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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 6th day, *kaf-vav beTishrei, Parashas Beraishees, taf-shin-peh*, 5780, the evening of the 5th day, Thursday, 24 October, 2019, webcasting from Israel still mired in the muck of a political system that lays questions of the greatest national importance into the hands of enemies of Jewishness like Avigdor Lieberman and the fate of leadership in the hands of one, unelected, divided-self lawyer, Avichai Mandelblit.

Today Benny Gantz was scheduled to talk of possible partnership with domestic enemies, the Arab parties who publicly have praised our mortal enemies who murder us all the time. I imagine he and Lieberman and the Arabs are trying to construct a relationship, known as supporting the government from outside without actually joining it, cutting out the Israelis who take seriously the religion of this people, the ideology, the ideas and behaviors that have kept this people alive all these thousands of years while being constantly brutalized in every generation somewhere in Christendom and/or Islam.

And I await the day, as much as I await Moshiach, when Israelis wake up and, I don't know, read the Federalist Papers and give themselves an education in the legal thinking of the men who composed and signed off on the US Constitution. In fact, I think that was the stated purpose of Yoram Hazony who has created a college here promoting Western liberal democracy at its best.

Mandelblit has said he will decide to indict or not indict the prime minister in December, and I want to know, why so long? Are we to imagine he will be stroking his beard for two months over these four cases of criminality leveled at Netanyahu?

And I say it is an embarrassment to the Jewish people that these four cases even exist. As we see in the case of Donald Trump, Netanyahu's enemies have criminalized normal behavior. One of the most serious charges against Netanyahu is attempting to get the publisher of Yediot to change his opinion of his performance. Shocking! Absolutely shocking that a prime minister would even think of trying to get someone who disagrees with him to change his mind.

This is the criminalization of political argumentation. It makes criminal an attempt by the prime minister to get an adversary to change his opinion. How dare he? Noni Moses, publisher of Yediot, is entitled to oppose Netanyahu and any attempt by Netanyahu to get him to change his opinion is a crime. He is entitled to his opinion and the prime minister has no right to ask him to ease up on his constant attacks, which this case is about.

This is also, more or less, what is being done to President Trump. He actually talked to a foreign leader in hopes of benefitting his country from the conversation and thereby, say his enemies, violated his oath of office!

It is a frightening prospect when one branch of government can demand the right to inspect all communications by the president. It puts a stopper on freedom to throw out all kinds of ideas. You know, in the summer of 1787 in Philadelphia, known for its humid summers bordering the Schuylkill River, in a world with no air conditioning, 55 American men met to discuss improving the functioning of their three-year-old, independent state not working under the Articles of Confederation. And they decided that their discussion must be conducted with the windows closed in order to speak freely and not have their words in the future used against them, taken out of context, twisted.

And now the evil Congressman Adam Schiff is conducting in secret a fishing expedition, fishing for words about President Trump that he can twist and take out of context in order to attack him, while denying during this fishing expedition the right to defend himself, to present witnesses other than those of Adam Schiff's choosing.

In Israel, the negotiations between the parties are dependent on the future of Mandelblit's decision to indict or not to indict. Today, Benny Gantz and his camp were discussing how to pass a law requiring the prime minister to step down if indicted, which is a possibility that the Framers of the US Constitution wanted to prevent. Otherwise, anyone, any civilian, with a bogus claim against the prime minister, with a fake narrative can press charges and hobble the government chosen by the electorate, which is what is happening in both countries.

What kind of a democracy is it that bestows the power to one unelected bureaucrat to deny to the electorate the service of its chosen leader just by indicting him?

No, Bibi did not get 61 mandates to create a government but he did get 55 which is still decidedly far and above Gantz's 44. It is a crime against democracy when its

chosen leader is hobbled by accusations of personal turpitude that had no impact on his performance as prime minister and captain of the ship of state.

Leastwise in the States, so far, the enemies of the electorate have not been able to block President Trump's decision to, in foreign affairs, think outside the box, this disruptive man, who has asked the question about the Middle East, "What is the US doing in these Muslim states, fighting and dying? For what?" I reckon the US since 9-11 has fought in Afghanistan against the Taliban and ISIS in Syria with the goal of defeating the enemy, acting like Marshall Dillon who drives the outlaw out of Dodge City and lets the townsfolk return to their peaceful and tranquil, happy lives.

This effort is like sweeping back the tide. And if the goal of this fighting is to install Western-style democracy, this is foolish, which linguistically relates to the word folly, which in French means madness.

Islam, until it changes if it ever does, is the enemy of Judeo-Christian Western civilization, that is, what's left of it in its degenerative state. President Trump last week called for major economic war against Turkey, and a week later cancelled the sanctions because he got Erdogan to cry uncle, to cry he is ready for a permanent ceasefire' no more slaughtering the Kurds, though Trump was mature enough to say that "permanent" may mean in the Middle East something different it does in the West. In a news conference, Trump answered his critics accusing him of betraying the Kurds by saying said he saved tens of thousands of Kurdish lives and in any case, "We are leaving. Let someone else wage war in the blood-stained sand. How many Americans have to die in the Middle East in these ancient tribal conflicts? The role of our army is not to be the policeman of the world. Other states need to take responsibility and do their part."

There is also another piece to this Turkey-Syria-Kurd business that the excellent Victor Davis Hanson wrote about today, and that is the overall relationship to Turkey and in particular its continuing membership in NATO; and truth to be told, its power over the US that the US has yet to free itself from.

Hanson wrote of the Incirlik Air Force base in Turkey where 5,000 US troops are stationed; and far more importantly, 50 atomic bombs, each one ten times more powerful than what landed on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. He suggests that if the US decides to decommission that base and remove these bombs, Erdogan will resist.

In 1974, when the US opposed Turkey's invasion and occupation of Northern Cyprus and installed an arms embargo, Turkey punished the US by expelling the US contingent from Incirlik, an expulsion that lasted three years before US personnel were allowed to return. Incirlik is a product of the Cold War. It was created in the early 1950s to monitor and deter Soviet expansion. That is why NATO welcomed Turkey, the only officially Muslim member. Now, though -- and here I add to Hanson's information -- not only is there is no more Soviet Union, even more importantly, the secular Turkey invented by Ataturk that joined NATO lasted only some two

generations and has now become once again as in the days of the Ottoman Caliphate, a Muslim power run by the Islamo-Fascist Erdogan, who allows HAMAS, the local Muslim Brotherhood franchise here, to operate there.

There is an historical lesson here because the Brotherhood was founded in 1928 to oppose the radical de-Islamization of Ataturk's Turkey, and here we are now 91 years later, and now Erdogan, the Brotherhood soulmate is running Turkey, having imprisoned over 100,000 suspected enemies of the people.

Donald Trump, in the new age of American independence from Middle East oil, has rethought American interests in the Middle East. Simultaneous with his retreat from the Kurds, he threatened military action against Turkey if they misbehave, and I hope it leads to a more sober assessment of Turkey that should lead to expelling this country from NATO.

* * (Musical Interlude) * *

So, yours truly sees a connection between the Donald Trump who moved the US Embassy to Jerusalem and the Donald Trump who wants out of the bloody Muslim deserts of the Middle East to the extent possible.

Yesterday, Reuters ran this story, dateline Baghdad: "An Iraqi government committee investigating a wave of unrest found that 149 civilians were killed because security forces used excessive force and live fire to quell protests. The protest over high unemployment, poor public services and corruption erupted on October 1st and lasted until October 7th. This was two years after ISIS was declared defeated in Iraq."

To repeat: "...protests over high unemployment, poor public services and corruption" led to security forces shooting dead 149 people, fellow Iraqis. The government investigating the day's events said most of the dead had been shot in the head or chest, meaning, quite deliberately.

What comes to my mind is the food protests in Algeria in 1988, 26 years after the Soviet-modelled FLN became the government, during which economic protests the security forces shot dead 500 protestors; the army shot dead 500 fellow Algerian citizens.

What also comes to mind was the antiwar protest at Kent State University in 1970 that led to National Guardsmen killing four students, injuring nine, and a national outcry at the massacre. In Boston, in 1770 no less, five American protesters were shot dead and that is remembered in history as the Boston Massacre that helped the light the fire of revolution six years later. I mention these two historical events in contrast to what goes on in the Middle East all the time.

In Algeria in 1988, that massacre led to the first elections ever in post-independence Algeria in 1992, which was won by the Muslims opposing the nominally Marxist government, after which the government invalidated the election results, which sparked a

full-blown insurrection that lasted ten years at least and during which 200,000 people were mostly murdered in sadistic and grisly terror killings. This is the Arab Muslim Middle East.

This past week in Lebanon no less, there were massive demonstrations against the government.

There is no region on the planet, I think, that is so given to constant fratricidal violence. It is a region a rational society should have as little to do with as possible, and certainly harbor no hope for change, since today's Middle East seems to be the same Middle East it has been throughout history.

One obstacle to Trump's apparent vision is a cynical rejection of an otherwise sunny American character that not unjustly sees much of the world as wanting to be like America. Hence, the armies of people, millions of them, illegals crashing into the country. The obstacle is Western resistance, given its guilty history of racism, to judging the Middle East for what it is. It is no accident that in the age of modern transportation and communications, the age of trans-national corporations that are capable of locating production facilities all over the globe, everyone chooses China for its intelligent and capable workforce, and no one chooses Araby.

These people are not Semites; they are Hamites, "slaves of slaves" who produce dictatorships, abuse women, contribute nothing to civilization. The famous Israeli Marxist philosopher and national village idiot Uncle Shimon wrote a book he called *The New Middle East* that he published a few months after the delirious Handshake on the White House Lawn in 1993 in which this self-proclaimed visionary envisioned a Middle East becoming like the European Union; you know, no more borders, passports, visas; businessmen and tourists freely crossing borders, doing deals, enjoying themselves. Uncle Shimon even envisioned Israel joining the Arab League of States, the ultimate wish of the post-religious, anti-religious secular Zionists; the ending of the Jewish people being "a people that dwells" alone. It was the dream of not only the crusading anti-religionists of the Zionist Left but also the Zionist Right. Consider the book by Benyamin ben-Benzion, the son of a father who abandoned the religion of his rabbi-father, *A Place Among the Nations*, namely, the erasing of the separate identity of the Jews. They will become just like their neighbors, members in good standing of the Arab League of States. No, Bibi was not that delusional but did want normalcy.

I suspect the eternal temptation of the Jews is just this. Yitzhak Rabin in his inaugural speech as prime minister to the Knesset the second time around in 1992 quoted Balaam's prophecy that this will be "a people that dwells alone" and said, "No more." No more being a people that dwells alone, and 14 months later, there he was on the White House lawn shaking the bloody hand dripping with innocent Jewish blood of Yasir Arafat. When Rabin took power in 1992, Israel had been alone on the world stage as never before for four years following US recognition of the PLO Jew-killing cult as a legitimate actor.

Israel's isolation that year was the exact opposite of the secular Zionist dream. And I say it is an eternal temptation, first appearing in Jewish history in the very moment the

Holy One Blessed be He handed over the two tablets on Mt. Sinai to Moshe and said the Children of Israel are to be a kingdom of priests. In every culture with a religion that has priests, they are set apart from the laity, and in G-d's design for the Jews, mankind as a whole would be the laity and the Jews their priests. And in that moment when the Almighty handed over the tablets prohibiting idol-worship, He told Moshe to look down to the bottom of the mountain and see his people worshipping a molten gold image of baby cow.

And it is this temptation that came to mind today when reading Stephen Flatow's piece on the JNS.org website on Senator Chuck Schumer's decision to betray his own decision of ten years ago not to appear at the J Street conference. This year he has answered in the affirmative the invitation to address the conference, which this year means appearing on the same podium as Dr. Saeb Erekat, PhD who stood next to Arafat in July 2000 at Camp David and agreed the Jews never had any temples on Haram-a-Sharif in Jerusalem. They just say that, he said, because they want to keep it from the Muslims.

In 2009, Schumer spurned the invitation by J Street. In 2014, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations likewise rejected J Street's wish for membership in that organization because of its hostility to the State of Israel in tune with the hostility of the murderous Muslims who continually embitter our lives with their antisemitic atrocities.

But now, apparently, Senator Chuck Schumer has decided to go with the flow in history that prevented the House of Representatives controlled by his party from condemning antisemitism.

More idol-worship, which is inseparable from wanting to be like all the goyim.

* * (Musical Interlude) *

There was an interesting clash of two separate news items today. Israel Hayom reported on a heretofore lengthy, detailed booklet produced ten years ago by a rabbi in the IDF concerning issues of modesty between male and female soldiers that was archived and never brought to light because the IDF rabbinate thought it would stir up a public outcry; and now the author of that booklet is the chief IDF rabbi Colonel Eyal Krim, and it seems there is a separate booklet authored by retired IDF rabbis on the same subject.

This first story was carried only by Israel Hayom. But it also carried the same story as Yediot regarding the head of Israel's equivalent of the US Navy Seals, Shayetet 13, who has suddenly resigned in the wake of sexual harassment allegations by female soldiers.

Story No. 1 reflects the enlightened objection to rabbis dictating modesty to non-religious soldiers; Story No. 2 is an example of why this is necessary.

I suspect that the surface demand of the Haredim against IDF service is that it prevents young Jewish men from learning Torah, when learning Torah is at least as much a guarantor of Jewish survival as learning how to kill an enemy. But no less of concern to the Haredim is the mixing of religious boys with secular boys who know nothing of the

religion, have no respect for kashrut. It is the mixing with secular Israelis that is perceived as a threat and no doubt many religious boys who have entered the IDF have emerged antireligious.

But at its deepest level, I think, the rejection of the IDF is the mixing of the sexes and sexual libertinism of the non-religious. In a word, the army is no place for a nice Jewish girl or a nice Jewish boy who is expected to marry and raise a family and to be a virgin when he does get married, no less than a Jewish girl. It is the sex life in this mixed sex army that most deters the Haredim.

And in truth, although I think the situation today in the IDF is better than it used to be, it is still a society of casual sex, sex for pleasure as separate from procreation, as life in Sodom and Gomorrah separated them, if not in the same way.

I once asked Rabbi Efraim Buchwald of his National Jewish Outreach Project, inventor of the Beginners' Service for the uneducated, what the position of Yiddishkeit was on pre-marital sex and he said it is opposed of course... "because it jades you." The Jewish ideal is for the bride and groom to experience relations for the first time with each other, which goes a long way to building the bond needed for a good and long-lasting marriage.

So true. As I've quoted before, someone else once said there may be some things better than sex but nothing quite like it. Making babies is the most G-d-like thing people can do. Hence the virtue of virginity until marriage, not to mention the health factors. It is a fact of medical science that observant Jewish women -- and their virginal, circumcised husbands -- women suffer the least from uterine, ovarian, and cervical cancers. This is also attributable to the monthly discipline of mikveh and abstention.

I also think that Jewish sexual morality is the core of Jew-hatred. Sexual morality is the basis of all morality, and when that collapses, other moral behaviors will also fall. It is no accident that the lunacy of Trump Derangement Syndrome is rooted, I think, in the fear that Trump will pack the Supreme Court with enough conservatives to revisit and reverse the licentious Roe v. Wade decision that threw holy water on abortion, on a process since then that has resulted in the holocaust of tens of millions of human fetuses. It is no accident that the aggression against the devout Catholic Brett Kavanaugh in his confirmation hearings took the form of portraying him a sexual predator in the mold of Bill Clinton the serial rapist and no less his accomplice, his feminist icon wife who no less coincidentally is also a monster of financial corruption.

Likewise, in Israel, founded by post-religious leftists, the hostility to religion is hostility to the discipline of Jewish notion that sexuality requires restraint discipline and restraint.

* * (Musical Interlude) *