

# Praise the Contrary and Its Defenders

Contributed by [Eileen Levinson](#)

Source: Sue Swartz, compiled in Velveteen Rabbi's Haggadah by Rachel Barenblat

*For the chief musician, on common instrument: a song of rebellion.*

Praise rising up. Praise unlawful assembly.  
Praise the road of excess and the palace of wisdom.  
Praise glass houses. Praise the hand that cradles the stone.  
Praise refusal of obedience. Praise the young on Raamses Street.  
Praise Galileo. Praise acceleration.  
Praise bombshells and en masse.  
Praise sit-down strikes. Praise outside agitators.  
Praise Red Emma. Praise her pistol and praise her restraint.  
Praise living your life. Praise Joan of Arc.  
Praise wayward daughters. Praise their wayward sons.  
Praise the power of indulgence.  
Praise Luther's Ninety-Five Theses. Praise the nail  
and the printing press. Praise the First Amendment.  
Praise free verse. Praise yellow sunflowers.  
Praise red wheelbarrows and transcendental leanings.  
Praise illicit beauty. Praise the poets of Guantanamo.  
Praise the poets of Burma. Praise the noisy streets.  
Praise those who tear down walls and climb fences.  
Praise Letters from Prison. Praise those who say yes.  
Praise the bound notebook and what is within.  
Praise Legal Aid attorneys. Praise kitchen-table conspiracies.  
Praise insomnia. Praise our hunger. Praise days  
we are the bread. Praise farmers' markets.  
Praise Al Gore and quantum physics.  
Praise Schrödinger and his cat. Praise jumping in.  
Praise talking snakes. Praise history & run-on sentences.  
Praise what are the odds? Praise purposeful wandering.  
Praise the best minds of any generation. Praise John Brown.  
Praise Newt Gingrich. Praise enough is enough.  
Praise Walt Whitman and the self. Praise the body's  
wild intelligence. Praise ACT UP and Vagina Monologues.  
Praise getting satisfaction. Praise Gertrude Stein.  
Praise cross-dressing. Praise untouchables,  
partisans and riffraff. Praise slackers. Praise those  
who talk back. Praise sympathy for the devil.  
Praise the oldest profession. Praise mothers of the disappeared.  
Praise mothers of the found. Praise mothers not yet mothers.  
Praise not looking away. Praise realists and Cubists.  
Praise prohibitionists & remorse. Praise hitting your head  
against the wall. Praise giving peace a chance.  
Praise Zionist conspiracies. Praise free elections.  
Praise Selma, Alabama and early voting. Praise mutiny.

Praise backyard whiskey and those who cook with fire.  
Praise Priscilla the Monkey Girl. Praise her admirers.  
Praise Freud and Marx and Sinatra. Praise Earhardt.  
Praise those who remember what they are told to forget.  
Praise agnostics. Praise what we are not supposed to praise.  
Praise the electrical storm and the still small voice.  
Praise all the proverbs of hell. Praise those  
who see it coming. Praise those who do it anyway.  
Praise whatever happens next.