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From the Mind of Sha'i ben-Tekoa

Transcript

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Shalom laYehudim, Shalom laBnai Noach, Shalom laGoyim. It is the evening of the 4th day, *kaf-gimmel beSivan*, *Parashas Korach*, *tav-shin-ayin-vav*, the evening of the 3rd day, Tuesday, 28 June 2016, webcasting from the cauldron of the high ground of Judea where sermonizing is easy.

So the top story in Israel today was the Turkey deal, the re-establishment of diplomatic relations after six years, and one hopes future military relations. Exposed were the terms of the deal, and it got a lot of criticism.

Criticizing it is easy. Israel is still going to fork over \$20 million to a fund in order to play the game that it is not compensating directly the nine families of “victims” of our soldiers defending themselves on the *Mavi Mamara*. We all saw the video of our boys descending on ropes from a helicopter and being attacked with iron bars and knives even before they touched down on deck.

In the run-up to the today’s agreement, it was revealed the other day that the military plan used, obviously a failure, had won out over a different plan by Gen. Yoav Galant. His idea was not to drop down from a helicopter but surround the *Mavi Marmara* with other boats carrying hundreds of Israeli commandos who would board the old-fashioned way.

For sure, the failure of the plan that was used began with a misconception of what our soldiers would find on the *Mavi Marmara*, evidenced by packing only paintball guns.

This should not overly surprise because it is not unusual for Israelis not to sense the depth and power of Jew-hatred and what Jew-haters are capable of.

It may also have reflected an Israeli cockiness, a belief that once the IDF commandos dropped onto the deck -- which legally they had the right to do -- those aboard would play by the rules and obey their instructions. Obviously, no one thought that as they descended on ropes, those aboard would begin beating them with iron bars that they had blowtorched off the ship's rails, and stabbed them with knives.

And the failure of the mission, I say, is evidence of a continuing Israeli deficit which is ignorance of the power and utter irrationality of the hatred directed at us.

Bibi may understand this, though, for this deal may reflect -- I have a hunch -- an underlying acceptance of the reality that there is nothing we can do to change the minds and hearts and emotions of our neighbors, these Muslims, these Turks and Iranians and Arabs. And from time to time, they have their tactical victories.

The \$20 million also buys from the Turks the end of threatened lawsuits against our leaders and heroic soldiers. It is the price we have to pay from time to time. Consider it a defense expenditure, if you like, like a new weapons system.

The Turks are, you know, the godfathers of the infamous Barbary Pirates. Those pirate states, as they were called, were Morocco, Algiers, Tunis and Tripoli, Libya. Morocco was an independent sultanate, but the other three were tributaries to the Ottoman capital in old Constantinople renamed Istanbul by the Muslims. Like the case of Canaanite name Shechem, next to which the Romans built a new city, and called it with a Greek name, "New City"/*Neapolis*, which is mispronounced by the Arabs who have no "P" in their language. After the Arabs overran it, they called it *Nablus*. Likewise *Istanbul* -- the Greeks claim -- is a perversion of the Greek phrase *steen poli*, meaning "in the city." Like Nablus, Istanbul is a mispronunciation or an original, non-Muslim name.

Islam is a culture and religion of theft, and it was from Istanbul that the Ottoman Sultan looked upon the other three port cities of the North African coast as colonies, and in fact a Barbary cruiser/pirate ship commonly flew at its masthead three flags -- not the Jolly Roger/Skull & Bones -- but three flags vertically stacked: the lowest was the pennant of the local *pasha* or *bey* in the city the ship had sailed from; in the middle was the flag of the Sultan in the Sublime Porte as Istanbul was nicknamed; and topmost was the green flag of Islam.

The ruling class in the Barbary cities were Turkish Janissaries, a kind of military caste, and in their universe, hijacking Christian vessels and enslaving the passengers and crews was part of the *jihad*. Thirty-six years ago, I unearthed the truth of the Barbary Pirates as not pirates but commonplace Muslims waging *jihad*. "Pirates" was only an insulting nickname. In their own eyes, they were not pirates but *mujahedeen*/holy warriors.

These misnamed “pirates: did not drink rum. As Muslims, no alcohol. They prayed to Mecca five times daily when on land like everybody else; when at sea they were obligated to pray toward Mecca only three times daily.

I went to publishers, that is, to a fancy shmancy agent who went to publishers, but no one wanted to publish my amazing research. Those of you who have my book can see I favor mountains of detail.

Well, I did that for the Barbary Pirates too, researched it for three years. Even went there, to the Barbary Coast, visiting over a couple of months in Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia if not Libya. This was early in the Reagan presidency gunning for Gaddafi from the gitgo, and the State Department warned Americans that Libya was off limits.

So I went to publishers with one amazing fact after another, but commonly they are of the liberal political persuasion and the idea of criticizing a Third World regime was shocking, politically incorrect. The US had just been through the hostage crisis with Iran, which the Iranians claimed was payback for American aggression. So to present a history of the US in the Middle East as a perfectly innocent victim of Muslim aggression, which it was when the hijackings started in 1784, was outside their purview from inside their liberal cocoons.

So when Israel today makes this deal with Turkey, it admits that we have been blooded and mugged by our neighbors, and if we have to fork over \$20 million to restore peace and quiet, it's a business expense.

The anger in Israel at the deal is righteous. But it is easy to pass judgment and less so to navigate in the infested waters of our environment swarming with Muslim sharks, which is what the prime minister and the cabinet have to do. In his remarks about the agreement, the prime minister repeatedly used vocabulary right up front indicating the security and defense factors – that he did not detail – that played a role in the decision apart from the specific incident. There are issues far greater than the incident itself.

Yair Lapid this morning gave a wonderful radio interview in which he accepted the complexity of Israel's position and was less inclined to badmouth the agreement than, say, Naftali Bennett who of course lashed out at what many feel is surrender on Israel's part. We did not get the two bodies of our soldiers and the two Israeli citizens being held in Gaza under strange circumstances.

I used to feel the same way about Israel capitulating like this, which we have done numerous times, but lately I have been connecting that to a subterranean, subconscious hope on my part that leads to that same hope of other people that by our behavior we can influence the other side. We can manipulate the enemy. If we stand strong on our principles, then we don't pay for this extortion and this will help change them.

Lapid in defending the agreement was clear that nobody in Israel thinks our boys who landed on the *Mavi Marmara* are war criminals; nobody thinks we owe the Turks one shekel of monetary compensation.

What kind of sick, antisemitic nonsense is that, anyway? Muslims attempt to murder Jews; the Jews fight back and kill their attackers, but now the Jews have to pay compensation for defending themselves? This is like the mentality of the *jezuya* tax in Islam, the annual fee Jewish communities had to pay to continue to being Jews.

I have a hunch that the prime minister, never on the Left, has no hopes of ever getting the Muslims to change. There is nothing we can do to placate them or trigger a change of heart. All we can do is defend ourselves and must pay for our self-defense in blood and treasure from time to time, and the \$20 million is part of that. The Turks live in a society of domination, submission, humiliation, ego and pride. Life is an endless arm-wrestling match with others; who dominates and who kowtows.

Israel demanded Turkey expel Hamas as part of the deal but the Turks were adamant that they never would, though they indicated they would not let Hamas plot future Jew-killing escapades like the kidnapping of the three boys two years ago, which was engineered by Hamas in Turkey.

But Erdogan held fast. Hamas is the Muslim Brotherhood and so de facto is Erdogan. The Jews have no right to an independent state, Muslims like him believe, and certainly not one in which Believers are a minority ruled over by *al-Yahud*. Horrors. And so Hamas has the holy right to Jew-kill whenever it wants.

But Bibi also held fast to the blockade of Gaza which the *Mavi Marmara* episode was all about, *i.e.* running the blockade. The most Erdogan got out of Bibi on Gaza was the right to send humanitarian aid through Israel via Ashdod – so Israel will check everything that comes in -- and to build power and desalination plants for the locals. That won't hurt.

Also in play is the cornucopia of gas that Israel has discovered which Turkey now wants to buy rather than continue to depend on its eternal enemy Russia.

We can also think of the \$20 million as tribute, a bribe to the eternally barbaric Ottoman Sultan not to drag our heroic commandos and politicians into international courts.

Turkey today under the Muslim Brother Erdogan is the same-old same-old of centuries gone by, only now in modern dress.

* * (Musical Interlude) * *

Speaking before of Yair Lapid who spoke so well this morning on the radio in support of the deal, instead of joining the reflexive opposition politicians who of course bashed the prime minister and the cabinet for the terms of the deal. He also spoke so

movingly of his visit yesterday to *Ir David*, meaning City of David, meaning the earliest Jewish settlement in Jerusalem, south and below the Temple Mount. He and MK Mickey Levy got a guided tour by the site's director David Be'eri. It is a site that is also politically controversial having been in Arab possession between 1948 and 1967. The archeological excavation and the return of Jews to living in the area have angered the world, evidenced by the mountains of paperwork bearing the record of deliberations at the UN over Israel's rule on this spot and others since 1967. There is no topic in the UN talked more about than Israel and its "racist, fascist, imperialist occupation of land belonging to the Ancient Palestinians for thousands of years."

I hope you all realize, by the way, that this narrative is nothing but identity theft. As Islam stole Judaism, so Palestinian Nationalism stole the Zionist narrative, the identity of the Jewish people in this land; their exile, their victimization by a racist doctrine, the desire for the homeland to be independent again.

Christianity and Islam do not exist without the preceding history of the Jews whose original constitution, the Five Books of Moses, begins the history of the Jews with HaShem's call to Abraham to go to a country that Hashem will show him. This is the first conversation between them.

And then the Jewish people are created over the next Five Books, over seven generations and five hundred years, and end with Moses, in the last verses, Abraham's great-grandson's great-grandson, standing on the east bank of the River Jordan and gazing into the Land promised to his great-grandfather's great-grandfather. Judaism is about the promise of this Land to the seed of Jacob-Israel and the rules and regulations that G-d wants them to live by in it.

But since the wild and woolly 1960s and 70s and 80s, the world has, basically at gunpoint, been told this land really belongs to another ancient people that had been living here for thousands of years before World War II after which Jews just barged in and stole it from them.

And here is Yair Lapid, the epitome of a secular Israeli whose father mocked Jewishness, that is, the religion, starry-eyed over his visit to this remarkable archaeological site saying, "This place, the love you put into it [referring to the director], the magic that is here, are the proof that the desolation is always temporary and the rebuilding is eternal. Jerusalem will remain the united capital of the Jewish people forever and ever. We did not return to our land after 2,000 years to lose it again."

Well, maybe there is hope when such an otherwise deJudaized Israeli talks this way, more hope than what Dennis Ross represents, the Diaspora Jew. You all know Dennis, former peace processor under James Baker and other mentors, politicians and presidents.

As a boy, his parents were a Jewish mother and Catholic stepfather who raised him with no religion. He grew up in Marin County on the other side of the Golden Gate Bridge, across from San Francisco -- which is about as far from the Middle East as one can get.

But as he tells it, he became “religious” after the Six-Day War, meaning he joined a Conservative synagogue.

In Washington, he became a successful IBJ, an “Inside the Beltway Jew” expressing views on Israel professed by the White Anglo-Saxon Protestants who dominate at State. He worked with Martin Indyk, destined to become one of the most important Jew-boys of the generation.

Anyway, at least Ross played the “good cop” to Indyk’s “bad cop,” and Danny Kurtzer’s “bad cop,” and Richard Haas’s “bad cop” in the State Department’s Jew-Boys Department, and in truth he has more empathy for the people of Israel than these others who prostitute themselves for financial security and prestige.

Ross went on after leaving the government to raise money for himself and create what he called the Jewish People’s Policy Planning Project looking to the future of the Jewish people. He was in Policy Planning at State and invented one for the Jewish people. He has an office here.

Anyway, yesterday JPost reported that Ross’s institute presented to the cabinet on Sunday its “12th Annual Assessment of the Situation and Dynamics of the Jewish People.” His co-chairman Israeli Avinoam bar-Yosef told the Post that while there is “significant support for Israel in North America, it isn’t compensating for the young generation of liberal and secular American Jews which is increasingly critical of the Jewish state and concern that Israeli society is becoming more religious and more right-wing...Follow-up measures for Birthright and Massa alumni must be drastically increased.” Those are two programs that provide freebie trips to Israel for mostly non-religious young Jews, I think. He evidently was asking for more programs to entice them to reconnect to Israel after their Birthright experience.

But this is all wrong, that is, Ross’s perception of Israel becoming more religious and more right-wing as the cause of this disaffection by the younger generation. Israel, in this construction of reality, is causing young American Jews to distance themselves and that is not good. So Dennis counsels follow-up programs for Birthright alumni.

It does not occur to Ross that this alienation from Israel has far more to do with the resurgence of naked antiJewism and the absence in the hearts and minds of these deJudaized young Jews of any knowledge of what Jews believe and how they have lived for thousands of years and continue to live.

It is likely that the young people he has in mind spend no more than a few hours every year doing something Jewish, like attending a Passover Seder or fasting on Yom Kippur, but otherwise they are defenseless against the charges of contemporary antiJewry, which are just this generation’s mutation of ancient hostility to the People of the Book, that Dennis and the young people he is thinking of do not see.

* * (Musical Interlude) *

Yeah, we ended the last segment with the thought that the charges made against Israel these days, which surely play a role in driving deJudaized young people even further away, is just this generation's mutation of ancient hostility to the Jewish people.

Take, for example, the wholly unoriginal thinking of Ban Ki Moon chosen by the movers and the shakers in the UN to be secretary-general, an institution dominated by the 30% of member- states that are officially Muslim. He will never say anything that offends them. He was here yesterday and spoke at Tel-Aviv University and cautioned, "not to allow extremism on either side to fuel the conflict...Palestinians and Israeli leaders must stand firm against violence, terror and incitement."

Not only is this morally corrupt-- positing a moral equivalence between us and these barbarians who attack us all time -- it is language divorced from history. When did Palestinians ever stand firm against violence, terror and incitement?

These savages glorify violence, terror and incitement. Just about every day, PMW posts a translation of an official PA newspaper item worthy of *Mein Kampf*. Has this lifetime diplomat never heard of the *jihad* as an essential belief in Islam?

He condemned the "occupation" for undermining regional peace, regional peace. Yes, this was the takeaway by Jimmy Carter in his first book after being driven from office for his mishandling of the Middle East in which he reported on his world-wind tour of Arab countries in which, in every country, the government told him the reason for the all the woes and instability in the Middle East was the Israeli persecution of the Ancient Ones. And this idea remains alive in too many minds; for sure in Paris too at the beginning of the month, where 28 foreign ministers gathered to point the finger of guilt at Israel for the lack of peace not only in Balesstine but the region as a whole.

Ban Ki Moon claimed that "nearly 50 years of occupation has had a devastating impact on Palestinian lives and undermines the belief in a peaceful resolution to the conflict."

You got that? The "devastating occupation," he says, has undermined belief in a peaceful solution among the Ancient Palestinians, who, he thinks, yearn only for the end of the "occupation" -- and never mind all their official documents show a future State of Philistia going way beyond the "West Bank" to include all of Israel. Their maps don't show Israel at all.

A "devastating impact the occupation" has had on the Balesstinians," he said. "Devastation" -- like a much longer life expectancy, a plummeting infant mortality rate; the building of schools that did exist before 1967; a major rise in their standard living. Their murder chieftain Abbas just last week in Brussels complained of Israel's "massacres." The accusation of genocide is commonly thrown about -- and never mind the Arab population in Judea and Samaria has grown four-fold since 1967.

In other words, this UN flunky Ban Ki Moon does not know what he is talking about. This ignoramus complained this week that Israel's blockade of Gaza is "collective punishment that has destroyed the economy. It is collective punishment that the leaders [presumably Israel's leaders] should be held accountable for. The Gaza economy has been destroyed by the blockade."

This idiot knows nothing of the history of the Gaza Strip but should know it never had an economy. He should know it is a completely artificial rectangle of real estate whose population is of a size that has nothing to do with the local environment. It is not as if there had been a gold rush that drew all these people into to his rectangle and then the gold mines ran dry.

Gaza never had an economy. He complained that 70% of Gaza's population is in need of humanitarian assistance, with seemingly no understanding that this is wholly the deliberate responsibility of the Arabs, so that fools like him can witness the poverty and then be told it's the Jews' fault.

Gaza is like Williamsburg, Virginia with its reconstruction of the 18th century colonial capital and the staff in period costumes working at the period crafts, only in this case Gaza is a living fossil of slums preserved to display to dopes like Ban Ki Moon in order to blame the Jews.

* * (Musical Interlude) * *