

B"H

DeProgram Program

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 beMenachem Av, Parashas Ekev, tav-shin-ayin-vav*, the evening of the 3rd day, Tuesday, 23 August 2016, webcasting from Israel under attack.

We are always under attack, if not full-blown attack every day. On Sunday, the enemy fired artillery at us from Gaza. Admittedly, it was just one mortar, I think, and did no physical damage but it was an attack nonetheless.

In the past, Israel has replied, for years now under Bibi, every time by destroying some shack or something connected to Hamas, even though it knows Hamas did not order the attack and that Hamas actually enforces the ceasefire. Israel knows it was a gang that opposes Hamas because – fasten your seatbelts – the gang thinks Hamas is not Islamic enough – that's an old story -- not aggressive enough against al-Yahud. The latest news was that it was the "Friends of the Prophets" gang. Leastwise, they claimed credit on Twitter, and hours later, that account was shut down.

Nonetheless, after Israel's routine reprisal strike, ten hours later Israel returned with greater force, and started bombing and did not stop for two hours striking by air at some 50 targets. Tanks fired into the zone as well, and all around observers see in this a new policy at work, though toward what end is not yet clear.

JPost's Yossi Melman today cited a senior military source who said that the new policy was designed by Chief-of-Staff Lt.-Gen. Gadi Eisencott and approved by Prime Minister Netanyahu and former Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon.

Others speculate that this was Lieberman the new defense minister's more aggressive initiative, but I doubt that without the prime minister's approval, he could just order this up on his own.

So, the purpose remains a bit obscure, what they want to achieve by this, though the reactions of other players were certainly interesting. Despite the vote last week in Ankara to renew diplomatic relations with Israel, there was venom in Turkish's words saying Israel's response "lacked all proportion." Turkey said that despite the restoration of relations, it will continue to defend the Palestinian struggle against Israel's actions which are against international law and human conscience."

How is Israel to deal with a Muslim world whose leaders can make the surreal claim that international law opposes Israel firing back at those who fire at Israel? This appears to be classical, Muslim ethics: Jews do not have the right to hit back when hit by a Believer. That is the way it was century in and century out for Jews living under the Islamic if not jackboot than sandal, or yellow Turkish slipper with upturned toes.

By contrast, a truly revolutionary event came out of Cairo where Foreign Minister Samakh Shukri rejected the word terrorism to describe Israel's response. This is a truly amazing turn of events though thus far the usual shapers of the news have missed it.

The foreign minister in his office met with a group of high school students, one of whom asked, "Why Israel's killing of Palestinian children is not thought of in Egypt, [meaning by the government] an act of terrorism?" And in reply, he said that there is no evidence of any link between Israel and any terrorist organization. "There is nothing that leads to that conclusion." He said, "History has made Israel very sensitive to security issues and tightly controls its territories and border crossings."

And this is the same foreign minister who visited Israel last month, the first such visit in nine years.

Shukri said, "Israel wrestles with many challenges," and added the following: "For an activity to be defined as an act of terrorism, there has to be an agreed upon international definition of terrorism, and from a legal point of view, for the time being, there is none."

This is a subject I take up in my book: the paralysis at the United Nations for decades now in the matter of this inability to come up with a definition of terrorism because of one sticking point: the West wants to include the terror that the Muslims inflict on us Jews, but the antiJew Muslim countries and others insist, "No, that's freedom fighting."

In 1974, when that reptile of a man Arafat addressed the General Assembly, he defined terrorism as act with an unjust cause. Acts committed for a cause that is just cannot be terrorism, no matter what is done. Arafat's appearance had been protested from the one moment the invitation was extended because of his career as a terrorist,

so in his speech he addressed the issue and made clear that he and his bombers and plane hijackers were freedom fighters, against the real terrorists, the Israelis, whose every act of violence against Balestinians has been an act of terrorism. This includes striking back when attacked. In his mind, Israeli self-defense was also terrorism.

And here we are more than a Biblical generation later, and here are these teenagers in Egypt, surely among the best and brightest there or they would not have been granted a meeting with the foreign minister in his office, when at least one thinks like Arafat in 1974.

And for sure he is not alone in the ocean of Muslims he lives in. Reacting to Shukri's refusal to describe Israeli operations as terrorism, a Hamas mouthpiece in Qatar, one Husam Badran, spit out, "He who does not see the crimes of the Zionist occupation as terrorism is blind."

So these words of the foreign minister, following his recent visit, was a further sign of the alliance of necessity between Israel and Egypt now, both countries attacked by violent Muslims who believe their faith gives them license to murder people at random.

We also saw here last month, I think, a visit by a former Saudi general, also an amazing turn of the screw of history, and all because the whole region is faced with Iran, Obama's protégé country; Iran with designs on a new Persian Empire if no longer a Zoroastrian but a Shiite one.

Egypt of course reacted as mildly as it did because it knows Israel in Gaza strikes at the same jihadis that Egypt strikes at in the Sinai Peninsula. It is believed these "Friends of the Prophets" are ISIS/Daesh people.

Egypt's benign response is, of course, no reflection of a broad-based feeling in that country, no sign that the people are becoming friendlier to Israel. In JPost today, Herb Keinon reminded readers that just last March an Egyptian MP, one Tawfik Okasha, met with the Israeli ambassador and called for normal relations with Israel, and this for was booted from Egypt's parliament.

Then again, it does not matter what the masses in Egypt think, for they are not in charge. The correct form of government in Egypt is military dictatorship because half the people are illiterate. They have no education and as a result, literally by being illiterate, think differently. Not only do they lack knowledge gained through reading newspapers and books, their contents, the very act of learning to read changes the way the mind works. So long as Egypt and so much of Araby remains illiterate and Islamic, democracy is impossible, so that system of military dictatorship has been the best so far.

Though, I am beginning to think that democracy is dying even in the West, for a similar reason: the creation of an uneducated electorate and the emasculation of the American people as lovers and defenders of liberty and good government. I don't

understand how so much is known about the corruption of Mrs. Clinton and Mr. Clinton, but nothing seems to be happening in the way of indicting these people. Where are the lawyers to file a complaint in the some court demanding that this woman be arrested and charged with serious crimes? I would love to see her on the 7 o'clock news handcuffed and led into a police cruiser to be booked.

How could it be that the head of the FBI reads off a list of crimes, misdemeanors and felonies before the whole world committed by this woman and then refuses to call for an indictment? What is going on here? And the people are standing for it?

This woman is known to have had an unsecure server in which she sent out sensitive material, this woman whose gal Friday is Huma Abedin, a Saudi whose associations to the Muslim Brotherhood have long been known, with no action ever taken.

What is going on when so many people polled every day continue to express support for this woman? Are these people brain dead?

* * (Musical Interlude) * *

So another story of note this August day, when the world slows down, besides the major reprisal in Gaza the other night, but to what end is not clear yet, is the endless civil war in Israel in general and in the army especially between Jews and Israelis of Jewish extraction.

Another way of describing this war is the ongoing struggle between the secular and the religious, played out lately over beards. Inside the army, a new group of religious soldiers has come together to highlight and protest against what they feel is discrimination and disrespectful abuse seen in the policy of having a beard and the behavior of some commanders forcing soldiers to cut off their beards, when these are recruits who have never done that since their beard came in.

And as is so common, there is much confusion over policy and implementation, and nowhere have I seen the army explain why having a beard is a taboo. Maybe it is dangerous and therefore justified? Or, is it just a demand for absolute uniformity and therefore not justified?

Or, is it the bigotry of the aggressive anti-religious Jews in Israel? One such belligerent NGO here is called "Be Free, Israel/*Israel Khofsheet*, not a good translation but that is what they put out. They want action taken against any of the three hundred rabbis who recently wrote a letter in support of Rabbi Yigal Levinstein who gave that speech to fellow national religious rabbis concerned about the aggression inside the IDF against religious soldiers and used the term *soteh min*/ sexual deviant. *Israel Khofsheet* claims that those signatories who receive salaries from the Ministry of Religious Services must be

held to the same standards as other civil servants, meaning, speaking out against sodomy is not allowed.

Well, the Ministry of Religious Services stuck by its support for the 300 rabbis who have the right to express their views on matters in the Torah. And I would add to this general position the fact that sodomy is one of those subjects.

The executive director of *Israel Khofsheet*, one Miki Gitzin, protested in an interview on YNET that the ministry's statement makes of Levinstein's views the ministry's view. It says these rabbis are basically above the law and the ministry is supporting them. "Every rabbi is allowed to say anything that he wants, and it doesn't matter whom he hurts. We need to remember that in the case of these rabbis, they are civil servants, they're functionaries."

And for sure, this Miki Gitzin is blind to the contradiction between the name of his group, *Free Israel* and his objection here, in his words, to a rabbi being able to say anything he wants and it does not matter whom he hurts."

And I ask again, as I did at the end of the previous segment, what is going on here? Since when has it been unacceptable to say something that hurts someone else? Say, I, a capitalist, in debate with a communist, make an irrefutable argument against communism and my rival's faith is shaken. She feels hurt, so I shouldn't have said what I said?

What is this totalitarian demand made by a major slice of contemporary Western culture that no one has the right to think that there is anything wrong with sexual deviance and express his or her objections in public? I find this all very strange.

In the IDF, religious soldiers are complaining that some officers make them visit churches and mosques to pay their respects, when Halacha forbids entering at least the churches. There has been friction for years in the army over the appearance in social gatherings, so to speak, of female singers, when classical Judaism rightly understands that there is a measure of ogling involved in watching and listening to a commonly attractive female on a stage singing, when that kind of physical stimulation belongs at home in the bedroom with one's wife.

Of course, in their ignorance, the enlightened think that Orthodox soldiers walk out of such entertainments because women disgust them.

This is like Yitzhak Rabin in his inaugural speech as Prime Minister in 1992 citing the story of the gentile prophet Balaam saying this will be "a people that dwells alone." For Rabin and his sabra society of Jews ignorant of the Torah, they miss the context in which everything that came out of Balaam's mouth about the Jews was praise.

There is a Grand Canyon of ignorance separating, on one side, Torah-knowledgeable and observant Jews in Israel and today's secular Israelis. Ergo, the constant friction in the IDF between the two communities, with someone like Miki Gitzin furious at religious Jews who he believes want to make him religious and take

away his freedom. His group is *Israel Hofsheet*, “Free Israel,” freed of the strictures of Jewish nationhood that for thousands of year was defined by belief and behavior, theory and practice.

But since the earliest days of the Zionist moment, there have been secular missionaries claiming that observing the religion may have made sense in the Diaspora to maintain identity but now that the Jews have returned home, you can throw off the religion like an old and tattered coat.

* * (Musical Interlude) * *

Now, as for the link posted with this webcast, when I’m done, please, you gotta check it out. It’s a 7-minute video from Memri.org’s capture of Jordanian TV in which a so-called Palestinian-Jordanian Political Analyst, Muhammad al-Tammi, is interviewed, sort of. You won’t have to watch the whole 7 minutes, maybe half will do, to witness what Israel is up against in our struggle for peace from our neighbors.

You notice immediately a man having more or less the antisemitic equivalent of an epileptic fit, a man enraged by the existence of Israel, a man out of control, though I hope you see something else in this rant. Yes, he is obviously off the rails, consumed with hatred, but notice the content of his words, of how he repeatedly pleads for his beloved Falastin in the hands of the Zionist oppressor. Oh, how he aches for the Holy Land, their precious homeland, and so and so forth. It is one Jewish Zionist emotion and idea after another that Arabs like him have stolen from us and don’t even know it.

There is no record in history of any “Palestinians” calling this land their beloved Falastin, their holy homeland. It is all plagiarized from us. What you are looking at is a micro-specimen of the entirety of Islam, a religion that was stolen from the Jews.

The man is positively exploding with feelings for his captive, ancient Falastin, when never in history was a Palestinian people here who did anything for the welfare of Falastin.

As I note in my book, when the first experimental agricultural station for agronomists to study the soil here, Mikveh Yisrael, toward returning the wasteland to fertility, was established in 1870, there was not one public road in Palestine. A generation after railroads began to run in Europe as a commercial service and venture, there were still no railroads in Palestine and there would not be for another thirty years.

Where was this man’s patrimony at the time? What were they doing for Falastin as the Jews were doing for Eretz Yisrael?

The man’s mind is stuffed with material/content pilfered from us. This video is evidence of the divine genius found in the famous Midrash thousands of years old that describes the Arabs with one word: thieves. “Ishmael is a thief.” A couple of weeks ago

here, the police estimated there are 50,000 stolen Jewish cars in Arab Judea and Samaria. I see them all the time, nice cars, stolen from the coastal plain.

And they not only steal your car and other property, like farmers in the Beersheva area who are forever being burglarized, they steal your religion, steal your movement for national rejuvenation, and don't even know it. For sure, this lunatic adherent of a religion symbolized by the moon, a symbol lunacy for thousands of years, is not aware that everything he says about Falastin "hot" goods stolen from the Jews.

Or, maybe his rage is a function of his unconscious awareness that everything he is saying is stolen. That is why he is raging is over what accusation. The Jews, the Occupation, as they call us, stole Falastin from them, when the truth is the other way around. They want to steal Falastin from us.

This is an amazing video, and hardly the first time we have seen people on Arab TV go berserk over one thing or another, behavior I have never seen in the West. But again, it is not only his rage but the contents of his mind that bears scrutiny.

* * (Musical Interlude) * *