

## Ani Difranco

# "My Name Is Lisa Kalvelage"

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My name is Lisa Kalvelage, I was born in Nuremberg  
And when the trials were held there nineteen years ago  
It seemed to me ridiculous to hold a nation all to blame  
For the horrors that the world did undergo

A short while later when I applied to be a G. I. bride  
An American consular official questioned me  
He refused my exit permit, said my answers did not  
show  
I'd learned my lesson about responsibility

Thus suddenly, I was forced to start thinking on this  
theme  
And when later I was permitted to emigrate  
I must have been asked a hundred times, where I was  
and what I did  
In those years when Hitler ruled our state

I said, I was a child or at most a teenager  
But that only extended the questioning  
They'd ask, where were my parents, my father, my  
mother  
And to this I could answer not a thing

The seed planted there at Nuremberg in 1947  
Started to sprout and to grow  
Gradually, I understood what that verdict meant to me  
When there are crimes that I can see and I can know

And now I also know what it is to be charged with mass  
guilt  
Once in a lifetime is enough for me  
No, I could not take it for a second time  
And that is why I am here today

The events of May 25th, the day of our protest  
Put a small balance weight on the other side  
Hopefully, someday my contribution to peace  
Will help just a bit to turn the tide

And perhaps I can tell my children six  
And later on their own children

That at least in the future they need not be silent  
When they are asked, "Where was your mother,  
when?"

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