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DeProgram Program

*From the Mind of Sha'i ben-Tekoa**Transcript*<http://www.deprogramprogram.com>*Date: May 7, 2015 / יח אייר תשע"ה**Parasha: BeHar / בהר**Title: The Non-Jewish Jew***Copyright: Sha'i ben-Tekoa 2015****www.deprogramprogram.com**

Shalom laYehudim, Shalom laBnai Noach, Shalom laGoyim. It's the evening of the 6th day, *yud-kebes beIyar, tav-shin-ayin-beh, Parashas BeHar*, the evening of the 5th day, Thursday, 7 May 2015, webcasting from the State of Israel at its least savory.

There is a connection, though I am not sure of how it works, between the wretched political system here and one of its results which is an ugly political discourse of *lashon hara*/evil speech literally, words used unnecessarily that pollute the atmosphere.

So there is to be a new government with the backing of 61 MKs only, which no one expects to last, and the result is toxic cascades of verbal nastiness. JPost's political reporter Gil Hoffman wrote under the headline, "Time for Revenge" referring to those politicians who have felt slighted by the prime minister, and what is significant is that none of them are politically opposed to him. For sure, Boojie Herzog sneered but of course, he is the opposition. In contrast, the MSM today was full of politicians on the right who have a score to settle with Netanyahu for his mistreatment of them.

Notice this has little to do with policy and everything to do with ego. And I suspect that the common denominator is that all those offended by him felt he did not see things their way and did not treat them as equals.

I think this is a legacy of the dominant Zionist Left that led the Israelis into independence in 1948 with their half-baked notions of democracy, half-baked in part because most of them grew up abroad in countries with no strong history of liberal democracy. For them -- those social democrats -- a government was a committee, as in the Central Committee of the Communist Party in the Soviet Union.

Not that the first Israelis were communists. Only that their notion of government was government by committee that takes votes and the majority opinion wins.

Sort of like the kibbutz. On the kibbutz, the executive manager, the secretary who worked in an office and did not work in the fields was not paid any more than a field hand. Indeed, nobody was paid anything. And everybody had the same size cottage. In the earliest, truly communistic kibbutzim, a comrade did not even own his own clothes. There was (as on all kibbutzim) a communal laundry and a comrade would take what was available each week in his or her size. There was zero competition in a material sense. No one envied his better off neighbor because no such neighbor existed.

On the kibbutz, with some jobs more pleasant than others, the members would rotate periodically. For example, someone who had little experience running the chicken coop might be given that job who then learns it over time, and when he gets it right, he is moved out to another job and is replaced by someone as ignorant as he was at the beginning. It is a perfect plan for inefficiency.

For example, the new Ministress of Justice, Ayelet Shaked, got a BS in electrical engineering and computer science. She worked as a software engineer for Texas Instruments in Israel, and managed marketing in the country for that firm. No background in the legal profession.

Like Yair Lapid last time, that uneducated -- and especially about finance -- high school dropout who became Minister of Finance. Israeli politicians experience no discomfort with this system. They want to be Cabinet Ministers and experience in the business of the ministry is not a requirement.

So, I think a lot of the bitterness against Bibi inside his party and parties of the Right stems from his disappointing them in their demands for this ministry or that. Their self-esteem is wounded. You can't make everybody happy.

And just in general, I suspect, Netanyahu has never treated his staffers as equal partners. He is the leader; he has no partners. He is located on the other side of the political solar system when it comes to believing in government by committee. He does not come from that tradition.

And now that he has only 61 Knesset supporters, he is still not through with dealing with his party with its aspirants for other ministries yet to be doled out, and losers will hold it against him when he hands a ministry over to someone else. And never mind any discussion about the different policies the competitors would pursue.

In a word, for yours truly, the chatter here this week and today about politics bores me and embarrasses me. It is another facet of the Israeli personality I wish the country would outgrow.

How different things might be with a real democracy with politicians who are chosen directly by the voters and not via these political parties run by central committees, as in the Soviet Union, which, as in the Soviet Union, are dominated by the few real big shots. It is

being chosen by the big shots to have a place on a party list; that is how you get to be an MK, not because you have civilian backers who vote for you to be their representative. None of these MKs ever gets calls from constituents voicing their support for his vote the day before or criticism of it.

And so I am going drop this annoying news story, the putting together of a new government and the doling out of ministries.

Far more important and worrisome was the story earlier in the week of the new Minister of Finance Moshe Kahlon wanting to see public transport in Jerusalem on Shabbos. No, not full service but – just for starters – some mini-vans.

That’s how it begins. He said, “The people who need public transportation on Shabbat are those who don’t have money to buy a car. I don’t want them to have to pay for a taxi to visit their grandchildren.”

And what else do the lowest income people not have that he thinks they should have? Nicer clothes, a better apartment so they don’t feel inferior to others? Better schools? Vacations abroad? How nice that he cares for this group but not for their neighbors who do keep Shabbos and will be disturbed by the vehicular traffic in their streets.

The non-religious live in darkness when it comes to Shabbos, ignorant of its benefits, like creating a 25-hour zone of peace in which streets are empty of traffic, and families and children walk and play in them with no fear of danger. The air is also healthier. Shabbos has families sitting together at table with no distractions, no entertainment, no TV, no Smartphones, only each other.

Here’s an idea: What Israel might think about is not only restructuring the electoral system but its six-day work week. In the modern age of conveniences, freeing more time away from work could be beneficial. From time to time, the idea of adopting a five-day work week here like the rest of the world is bandied out. It has its problems, that plan, but it might be sold and the problems solved if the legislation strengthening Sabbath observance were part of it. Israel might think about Sunday as a day off, but in exchange observing the Sabbath day for real nationwide be strengthened. There is so much violation of the Sabbath these days by the majority of Israelis violating the fourth commandment. They might be encouraged to give that fourth commandment a try by enforcing a real Sabbath. No television. No movie theaters. No restaurants.

Let Sunday be a day for riding in the car to visit relatives or to the beach or for family picnics. What an unusual society Israel would have in the world with massive Sabbath observance.

Jewish lore teaches us that Messiah will come when all the Jews keep Shabbos two weeks in a row, and a new deal here in that regard might even lead to that.

* * (Musical Interlude) * *

Yes, I am more perturbed by Moshe Kahlon wanting, in the guise of compassion for the poorest of the poor, calling for more Sabbath violation than the political, verbal

catfights between our politicians. It smacks of the never-ending aggression by the Enlightened against Jewishness.

Take another example. Before sunrise yesterday, Jews moved into an empty building in Jerusalem that had once belonged to the Yemenite community that created the neighborhood the Arabs today call Silwan, which is corruption of the Hebrew. It was in fact a synagogue which fell into Arab hands because during the real first intifada of the 1930s, the Brits forced all the Jews out of the community they had built because they chose not to defend them from the Arab barbarians who kept trying to murder them.

This community had been established on barren land in the early 1880s. A famous landmark in the history of the modern Zionist movement was the Biluim groups who from Russia and Romania rose up to the land, emigrated to live here following the pogroms against Jews in that part of the world in the wake of the assassination of Russian Czar Alexander III in 1881. The overwhelmingly Ashkenazi founders glorified in memories of the Biluim in fact found a community of *olim* already in place when they got here. Yemenite Jews who had come as a group to live in Eretz Yisrael. This historic community that vanished in the 1930s, on Wednesday saw one of their important synagogues repossessed by perfectly legal means.

But leave it to the Enlightened to protest. Yet another NGO, surely supported by antiJews outside Eretz Yisrael, called *Ir Amim*, which means City of Peoples -- in the plural, hint-hint, not just one people -- admitted the sale was legal but nonetheless, Ateret Cohanim, the Yeshiva which took possession, “wrongfully seized the property from the family that lived there while the state turned a blind eye.”

You got that? It is legal, they admit, but wrong. Ateret Cohanim legally bought the property from the Abu Nab family who had been living in these three apartments. *Ir Amim* claimed it is another in a “series of incursions into Palestinian homes in recent months.” It called the Jerusalem Yeshiva in the Holy City, a “settler organization.” “The state supports Ateret Cohanim and this policy degrades Jerusalem and should stop.”

Ir Amim, meaning City of Peoples, tells you by its name its philosophy, the very title. You know: “The Jews have no monopoly over Jerusalem. It belongs no less to other peoples, starting with the Ancient Ones.”

I think this organization’s founding NGO mission statement says *Ir Amim* is “dedicated to an egalitarian Jerusalem.” Oh, how nice that sounds.

These antiJews of Jewish extraction spend not one penny on criticizing the reality that there are 21 officially Arab states, members of the Arab League of States, which means every non-Arab in them is by definition a second-class resident. *Ir Amim* says nothing of the 56 official Muslim countries with capital cities but Israel, the Jews, are not entitled to their own Jewish country and Jewish capital. “That’s racist. Like those Orthodox Jews who say non-Orthodox Jews are not Jews” – which is not true.

Ir Amim stands for an “egalitarian” Jerusalem, which sounds like a kissing cousin of the “moral equivalence” between Jews and the Ancient Ones.

Indeed, the Muslim public relations agent in the Oval Office in an interview with LTF last summer said, after lavishing much (insincere) praise on Israel for its accomplishments and especially its military prowess and ability to defend itself, so he does not worry for Israel's physical survival: "I think the question really is how does Israel survive and create a Jewish state that maintains its democratic and civic traditions is also reflective of the best values of those who founded Israel. And in order to do that, it has consistently been my belief that you have to find a way to live side by side in peace with Palestinians. You have to recognize that they have legitimate claims and this is their land and neighborhood as well."

And there, ladies and gentlemen, you have it: the nuclear core of the fires of anti-Jew hatred in our time. This is ground zero. For this, we Jews are the targets all the time of Muslim murderers because we stole Balesstine from the Balesstinians and we have to recognize, as His Holiness Imam Barack Hussein says, that said Balesstinians "have legitimate claims and this their land as well."

In other words, the Jews are in possession of their (!) land to which they have as much right as the Jews have to their land. Both are ancient peoples who call this real estate their ancient homeland. And that Israel does not respect their "legitimate claims to this land as their land," well, what do expect when Muslims want to kill them?

This is a quote from an interview last August that should have been answered by the Prime Minister of Israel and the President of Israel and the Speaker of Knesset of Israel and the two Chief Rabbis with a declaration saying, "No, these Arabs claiming to be Ancient Palestinians have no legitimate claims, and there is not a shred of historical evidence there ever was such a nation that called this land their ancient homeland. This is the ancient homeland of the Jewish people exclusively, and all other claims are bogus, antisemitic lies."

Of course, that never happened. But I've no doubt this is the nuclear core of all our woes. The victory in this generation of world anti-Jewry has been the injecting of these lies into the public arena.

I mean, the Nations United in New York and Geneva is functionally obsessed with Israel's allegedly illegal and immoral and unjust possession of land belonging to its rightful ancient people. This is why the UN spends a third of its time and money on Israel's criminal refusal to let the victims of Zionism have an independent state, this nationality as old as the Jews.

It is another variation on the bleating of NGOs like *Ir Amim* that sees in Israel's exclusive, monopolistic rule in Jerusalem a crime. It should it an "egalitarian Jerusalem," they say.

Now the upside of this behavior by our enemies non-Jewish and Jewish alike -- *Ir Amim's* operatives are Israeli Jews -- is, at least for yours, heartwarming, if admittedly a twisted form of praise. I mean, this hostility to the Jewish people is a form of recognition of the truth of the Jews' religion. It is a singling out of the Jewish people for treatment unique on the planet. Secular Israelis bemoan the reality that of the 193 member-states in

the UN, only Israel is treated as it is. It is the only member-state that can never sit on the Security Council and the only member-state among over a 100 admitted since World War II whose national movement was branded a racist movement.

The Balestinians have repeatedly demanded a state that is perfectly Judenrein -- no Jews in it -- and nobody, certainly not the New York Times, says a thing. The Palis demand such an independent state, and Israel, a quarter of whose citizens are Arabs, is smeared as a racist nation.

All of these bizarre mental behaviors are testimony, for yours truly, of the truth of Jewishness. Secular Israelis moan over their isolation at the UN but I smile in wonder at the realization of the prophecy of the Gentile Prophet Balaam over three thousand years ago in the Sinai Wilderness who said that this will be “a nation that dwells alone and is not counted among the nations.” That is what the Torah says.

Here is *Ir Amim* protesting the legal return of Jewish ownership of this erstwhile community synagogue, demanding an egalitarian city, not one ruled by greedy Jews who won't share it.

They make me if not laugh than smile.

* * (Musical Interlude) * *

Well, speaking before of the fractured Jewish identity of these NGO types like Breaking the Silence mentioned last webcast, and this evening *Ir Amim*, we'll know tomorrow the results of the election in the UK and the fate of Edward Miliband. In some of the talkbacks here today, there was argument over his Jewishness or lack thereof.

As I see it, to cut through the confusion, Miliband is a Jew who is not Jewish. It is as simple as that and there is no contradiction.

To be a Jew can be and is a legal matter according to Jewish law which is just like gentile law in many ways. For example, a person born in the United States is an American citizen. Which is not the same as being an American in one's heart and the way one lives his life. Consider the Walkers, father and son, who spied for the Commies. Consider CIA traitor Aldrich Ames who did too. All three of them by their betrayal were responsible for the deaths of Americans and American collaborators

Were they Americans? Sure, when considering the word as a legal category. But they were not Americans as an adjective describing the way they lived their lives.

And it is no different for the Jewish nation. Ed Miliband is legally a Jew but he is most certainly not Jewish in his thinking and behavior.

Which is why a poll this week in the Jewish Chronicle claimed that 70% of the Jews in the UK today would not be voting for him, when, like their American cousins voting for the Democrats, these were Labor Party types and had been for generations. Like seriously Jewish Jews in America who now vote Republican because of the anti-Jew in the Oval Office, British Jews have been forced to abandon their political home because, although legally a Jew, existentially Miliband is not Jewish.

Miliband was born to a mother who was a Jew, but she, it has been reported, was a devotee of Karl Marx, the archetypal, modern post-Jew. Just like Miliband, he was a non-Jewish Jew, no contradiction intended. Indeed, that was the title of a famous essay by Trotsky's biographer and soul-mate Isaac Deutscher, "The Non-Jewish Jew."

And indeed this has been a description even of millions who were not of the radical persuasion. My own family. They were sentimentally attached to the Jewish people but did not believe as the Jewish people have believed and certainly did not live Jewish lives.

And that is the bulk of the American Jewish community over the last century and more. Oh, they take pride in belonging to this people that produced a Marx, a Freud, an Einstein, an Eisenstein in Russian cinema, the legion of Jews in Hollywood's creative and business community; physicians like Jonas Salk, musicians like Leonard Bernstein and George Gershwin.

But as to living Jewish lives, they did not and thus their children and grandchildren don't even have that sentimental connection.

Yours became religious, paradoxically, because I love these non-religious Jews so much. In order to produce more of them, all one can do is become religious because, their rationalizations notwithstanding, it is a scientific fact that only religious Jews produce the next generation of this nation.

Which brings us back to Moshe Kahlon wanting to degrade the sanctity of Shabbos in the holy city.

Not a good idea.

* * (Musical Interlude) * *

Last thought for the evening: It has been very interesting to observe how various opinionators have reacted to the Garland, Texas, take-down of two would-be Muslim massacre freaks.

The best commentary was Andrew McCarthy's on the National Review site. As he says things, the issue is far bigger than Muhammad cartoons, even if the shallow and the foolish have dismissed Pamela Geller and Robert Spencer as offensive provocateurs, like Fox's blowhard Bill O'Reilly and the vulgar Donald Trump who know nothing of the Muslim world. They think the massacre artists are "radical extremists" outside the nice mainstream of moderates who should not be insulted.

And I say, "Nonsense." Look at Egypt. Muslim Brotherhood devotee Obama drove Mubarak from office and the people in their majority voted for the Brotherhood which is the birthplace of the ideas burning in the fever swamps of these Muslim massacre freaks' brains.

Geller's critics are shallow, foolish and ignorant cowards.

Leila tov veShabbat shalom miEretz Israel.