

B"H

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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 2nd day, *kaf-zion bekhodesh Mar Kbesivan, Parashas Toldos, taf-shin-peh*, 5780, the evening of the 1st day, Sunday, 24 November, 2019, webcasting from Israel, embarrassing Israel. Ugly Israel, where the hatred of Benyomin Ben Bentzion is so like the hatred of Donald Trump; irrational and envious.

Benny Gantz won 44 seats in the last election without offering one new idea to improve Israel in any way, domestically, economically, in foreign affairs. So why did people vote for him? What? He will better at making Israel's case to the world? His English is better than Bibi's? I don't think so.

Bibi, at least, after the army, went into business. He wanted to be a successful businessman. Then his brother was martyred and he went to war against PLO terrorism. When he was Finance Minister, he junked much of the socialism crippling the economy, and today under Bibi most people live well.

By contrast, Gantz spent his adult life in the army, like Uncle Shimon and Doctor Beilin, with no experience of the private sector. People voted for one thing only; Gantz stood for a secular Israel, and there's got to be some connection between Mandelblit's middlebrow decision last Thursday to throw the book at Bibi, an attorney-general torn, I believe, between being an Israeli Jew and regarding the law as a gentile might and Gantz getting as many seats as he did.

He's another Israeli, Mandelblit, with no experience of the real world. He also spent 26 years in the army as a lawyer. He entered at age 22, after three years of law school – no university education in a Western sense -- and retired in 2011 at age 48. He then joined a think-thank for a couple of years, then Netanyahu appointed him

Cabinet Secretary. Netanyahu also supported him when he was appointed Attorney General of Israel in 2016. Apparently, Avichai Mandelblit thinks there was something criminal in a conversation or conversations between the PM and Noni Moses, anti-Bibi publisher of Yediot Aharonot. I think he is a mediocrity, and there is something wrong in the electoral system in Israel that allows for such a situation, allows this one man to determine the course of the country. I am not up on Israeli law but one source says he was under no obligation to do what he did last Thursday; he could have waited for some time. Right in the middle of this governmental crisis he does something so injurious to one of the parties when he did not have to. Why?

I can only guess that maybe while he was a protégé of Bibi, who is not noted for friendliness with many, maybe Bibi abused him and this is his revenge, which is sheer, armchair speculation on my part.

Or is he just a dolt and oblivious to the major political ramifications that will injure one of the politicians, and benefit his rival?

I also squirmed when in his announcement he expressed the four indictments with “a heavy heart,” which tells me he is another Israeli jurist who does not know what a proper jurisprudential temperament is. Like the current chief justice of the High Court Esther Hayut who when she took office solemnly vowed to continue to fight for the needy and the aged, bromides like these and that is wrong. A judge’s job is impartiality, not social activism for any group. One of the wise facets of Torah is the command to judges not to be swayed by anyone’s status, which cuts both ways. Every ten-year-old would agree that it is wrong for a judge to favor the rich guy in a dispute, to curry up to him, but no less a judge may not favor the poor guy out of compassion for him. It is possible for a poor man to wrong a rich one. We are all moral actors.

And here was Avichai Mandelblit when announcing his indictments, doing so “with a heavy heart.” Why? Judges must not be slaves to their emotions; emotions should not be an ingredient in their thinking. For this was more than an indictment; this was an expression of belief that Netanyahu is guilty. In Mandelblit’s affect, he is not innocent until proven guilty. Carrying out his duty to calmly and dispassionately weigh the evidence and come to a reasonable conclusion that it is worth a trial of the hypothesis that Bibi is guilty, and fulfilling one’s obligation in that position should be no cause for doing so “with a heavy heart.” Telling us his heart is heavy is telling us he thinks Bibi is guilty of all these crimes, and not only him; Noni Moses, Ilovitz and wife, they are all guilty. And this comes after the revelation of a couple of weeks ago of what the police did to Bibi spokesman Nir Hefetz to make him bad-mouth the prime minister; police behavior worthy of a banana republic or Stalin’s “darkness at noon.” They kept him in a filthy room crawling with insects; they threatened him and his family with destruction. Disgusting behavior, and coincidentally reminiscent of what Obama’s cronies did to Paul Manafort and Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn and Kevin Kavanaugh. In both societies, there is major corruption in, of all places, the legal

system, the police and law courts. When in the US the FBI and the and the Department of Justice and the CIA are run by utterly corrupt people, cronies of Emperor Clintonius the Perverse and his consort Hilarious, a.k.a. Lady Macbeth Clinton, the society as a whole is corrupt. Is it not corrupt and degenerate for once wonderful West Coast cities to be turned into Third World slums, a country in which scores of thousands are dying enslaved to narcotics? These are all connected.

In Israel, Bibi last week following the indictments, listed one infamous case after another in which the police and legal system went after people and made their lives miserable, and in the end the police were proven wrong and their victims innocent.

And so today the prime minister was right to conduct the routine, weekly cabinet meeting with no reference to last Thursday. He dealt with issues of concern to the country, and one supposes he will not give up his position without a fight, as he should not. The hostility to him is irrational, like the hostility to Trump. At the helm of the ship of state, Bibi has steered a course that has maintained the violence that is chronic here on a low flame. The economy is solid. Millions of Israelis now take vacations abroad. Deposing him makes no rational sense because there is no reason whatsoever to think Gantz would be a better prime minister.

Also at work here is something absent in the States, which is the religious factor, and it is no coincidence that within 24 hours of Mandelblit's indictments, in Tel-Aviv free public transport, 19-seat minibuses, began rolling on the Sabbath in Tel-Aviv, Ramat HaSharon, Givatayim and Kiryat Ono, of course in the name of charity and kindness to the indigent without cars who want to go to a party on a Friday night or the beach the next day, which is baloney. One picture of one passenger revealed a smiling well-dressed young man who said that ordinarily he would take a taxi, admitting that the price of the taxi was hardly prohibitive. And that the service is free is attributable to the anti-religious mayor of Tel-Aviv who is on a crusade against religion in Israeli life.

That the municipality is paying for this, that the service is free, exposes it as a political aggression. Tel-Aviv's mayor, former combat pilot and Brigadier General Ron Huldai, snickered that as there is no such thing as a Jewish chair, there is not such thing as a Jewish city or state. He is a major anti-Jew Jew, another product of the Mapai-created IDF. And one can only wonder how he would respond to the idea of removing the Star of David from the flag, who was a religious Jew par excellence. The presence of religion on the flag might offend him too.

It is a sad day when all these towns officially violate the Sabbath, which is the ultimate in Jewish markers of identity, even more than the circumcision. Non-Jews, if they are smart, circumcise their sons. Arabs circumcise themselves though they remain barbarians. No, the quintessential Jewish act is Shabbos and how do we know this? Look at the Ten Commandments: the first three are, for want of a better word, philosophical tenets, acts of the mind. Not until Commandment No. 4 are we

commanded to actually do something, the first one that commands material effort and behavior. Shabbos demands a lot of behavior, most of it before Shabbos in preparation.

Shabbos comes before “Honor you father and mother”; it is that important. It comes before no adultery, no murder, no theft.

Shabbos is so important, even the post-religious Zionist founders of Tel-Aviv and all these towns just knew Shabbos was the distinctive Jewish behavior, and while they had jettisoned the religion for themselves individually, they knew the collective Jewish identity in the public square is Shabbos. Last week, the opponents of this latest rebellion against being “a people that dwells alone” cited famous Zionist poet Chaim Nahman Bialik and first mayor Tel-Aviv Meir Dizengoff who also supported Sabbath in the public square, despite all their other deviations from classic Jewishness.

There is a connection somehow between this violation of the Sabbath in the first “Hebrew city” the secular Zionist boasted, meaning, in which the language is Hebrew, and the nasty aggression against Prime Minister Netanyahu that he does not deserve.

* * (Musical Interlude) * *

So, as the prime minister acted today as if nothing had happened last week, running the usual Sunday cabinet meeting. I will also happily ignore the political scene, which making me sick, all this jockeying for power, attempts to topple Bibi, and turn to some good news out of the UK; and bad. The good news was a public letter by some intellectuals, artists, writers against the antisemitism of Jeremy Corbyn’s Labour in the upcoming election. Among them was spy novelist John Le Carre, colleague Frederick Forsyth and actress Joanna Lumley.

Also, in a separate item, Joan Ryan, who quit the Labour Party last February over Corbyn’s antisemitism, addressed last Thursday an ADL gathering, saying that in the four years since Corbyn took over Labour, “Jewish MPs have been bullied out of the party, Jewish members have been abused, harassed and threatened and I could not remain in such a party.” She said she will not campaign for Corbyn as the next prime minister. Significantly, she said, “too many people in Labour believed it {the antisemitism in the party} was just a few bad apples for far too long. By the time Labour became institutionally antisemitic, it was far too late to root out the Jew-haters. We should have been saying from the outset that Corbyn’s hatred of Israel was repugnant, and that his tolerance of antisemitism, his past association with Holocaust deniers, Jew-haters and terrorist sympathizers made him unfit to be Britain’s prime minister.”

Yes, and it seems that as the Democratic Party in the States, leastwise judging the mediocrities running for president, has gone socialist, when 20th century liberalism was identified with liberal anti-communism, so British Labour has morphed into the antisemitic

party – which, by the way, was the name of a party in Vienna at the turn of the 20th century in power at the time of the first Zionist Congress. This was before antisemitism, the very word, was connected to mass murder. Antisemitism to a large degree in Herzl's Vienna was a variety of anti-immigrant feeling because refugee Jews from Russian and Eastern Europe had become a significant community and the locals were understandably unhappy as an invasion of foreigners. Historians claim Hitler's first idea was not extermination but expulsion of the Jews. Only after the world shut their doors to the Jews did he embark on the Final Solution.

Today, though, as British Labour morphs into the party of antisemitism, it is another strain different from the one in Vienna a century ago. It is even crazier, for that earlier incarnation before Hitler had some realistic reactions to Jews versus today's Jew-hatred a la Corbyn and fellow British Jew-haters, David Irving, Ken Livingstone and George Galloway who are simply off their rockers, these men, in their irrational perception of Jews as major evildoers in our allegedly racist abuse of the Ancient Ones.

For example, British Labour just released on Thursday its platform regarding foreign and defense policies in the event Labour wins the upcoming election, G-d forbid. The Party will recognize immediately a State of Balestine and halt all arms sales to Israel and likewise suspend them to Saudi Arabia for fighting in Yemen. Israel will be embargoed militarily because of its "violation of the human rights of Palestinian civilians and conduct a root-and-branch reform of our arms exports regime so ministers can never again turn a blind eye to British-made weapons being used to target innocent civilians."

You got that? This is the functional equivalent of the age-old blood libel that conjures up Jews who murder innocent people for their religious beliefs, when this official document of the British Labour Party insinuates that Israeli soldiers use British-made weapons to, basically, murder people who are in fact innocent civilians.

This is like Tulsi Gabbard claiming that the IDF shoots and kills "unarmed demonstrators." In fact, they are homicidal, armed rioters. This woman needs a visit to a spiritual ophthalmologist to correct her vision.

Likewise, Labour in this policy statement is right out of the Dark Ages when English people, Christians, believed the worst about Jews; believed in fantasies of Jewish evil with no basis in fact. Homicidal antisemitism must surely be registered in the DSM, the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual used by psychiatrists and clinical psychologists as a diagnostic tool. Men like Corbyn are truly twisted in their minds about Jews. They are delusional. Like the college students who hold Israel Apartheid Weeks when there is no apartheid in Israel. This is a mental disorder.

On the bright side of the news out of England, last Thursday as well, there was a report of 121 pages produced by the C of E/the Church of England, in which the Church spoke the truth that leading up to and feeding the Holocaust had been "the persecution of Jews justified by Christian theology." The title of the report was "G-d's Unfailing World Theoretical and Practical Perspectives on Christian-Jewish Relations" which said attitudes

towards Jews over millennia centuries had proved to be a “fertile seed-bed for murderous antisemitism, and that Anglicans and other Christians must repent the sins of the past and resist antisemitic attitudes and stereotypes.”

It also rejected “the historic collective guilt attributed to the Jews for the death of Christ and their suffering justified collective punishment.”

It also, oh so politely, very British, admitted that some of the language used by pro-Balestinians is “reminiscent of what could be called traditional antisemitism.”

I hope I live to see the day when the term “antisemitism” goes out of fashion because it was dishonest verbal camouflage for hating Jews in a new key when Christianity went out of intellectual fashion.

Still, the core sentiment and honest self-reflection here is most welcome. And surely the place of Jew-hatred in British politics these days is central. This statement by the C of E did not come from nowhere.

So that’s good.

* * (Musical Interlude) *

And now for some good news out of Israel; the Jewish Press’s David Israel is reporting that for two Fridays now in a row, there have been no riots along the barrier with Gaza, and he says the new Defense Minister Naftali Bennett deserves the credit. Reading between the lines, it seems that without fanfare, Bennett has made clear to Muslims in Gaza the IDF will respond more forcefully than in the past.

Perhaps. Also in play is the internal friction between Hamas and Islamic Jihad, the eternal, fraternal infighting so characteristic of the Ishmaelites. Of course, Fatah and Hamas have never since 1993 been able to unite, because fratricide is in their spiritual DNA.

One of the blind spots, major blind spots of the Oslo Peace Process, was treating the Arabs, the Balestinians, as if they were just like us, when they are not. A major point in my book is the role played in the Oslo fiasco by Israeli and other Jewish leftists in inventing the “Palestinians,” a nation just like the Jewish nation with an attachment to their ancient homeland just like the Jews who want a state of their own in their ancient homeland -- just like the Jews -- and above all are like us in the Judeo-Christian West in being amenable to negotiations that in the end will mean compromise, with neither side getting all it wants. The Balestinians are just like us Zionists, thought Rabin, Beilin, Peres and fellow Israeli fools.

What Israelis of the Left and center-Left have never learned, because it is too depressing a thought, is that the only way to deal with the Arabs is the way Arabs deal with Arabs. Everywhere they have been independent, especially since the break-up of the Ottoman Empire, they have produced, under their own steam, nowhere forced by the imperialists to do this, they have come up with governments that are commonly

dictatorships. One American mistake displayed these last 18 years since 9-11 has been the futile task, as Viet Nam was a futile crusade, to export American culture, rooted in English culture, to these very different societies.

Democracy is not necessarily the right system for all peoples. Look at what Obama and Hillary did in Egypt; they brought down the military dictatorship of Hosni Mubarak, called for new elections and -- sure enough -- the Muslim Brotherhood won, as Hamas, the Muslim Brotherhood won in Yesha in 2006, with the Brotherhood still in power in Gaza; as the Muslims went to war against the FLN in Algeria in 1992 when the regime there cancelled the very first elections it had called for in 30 years because the Muslims won.

Thomas Jefferson was the most radical liberal in the American Revolution but even he admitted democracy cannot exist among a population of uneducated illiterates, which is who these Arab Muslims are here. Here they have been incapable since 1993, supported by zillions of dollars and good will, to rule themselves democratically.

And where in Araby have they been able to do that? The closest they have come has been in Tunisia, but that fact strengthens the view that they are commonly incapable of that. Twenty-one Arabs states that are also officially Muslims states are not all politically like those in the West, and this why the Oslo Delirium had to fail, and why Mordechai Keidar's idea of separate, emirate-like communities among the tribes in Judea and Samaria should be the rational way to manage them -- after we annex all of Judea and Samaria because it is our right to do that.

* (Musical Interlude) *