

In Name of Life

By Judy Carr

Sometimes when I am reading newspaper articles and polemics and speeches about the Palestinians, their desire for a State and the everlasting argument, Hasemite or PLO, I want to scream and push my fist in the face of these abstract arguers. They behave as though the whole question is something on paper -- an argument to be deduced like an algebraic equation. I can tell them that to the average citizen living in Israel, raising a family and working here, the situation is not abstract. It is intensely human and involves our own flesh and blood.

Do they realize what the terrorists are going to Israeli children...Kids who do not think in terms of politics or making or un-making States. Children in Kiryat Shmoneh have an obsessive fear of a mountain within view of the town. It is from Mount Naftali that the terrorists came down to Kiryat Shmoneh to murder families. When you picture Shoshi or Avi lifting their eyes from the math book to look out of the schoolroom window at the mountain... Do your arguments take on other dimensions?

Educational systems in Israel are being geared towards terror, towards coping with children's fears. A lesson in Bible or literature now has to be a therapeutic session. -But mind you, diplomats, nothing is said in the curriculum about hating Arabs. Israeli children are never taught to hate Arabs. An educator said, "we read literature where the Arab children are portrayed with the same problems as young Israelis, not in black and white."

The answer to a mother who has woken to run and comfort a child screaming with nightmare has very little to do with the creation of States. It has to do with relationships. After all, who is stopping Jews and Arabs living together peaceably? All over Israel and the territories, life is rubbing along without enmity, without blows, with quite a bit of good humour. The child in Kiryat Shmoneh and the child in the Lebanese village over the border would play together happily enough.

The terrorists who are now invited to the UN and to the International Civil Aviation Organization to take part in world leadership are Anti-Life. Not just in the sense that they kill, but because their activities create fear that destroys the personality, that makes hell in the place of normal family life and a desert where there used to be values.... On all levels, in both public and domestic life.

It is not just the governments of the world that these madmen are buying. It is the lives of human beings, all that is human and everyday and natural in the lives of you and me, that they are sucking up into a sea of oil and gold. Is it any use to say to Statesmen and diplomats and world leaders... Stop the parasites crawling in. Stop the rot...In the Name of Life.

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