



Henri R. Manasse, Jr.

Social Relevance, Purpose, and Legitimacy

Many have experienced life-enriching conversations with Henri, and if you enjoy time with people who make you think, Henri will be at the top of your list. He often brings a social, moral, and global perspective to conversations and has a unique ability to connect those perspectives to practical aspects of your life. He is intensely devoted to his family, profession, friends, and his societal purpose. Here he draws from his personal family history through which he powerfully states that a profession must exist in a bigger social context.

Henri retired as the Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP). He has served as Vice President for Health Sciences and Professor at the University of Iowa, Interim Vice Chancellor for Health Services University of Illinois at Chicago Medical Center, and Dean and Professor at the University of Illinois, College of Pharmacy. He continually worked throughout his career to improve patient care by serving in leadership positions for professional organizations including the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, the Federation International Pharmaceutique, and the National Patient Safety Foundation.

Henri received his bachelor of science degree from the University of Illinois, his master of arts degree from Loyola University, and his doctor of philosophy degree from the University of Minnesota. In recognition of his contributions, he received the Harvey AK Whitney Lecture Award, ASHP's highest award for health-system pharmacy, and received several honorary doctor of science degrees from major universities. He was inducted into the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences in 1996.

Here Henri encourages you to *consider your role as a professional in a free and democratic society.*



Dear Young Pharmacist,

I am a son of the Holocaust. What does THAT mean, you might ask? Simply put, my mother and father were victims, but fortunately, survivors of the terror inflicted on them by the Nazi army when it occupied The Netherlands from 1940 to the end of World War II in May 1945. Both of them were in and survived Nazi concentration camps—my father at Westerbork in the Netherlands and my mother at Ravensbrück in Germany near Berlin. My father's parents were both murdered at Auschwitz; hence, I never had the pleasure and joy of growing up with grandparents on my father's side of the family. Many family members on my father's side also perished at the hands of the Nazis.

You might now ask why I am sharing this deeply personal part of my family's history. Again, simply put, these realities were at the foundation of my psychological, social, and moral development as a child and ultimately extended as I grew into adulthood. They served as the backdrop and context of my socialization as an individual. To this day, the stories from my parents and other family members who survived the almost five-year occupation of my birth homeland, and the experiences that I have had around this family history, have had a major impact on my thinking, acting, and perspectives. I have visited several Nazi concentration camps, have read many books and articles around the Holocaust theme, have been to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC, and the Yad Vashem Memorial in Jerusalem, and have talked with other Holocaust survivors. I have visited the many memorials, museums, and the historic sites related to the Holocaust in Berlin, the heart of the Nazi government and military. I have also been to the national cemeteries where the liberating and sacrificial soldiers from the United States and Canada are buried.

My family immigrated to the United States in March 1954, the same year that the United States Supreme Court rendered its decision on *Brown vs The Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*. My memory of the graphic newspaper images in the *Chicago Tribune* of the race riots that resulted from this decision is still vivid in my mind. My mother actually questioned whether the family had made the right decision to come to America. Later in life when I was a young academic, I learned

that Jewish professors who had lost their jobs in German universities during the expansion of national socialism in Germany attempted to be employed by American universities but were not successful due to the strong anti-Semitic sentiments abounding in majority white universities. Many of them were received by predominantly and historically black universities in the Jim Crow South. I also lived through the race riots in Chicago after the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968. In fact, the west side of Chicago where I was finishing my pharmacy education was literally on fire during that time.

These deeply impressive family and experiential roots in my background were not lost in my thinking about pharmacy, pharmacy practice, and pharmacy education during my early professional development and throughout my career. You might then ask, how can that be? Well again, simply put, our pharmacy world (e.g., practice, education, regulation) exists within a bigger social context.

The issues of social justice, equity and equality, social worth and significance, professional power and influence, and social obligation and accountability are all applicable to pharmacy as a profession and to our daily lives as pharmacy professionals. Our profession exists only to the extent that the broader society grants us the social privileges associated with access to medicines, their appropriate distribution, and ensuring their proper use. That privilege is undergirded by fundamental ethical, moral, and legal principles linked to the Hippocratic admonition that we do only good for our patients. Pharmacy's social object must be focused on the application of scientific evidence and clinical judgment and experience related to appropriate medicines management and use in society. To the extent that our profession meets this obligation, we will have social relevance, purpose, and legitimacy.

The Nazi era in Europe and the American experience in slavery and civil rights are specific examples of their respective societies getting morally and ethically off track. These abridgements of a moral and ethical compass resulted in the deaths of millions of people and embedded hatred and strife that continues to have lasting reverberations in our nation and the world. These atrocities were perpetrated while the majority said or did nothing. I am reminded of the words of Edmund Burke, the Irish parliamentarian who stated:

“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.”

These matters also have implications for our profession. Our professional associations work hard at advocating for continuous advancement, thus identifying those policy issues and professional challenges that demand speaking the truth and creating desired futures. But that advocacy work always has as its backdrop some historical truth. For example, the disastrous compounding problems that occurred at the New England Compounding Center cast a dark pall on our profession.

I want you to think deeply about your role as a professional person in a free and democratic society. I know I have burdened you with some heavy issues, but I have done that purposely. I want you to think about your civic, as well as professional, engagement in society. I also hope that you will give deep thought to issues of social justice and equality and always focus on doing good. To these ends, I wish you a rewarding career and continuous happiness in your chosen profession.

I'd like to end my message to you with my favorite quote from Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, as Polonius admonishes his son:

*This above all: and to thine own self be true.
And it shall follow as the night does the day.
Thou canst not then be false to any man.*

Blessings and the best of all to you my dear mentee!
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