synagogue newsletter: It is generally not religious values that dominate in synagogues today, but rather materialistic, middle-class values. The problem is that far too few people (sometimes including

¹ 18 Kindle Ed

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myself) take God and religious teachings seriously enough. If we did, would we fail to protest against the destruction of the precious planet that God has given us as our home? Would we be so apathetic while millions of people die of hunger and its effects annually (when God has provided sufficient food for every person on Earth), and additional millions suffer from poverty and a lack of shelter, clean water, and other necessities, while hundreds of billions of dollars are spent creating newer and better ways to wage war? If a person took God and religious values seriously, he or she would be among the greatest critics of society, where religious values are generally given lip service, at best. She or he would be among the greatest champions of peace and justice.³

If you are a currently meat-eating religious Jew, I respectfully ask you to reconsider your dietary practice. If you are not ready to become a vegan now, you can take some intermediate positive steps, hopefully on your path to veganism. These include initially going vegetarian, eating meat only on Shabbat and holidays or only when eating out, eating smaller portions, stopping eating meat while continuing to consume dairy products, and giving up eating red meat. You will set an example and perhaps convince others to do the same, thus mitigating much suffering in the world today. The remainder of this book demonstrates how.⁴

³ 32-33

⁴ 44

Buy the book and Audible: <https://www.amazon.com.au/Vegan-Revolution-Saving-Revitalizing-Judaism/dp/1590566270>