



Straight Talk

by Muriel Sluyter

Same Song, Umpteenth Verse

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Greetings, Gentle Reader,

The Israeli inhabitants of the Holy Land, no larger than Massachusetts, have been subjected to invasion and subjugation by the Assyrians, Babylonians, Egyptians, Greeks, Romans and others. They have been taken into slavery repeatedly. Often, only tiny remnants remained to effect the survival of the people, language and culture.

W.C. Skousen, attorney, sixteen year veteran of the FBI, editorial director for Law and Order magazine, and professor of Ancient Scriptures, toured the Holy Lands often. In 1967 he gave this report: "On my first trip I just listened to their story. It was a heartrending account of Israeli brutality, Israeli aggressions and Israeli atrocities. They described how a million Arabs, living in Israel, had been ruthlessly driven from their homes and from their land during the war of 1948. They pointed to the pitiful conditions in the refugee camps where hundreds of thousands of Arabs are barely subsisting on frugal rations administered to them by...the UN. The camps...were indeed a sight to touch the most calloused conscience. Dirt, rags and abject poverty seemed to be the permanent lot of all these people. The condition of the children was especially pitiful.

"The Arabs assured us that this was entirely the result of Israeli aggression and cruelty. They said this was why the Jews must be completely driven out of Palestine so that these refugees could be returned to their rightful positions.

Then one of their Arab drivers came to the professor privately and said, "You are not being told the whole truth. I am one of the Arab refugees from Israel. I will tell you what really happened." He then proceeded to tell a story, which Skousen later reconstructed from his notes.

"When Israel was made an independent nation by the UN, the Palestine Arabs were also given territory for an independent nation. But instead of accepting this plan which was supposed to go into effect in 1948, the Palestine Arabs decided to get six other Arab nations to join them in declaring war on Israel so they could drive them out. That way they would get all the land.

"The leaders of these Arab nations sent word to us Arabs living in Israel that we should move over into Jordan territory so we wouldn't get hurt during the war against the Jews. The Arab leaders promised us that we would be away from our homes only a short time, not more than three weeks at the longest. Then they said we could return and possess not only our own property but the land and buildings of the Jews as well. Most of the Arabs in Israel moved over into Jordan just as soon as they could, although some stayed (about 100,000) because the Israeli government promised them good treatment if they would remain."

The professor asks: "Then what happened to the million who came out?"

"We had a holiday at first. Everyone expected the Jews to be defeated quickly. But they fought hard. They were stronger and better fighters than the Arab leaders had expected. After awhile the Arabs had to give up because the Jews were beginning to win more territory than they had in the first place. In a few months an armistice was signed. This left all of us Arabs from Israel without any homes. The Jews said they would hold our land in trust for us but they said that since we had joined the enemy we could not return until the Arab nations had agreed to recognize Israel and sign a permanent peace treaty. This never happened so the next thing we knew all of us Arabs from Israel were confined to special camps set up by the Arab governments. Most of us were confined in Jordan, but some were located in Egypt and Lebanon... We were not allowed to seek jobs, farm the land or become citizens of these countries. The refugee camps became prison camps with our Arab brothers standing over us as guards...

"For fifteen years (we) lived like animals in the camp. Last year the officials needed Arabs who could speak English, French or German to act as guides. I could speak English, so they let me have one of those jobs."

Skousen asks: "What happened to the Arabs who remained in Israel?" Driver's response: "They say they are

doing very well. They elect their own representatives. They use their own language in the schools. They are allowed to study the Koran instead of the Jewish Bible. Some of them come to Jordan on business or to visit so we get to talk to them."

When asked whether Israelis had driven thousands of Arabs from their homes, as refugees charged, his guide answered, "Yes, I think this happened to some, especially around Jaffa and Haifa and later along the border of Jerusalem. But what your guide told you was not the whole story. During the winter of 1947 and 1948 the British were angry with the Jews, and the Arabs in Israel found they could make raids on the Jews without interference from the British. I was against it because the Jews had been storing up weapons and I knew they are mean fighters when they get mad. Eventually they did get mad, and they attacked Jaffa and Haifa. A lot of Arabs fled from these main centers, but they did not have to leave Israel unless they wanted to.

"Later, when the Arab leaders ordered us to leave Israel the Jews had sound trucks go up and down the streets for several days asking us not to leave. They told us that if we stayed we would not have to fight to help the Jews and that we would be treated well as long as we were neutral and didn't help their enemies."

Let's fast-forward to May 16, 1967: Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt requested that all UN troops vacate Gaza immediately. Secretary U Thant of the UN reluctantly agreed. May 22, he was informed that Egypt had closed the Aqaba Gulf, through which Israel received 90 percent of its oil, blocking it with mines, torpedo boats and artillery. (Nasser had never permitted Israel to use the Suez Canal.) British ships were stopped at the entrance of the gulf by artillery fire.

Nasser already had used poison gas on villages in Yemen and Saudi Arabia. When Yemen's asked for help, Egyptian bombers dropped bombs on the villages and attacked two Red Cross vehicles en route to render aid.

Syria attacked Israel regularly and with impunity from the heights on the east of Galilee. Israel's complaints to the UN were ignored, so they gave the UN written notice that they would retaliate if the attacks continued. During that retaliation, both sides suffered heavy casualties. The UN reacted immediately, calling Israel an aggressor.

US News and World Report summed up the looming war in these words, "Israel is a small enclave of 2.7 million people—without abundant natural resources—lying on the Mediterranean, and surrounded by hostile Arabs.

"Arab powers, on the other hand, control a vast territory that includes a large portion of the oil reserves of the Western world...

"There are more than 50 million Arabs committed to a sort of 'holy crusade' to the goal of getting rid of Israel... On that (issue) they are almost fanatically united."

"Israel, at the same time, is considered by military men to be highly vulnerable to Arab attack if the country is left on its own for self-defense."

Actually, because neighboring Arabs were allied with other Arab states, there were an additional 60 million Arabs anxious to dismember Israel and massacre its people. The Arabs had 631,000 fighting men, 2,382 tanks, and 862 warplanes. This meant they had twice the ground forces, three times the tanks and over twice as many fighter and bomber planes...and for weeks, demonstrators in Cairo had been shouting, "We want war! We want war!"

In the war that followed, Israel regained the West Bank, which Jordan had taken illegally. They took back Gaza, which Egypt had taken illegally. They took the Western Wall of old Jerusalem, the Wailing Wall. They took the cities from which Jews had been forced in the 1920s.

Israel will continue to be castigated by the world community, because that community, particularly the UN and Europe, is intensely anti-Jewish, but decent, honorable people, especially Americans, should reject their shameful example.