“They were raised under the story that the Jewish people were the ultimate victims of history.  But they had been confronted with an incredible truth – that there was no ultimate victim, that victims and victimizers were ever flowing.”

(From, *The Message*(2024), by Ta-nahisi Coates)

“This is true of human beings.  There’s no exception to the fact that victims victimize all the time.  I as a black American carry all of that, and am presently wrestling with that.

“There is no inherent, deep nobility (for having suffered) – now I’m speaking of my own people for having been subjected to enslavement, Jim Crow, etc. - It’s bad, it’s wrong, hopefully it confers some degree of wisdom upon you, but sometimes it doesn’t.

“You never have the luxury of saying, ‘These are my people.  We’re right.  We’re okay.  This is my side.  No, no, these are my people culturally, these are my people historically, but I can’t tell you that tomorrow I might not have to say something that you might find me an outcast from my own home.”

(Ta-Nahisi Coates Interview with Chris Hayes, MSNBC, Oct. 3, 2024)