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# *DeProgram Program*

*From the Mind of Sha'i ben-Tekoa*

*Transcript*

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*Shalom laYebudim, Shalom laBnai Noach, Shalom laGoyim.* It's the evening of the 6th day, *kaf-gimmel beTammuz, tav-shin-ayin-beh, Parashas Pinchas*, the evening of the 5th day, Thursday, 9 July 2015, webcasting from the crucible of truth.

Well, the top story in Israel today, leastwise on the front page of the Jerusalem Post, was the remarks of Minister of Religious Affairs David Azoulay who on Tuesday on the radio, on Galei Tsahal, one of the two largest radio stations in this little country, Army Radio, said, "I cannot say that Reform Jews are Jews."

The Prime Minister rebuked him; everybody and his brother rebuked him; the leaders of the statistically insignificant in Israel Conservative and Reform groups rebuked him; the heads of the Conservative and the Reform in the U.S. were joined by the heads of the Modern Orthodox rabbinical organization there. This was Azoulay's second critique of Reform Jews in a month. Last month, he said they were a disaster for the Jewish people and stirred up a hornet's nest.

I think what we have here is a true instance of being politically incorrect, if not in the sense of factual truth than politically not smart, unintelligent. Three times daily at the end of the central 18 blessings we Jews pray for the proper use of our tongues and in particular refraining from inflicting unnecessary harm, which is achieved more often than not by saying the right thing but saying nothing. What he did was politically incorrect for it makes for bad politics and is the opposite of the successful management of the collisions between different groups in society. What Azoulay said was factually correct, and some of

his critics were nastily incorrect in reacting to his truth, and thus no less guilty than he of evil speech.

Part of the problem is that unlike in English which is home to two words, “Jew” and “Jewish,” not so in Hebrew which has only one word, sometimes a noun, sometimes an adjective. Azoulay said, “Any Jew who observes the commandments is for us a Jew. A Reform Jew, from the moment he does not follow Jewish law, I cannot allow myself to say that he is a Jew.”

What Azoulay lacks, I think, is knowledge of Diaspora Jewry and really European Jewish history as well. He is of the Orthodox Sephardi party, Shas. I doubt he has ever heard of the essay written by Isaac Deutscher, the Jewish Communist journalist and hagiographer of Trotsky, entitled, “The Non-Jewish Jew,” which is how the majority of Jews alive today see themselves. “Oh yes,” they say, ‘We are Jews but we not Jewish in our lives, in our behavior.’”

And this is not hard to understand. To be born. For example, in America is to become automatically in American in law. It is a political status. In this sense, the infamous father and son team of naval officers, the Walkers, who spied for the Communists, were 100% Americans in their legal identity but not very American in their behavior, in their beliefs.

The same can be said of most Jews alive today. They define themselves as members of the Jewish people, and those born of a Jewish mother are Jews no less than the chief rabbis of Israel. Still, by their behavior, they are not Jews and this is what David Azoulay had in mind when he spoke as he did.

Only after the geyser of angry retorts at him did he realize his remarks were misunderstood. The next day in the Knesset, he attacked his attackers, which I think was another politically incorrect thing to do, politically unhelpful, but he did clarify his words by rightly citing the Talmud. He said, “It’s clear to everyone that Jews, even though they sin, are Jews.” And let me stop right there to clarify for you that the word “to sin” in Hebrew means literally “to miss,” as in “to miss the target.” To sin is to behave incorrectly according to Jewish law that presupposes a correct way to behave. To sin is to miss the target of proper behavior.

Azoulay went on, “Having said that, we see with great pain the damage that Reform Judaism has done, which has brought the greatest danger to the Jewish people of assimilation. We will continue to pray that the entire Jewish people returns to the faith and we will do everything to be a beacon of light and values to everyone.”

Azoulay corrected his comments of the day before by holding fast to the Halacha that everyone born a Jew is a Jew. Period. Full stop. The subsequent behavior of said Jew does not change the decision of the Almighty to bring this person into the world via a Jewish mother. That was G-d’s decision and no Jew, no Jewish body, has the right to revoke that decision made On High.

Versus the Catholic Church which claims the right to condemn a Catholic to eternal damnation in Hell. No such excision exists for Jews. What a community can do is put someone in *herem*, a cognate of the Arabic-Turkish word harem, which means the enclosure for the women for the big shot in question; ostracize him from the community. The harem is not the women as people misunderstand it in English, but the enclosure where they live. Jews can expel a member of their community but have no right to declare the expellee no longer a Jew.

Azoulay, not knowing Diaspora Jews apparently, did not know of their perverse misunderstanding of classical Jewishness -- a word I prefer over Judaism. The Reform kvetch, "The Orthodox say we are not Jews!"

That is not true. The Orthodox say Reform behavior (!) is not Jewish and that is undeniable. The theory and praxis of Reform Judaism is simply not Jewish.

For example, it was proven scientifically in 1990, ironically by the Reform movement itself, that of what they see as the three, so-called streams in America -- Orthodox, Conservative and Reform -- only one has proven to be the authentic stream. Like the old TV quiz show, "To Tell the Truth," the question was unwittingly asked, "Will the real, authentic stream please stand up?" and in the end it was the Orthodox stream, for that is the only one that is reproducing itself.

The word "orthodox," interestingly enough, means literally from the Greek, "correct opinion," so when a non-Orthodox Jew proudly declares that he is non-Orthodox, he is declaring "I am incorrect in my opinion." The theory and practice and philosophy of Judaism is not what he thinks it is. To oppose Orthodoxy is to oppose what's correct.

Not that the Reform willingly asked for this result when they commissioned a population survey in 1990 of the United States, a census of American Jewry. What they discovered was that, yes, the Orthodox were the smallest group by far, but the other two were marrying non-Jews at warp speed, around 50%, of them, which was already, clearly, a death sentence. Like being told by your doctor, "Yes, it is cancer and it's terminal."

Two years earlier, yours truly, this Reform Jew at the time, had watched the head of the Reform Movement say on public television that 40% of his nubile young men and women were marrying out, and that was enough for me to see this was a death sentence. And just two years later, this National Jewish Population Survey had the figure around 50%. And last year the Pew Foundation found it around 70%.

Hello?

David Azoulay was 100% correct last month when he called Reform Judaism a disaster and was 100% correct on Tuesday when he said Reform Jews are not Jews, if politically incorrect to say so as he did. He should on Tuesday have said that there is distinction between legal status and behavior. It is eminently possible to be 100@ a Jew in your status and do things that are 100% not Jewish.

And what are those? Well, the Halakhot, from the common verb to go, means, roughly, "The Going" and is basically a good translation of the Chinese word Tao, as in

the religion of Taoism. There is a right way and a wrong way to go through life, and Halacha tells us what it is the right way on the basis of the Torah and the sage opinions of our most intelligent forebears. Before Jews started excelling as nuclear physicists and computer jocks, chess champions, musicians, entertainers, doctors and lawyers in the modern era, they excelled as rabbis, meaning experts in the laws of the Jews.

The problem with the Reform, the missing of the target for them, is thinking it is possible to live an authentic Jewish life without, for starters, the fourth commandment engraved in the two stone tablets by the burning Finger of G-d, the command to keep the Sabbath, which in a way is the “real” first commandment.

The first three are statements of belief, ideas and intellect. The first real command to do something, or not do something outside the mind in the physical world, is to keep the Sabbath.

The problem with Reform is thinking it is possible to be a good Jew without keeping the Sabbath.

But it is not. It is possible to be a good person and not keep the Sabbath. Being a Jew is not being more moral than non-Jews. The world is full of many wonderful, righteous gentiles, good people.

Being a good Jew, though, is something different. And it begins with a life of mitzvot, of commandments, each one of which is proof of one’s belief that G-d really does exist. It is not enough for a Jew to believe; he must do (!) something, act on his belief, concretize it, and the first commandment includes keeping the Sabbath that no Reform Jew does.

Ergo, David Azoulay was 100% correct. Reform Judaism has been a disaster for the Jewish people. More Jews have been lost in the U.S. alone in the last century via intermarriage than were lost in Europe during the Holocaust.

\* \* (Musical Interlude) \* \*

Yes, the Reform mistakenly have thought that one can be a good Jew without keeping the Sabbath and without practicing the spiritual appetite control discipline otherwise known as the kosher laws.

The word yoga, the discipline that originated in India, is a cognate of the English word “yoke” as in the yoke that links two oxen together. As yoga is a routine for good physical and spiritual health; and jogging a daily routing, a discipline, so are the spiritual appetite control laws of eating and preparing food. It is a system that directs the mind every time a person eats to the existence of the Almighty who has provided the food he is about to put in his mouth.

And it also cements the community of Jews socially, which is absolutely necessary for its survival. Kosher laws are also meant as a barrier to mixing with, socializing with, breaking bread and drinking wine with, gentiles, not because they are bad people but

because they have no commitment to sustaining the Jewish people. It is hard to be a Jew and one needs two parents to be interested in raising a child who is likewise interested in perpetuating the Jewish people.

Yes, it is a form of segregation, but let us not forget that every priesthood on the planet -- Christian priesthood, Buddhist priesthood -- separates itself from its laity. Priests are expected to live apart, and when you are told by the Creator of the Universe that He wants the Jewish people to be a "kingdom of priests," which He did when he handed over the Ten Commandments, yes, it is an isolating way of life.

The problem with Reform and the Conservatives who trot after them is their very human desire to have their cake and eat it too. Oh, they want to be Jews; they want to be proud Jews. But they don't want that fact to impede them in their non-Jewish lives. Like on a summer Saturday hoping into the car to cruise down to the beach and afterwards stop off at MacDonald's for a bacon-cheeseburger and a milk-shake. What could be more normal and America than that?

Not that I blame them. The surrounding non-Jewish culture in the West since the Holocaust and especially in the States has been wondrously attractive and welcoming. A great people, the greatest country in history in so many ways.

But again, you can't have your cake and eat it too. That 1990 population survey commissioned by the Reform was the bell tolling on the Reform themselves and has been ever since who remain in wicked denial of the truth that they themselves discovered. All they can do is squawk, as the head of the Reform Rabbi Rick Jacobs said this week of Azoulay, who said his words were "a semi-coherent rambling."

No they weren't. This is a reaction I have often received when I hit a nerve when I write or speak, as I did when I destroyed the head of American Peace Now movement who could only respond to my arguments by accusing me of being full of hatred.

I bailed out of the Reform in 1988 when I saw its leader Rabbi Alexander Schindler admit that 40% of his young people were marrying out, which made sense since five years earlier his group had thrown holy water on marrying out. The Reform movement founded 180 years earlier in Germany made its final break with the Jewish people in 1983 when they smashed, so speak, like Moses smashing the first tablets of the Ten Commandments, the Halacha that Jewishness passes through the mother and only the mother, and not the father. They gave permission to Jewish men to marry non-Jewish women.

So the rest is history right up to this week. It was politically incorrect of Azoulay to speak as he did for some of the Reform nonetheless remain active in defense of Israel and letting their congressmen and senators know they want to see them support Israel.

But as to the substance of his remarks, he did not miss the target. The head of American Reform Rabbi Rick Jacobs also said Azoulay's words were "myopic and ignorant."

Again, no, they weren't. The Reform haven't got a clue as to how far they have drifted from classical Jewish theory and behavior. They have so re-formed Jewishness, it is no longer recognizable as Jewish.

And so one should not be surprised that they are in demographic Chapter 11; they are going out of business. Indeed, there is nothing left in this movement that is Jewish, uniquely and therefore truly Jewish. What with their sodomite and lesbian rabbis, they have become indistinguishable from mainline Protestant churches who are also known to sternly rebuke Israel for our abuse of the Ancient Ones. Michael Oren exposed his Reform-style mind in that interview with Pipes. Yes, he said, this is the Ancient Palestinians' ancient homeland too and they too are entitled to a state in it just like us Jews.

The Torah miSinai is perfectly mute, however, on a condominium relationship here between the Jewish people and these self-proclaimed descendants of Canaanites and Philistines.

\* \* (Musical Interlude) \* \*

Well, tomorrow, there will a confluence on two continents that should give the whole world pause for thought.

Tomorrow is the last and latest deadline for an agreement between Iran and its Western suitors trying to mediate between their appetite for billions in business resumed with an oil-rich Iran and the residue of post-Christian conscience in their knowledge that ending the sanctions and resuming business will mean zillions for the Iranians who will use it to Jew-kill; the Iranians who are shamelessly public about wanting to do to the Jews in Israel what Hitler did to them in Europe and North Africa and the Middle East. Jews suffered on all these continents during the Holocaust.

Will there be in Vienna or not be a final capitulation by the P5+1 countries to Iran's evil desires? At the same time, same day in Iran itself, a new holy day will be celebrated, a day inserted into the Islamic calendar by none other than the leader of Islamic Iran reborn, the Ayatollah Khomeini. He invented Al-Quds Day in 1979 shortly after he returned from exile and set it for the last Friday in the holy month of Ramadan, that is the holiest month, and Friday the holiest day of the week, Islam's rip-off of the notion of a Sabbath they stole from the Jews.

The last Friday of Ramadan will see tomorrow hundreds of thousands, really millions, I imagine, of Iranians all over the country chanting, "Death to Israel!" How central, basic and foundational is Jew-hatred to Islam.

It is Al-Quds Day/Jerusalem Day in which the Faithful will spend the whole day hating Israel for occupying holy Jerusalem and oppressing the poor, poor, Ancient Palestinians.

Last webcast I referenced Orwell's novel *1984* and the daily Two-Minutes Hate that government bureaucrats had every day to participate in, screaming at an image on the wall

of Goldstein the Jew. Well, tomorrow in Iran not for two minutes but a whole day millions will hate the Jews, as in Vienna the post-Christians of the West, and the post-Communists in Russia and their fellow atheists in Communist China will decide the fate of Iran and therefore of Israel. A landmark day in the making possibly.

Down in Chile, in an unrelated but related story, JPost reported today that last May the phantom PLO ambassador from phantom Palestine, in Santiago, in a speech to a Masonic Lodge, said that the Balestinians do not recognize the existence of a Jewish people because there is not in fact any such people, and he referenced the recent book called *The Invention of the Jewish People* by Dr. Shlomo Sand of Tel-Aviv University whose parents were Austrian Communists.

What a coincidence. Here I am with a book-length explanation of the emergence of a phantom Palestinian people lacking all markers of peoplehood, and here is this Ishmaelite insisting there is no Jewish people.

\* \* (Musical Interlude) \* \*

Last item: last Friday as well in Al-Aqsa Mosque, and not for the first time, the presiding preacher there, Sheikh Khaled al-Maghrabi – whose last name tells you he is no ancient Palestinian but from northwest Africa -- cited the famous Koranic verse that calls on the Faithful to kill Jews. Last month from the same pulpit, he railed against the well-known Jewish practice of killing non-Jewish children for their blood needed in matzo, and in his latest sermon reminded his audience of how Allah changed Jews into apes and pigs.

On Tuesday of this week, UNESCO, the culture organization at the UN, opened its antisemitic mouth and adopted a resolution condemning Israel for crimes it commits in Jerusalem by its “illegal excavations” that cause damage and the damage in the visual integrity to the Old City by building the light rail service that passes by the Turkish walls.

UNESCO also slammed Israel for improvements being made in and around the plaza before the Western Wall/Kotel that they call the Buraq Wall. For those who don't know, Buraq, meaning “Lighting,” was the name of the winged horse with the face of a beautiful woman and the tail of peacock that flew through the sky one night from Mecca to Jerusalem bearing on its back the Prophet Mohammad. The Arabs began calling the Western Wall al-Buraq, I think, only as recently as the 1990s. It is where they say Mohammad tied up Al-Buraq as he mounted the Temple Mount and leapt to Heaven. Before then, the wall had no name for the Arabs, for Muslims.

It is like the Muslim festival of Nebi Musa, meaning Prophet Moses, that the Muslims invented during the Crusades in their envy of Jews and Christians who had the pilgrimage festivals Passover and Easter at the same time every year.

This is the Arab soul in action. These people are plain and simple, in the nuclear furnace of their character, thieves who shamelessly, guiltlessly steal what is most precious to others.

The Jews were given a Holy Book; well, Muslims were given the Koran. The Jews see themselves as the Chosen people. No, Muslims are the chosen people. The Jews told the story of Abraham binding his son Isaac for a sacrifice on the Temple Mount. No, Ibrahim bound Ishmael for a sacrifice in Mecca.

And so on and so forth. And so goes the timeless hatred of Jews by Muslims which is inextricably bound up with a murderous envy of Jews.

This is a psychological, religious, spiritual conflict that is covered up by the phantom political siege called the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, a political conflict.

And because it is at bottom a religious struggle, all attempts at material solutions arrived at through the peace process will never bring peace' not until its true root cause is faced and uprooted.

*Leila tov veShabbat shalom from Eretz Yisrael*