

KOL MEVASSER

Terror, BDS & the "Isaac Factor"

Parashat Toldot

Genesis 25:19 – 28:9

Rabbi Daniel Bouskila
SEC Director



As I looked at the gruesome images of bodies laying on the floor in a Jerusalem synagogue, wrapped in Talit and Tefillin and drenched in blood, what came to mind is the haunting poem by Hayim Nahman Bialik, "On the Threshold of the House of Prayer." Here are some excerpts:

O, sanctuary of my youth, my ancient house of prayer...

Sadly, sunbeams gaze through your cracks and holes,

Each corner mourns, each nook bewails your lot...

*O, sacred walls of my house of prayer,
Why do you stand speechless and in despair?
Casting dark and silent shadows, grim to view?*

While reflecting on these chilling words, I also thought of Palestinian Authority Mahmoud Abbas and his most recent expressions of hatred. In remarks clearly intended to stoke the flames of violence, Abbas recently said, "We must do everything to stop the Israelis from **desecrating** and polluting the Noble Sanctuary (The Temple Mount)." While Israel actually **protects** the status quo of Islam's religious control over the Temple Mount, and

Israeli police officers **protect** the security of Islamic religious leaders and millions of Muslims who pray there regularly, Abbas' inflammatory remarks caused the exact opposite: Muslims desecrated a Jewish House of Prayer, Muslims killed an Israeli police officer, Muslims butchered four Jewish religious leaders, and Muslims injured Jewish worshippers. It is Muslims who polluted a synagogue with violence and bloodshed. It is Muslims who desecrated, not Jews.

In the meanwhile, just as the massacre took place in Jerusalem Wednesday morning, UCLA's Student Government met Tuesday night (Israel is 10 hours ahead of Los Angeles), and did some desecrating of their own. At their meeting, the UCLA Student Government polluted UCLA, my alma mater. In a shameful 8-2 vote, UCLA's Student Government voted to endorse the international "Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions" (BDS) movement, whose goal is to weaken Israel and promote the Palestinian agenda. In an institution known for promoting freedom of inquiry, freedom of speech, tolerance, pluralism, open-minded thinking and democratic values, the student government decided to identify with a society whose way of life continues to be contra to all that UCLA stands for. By identifying with a Palestinian society whose religious leaders, politicians and parents promote violence, intolerance and anti-democratic creeds as a way of life, the irresponsible student government took UCLA – whose emblem reads "Let there be light" – into a symbolic "dark age."

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KJ Schedule Toldot

Erev Shabbat

Friday, November 21st

Shaharit / Morning Prayer .. 6:15 am

Candle Lighting4:28 pm

Minha / Arvith 4:28 pm

Shabbat Toldot

Saturday, November 22nd

Shaharit/Morning Prayer 8:30 am

Special "Solidarity with Israel"

Shabbat with Rabbi Bouskila

during morning services

Minha, Seudah, Arvit..... 4:00 pm

Motzei Shabbat / Havdallah 5:31 pm

Rosh Hodesh Kislev

Sunday, November 23rd

Shaharit 7:30 am

KJ Kids Talmud Torah..... 10:00 am

Weekdays

Mon to Wed, November 24th to 26th

Shaharit/Morning Prayer 6:30 am

Thursday November 27th

Shaharit/Morning Prayer 7:30 am

Friday, November 28th

Shaharit/Morning Prayer 6:30 am

Erev Shabbat

Friday, November 28th

Shaharit / Morning Prayer .. 6:30 am

Candle Lighting4:26 pm

Minha / Arvith 4:26 pm

Torah & Haftara Readings

Genesis/Beresheet:

Toldot 93-101

Haftara from the Prophets

Malachi 102-105



The Sisterhood of Kahal Joseph
invites the children of our community to a

Hanukkah Celebration

Sunday, December 21st 2014 at 10:00 am
featuring wonderful entertainment



Clown & Balloon Art

Amazing Magician

Sweets & Treats for the Children
Fun for the Whole Family

RSVP Requested

Elsa at 323.934.3439

Louise 818.884.0120

Rita 310.839.4206

Hannie 310.247.0220

Hag Sameah! ♥ Happy Hanukkah!



Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored
in memory of
Jack Jonah, z"l
by
Helen, Rebecca
& Jonathan

"Solidarity with Israel" Shabbat

with
Rabbi Bouskila

Rabbi Bouskila will be joining us for this special Shabbat program. Together we will recite memorial prayers in memory of our fallen brothers, along with special Psalms and prayers for the protection of Israel. Rabbi Bouskila's remarks will be devoted to the memories of the innocent souls brutally murdered in the attack. His topic: "Unity in the Face of Terror."

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries for Nov. 22 to 29, 2014. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka, & attend services the preceding Shabbat.

29 Heshvan / Shabbat, November 22nd

Shaul Haim Nuriel *Shaul ben Haim*
Mary Saleh

1 Kislev / Sunday, November 23rd

William Ekaireb *Shaya ben Ezra Sion*
Abraham Isaac Avraham *ben Eliyahu Yitzhak*
Joe Joseph Yoseph *Hai ben Yitzhak Yoseph*
Henry Zekaria *Yehezkel ben Sion*

2 Kislev / Monday, November 24th

Doron Ironi *Doron ben Yosef*
Victoria Kadosh *Victoria bat Reuben*
Ralph Nathan *Raphael Mordechai*
Aziza bat Farha
Ezekiel Ezra Reuben *Yehezkel ben Reuven*
D'loomy

3 Kislev / Tuesday, November 25th

Rebecca Benbeniste *Rivka bat Dudu*
Rachel Jacob *Rahel bat Salha Mattana*

5 Kislev / Thursday, November 27th

Elias Ezekiel Isaac *Eliyahu ben Yehezkel Yitzhak*
Silas Moshe Kadoorie *Silas ben Moshe*
Flora Sassoon *Farha bat Simha*
Nassim Reuben Suleiman

6 Kislev / Friday, November 28th

Maggie Dabby *Marjorie bat Sam Dabby*

7 Kislev / Shabbat, November 29th

Eliyahu Ezer *Eliyahu ben Yoseph Ezer*

Refuah Shlemah

Moselle Amron • Tilda Levy • Joseph Sharaf
Maurice Ovadia • Michael Herzbrun
Saul Sassoon

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In the wake of this week's violence in Jerusalem targeting Jewish worshippers, along with the shameful vote that saw UCLA's Student Government join the chorus of delegitimizers of Israel, one would think that Israel and the Jewish people might feel a sense of despair. We are horrified, outraged, disgusted – but absolutely no state of despair. There is one person in this week's Torah portion who embodies our lack of despair. His name is Isaac.

We are all descendants of Isaac, the boy who was bound up on the altar with a knife to his throat, yet nonetheless found the strength to move on and build his life. We are all descendants of Isaac, who, when faced with a famine in Israel, decided to “stay in the land and dig wells.” The resilience of Isaac is part of the Jewish hard drive. I call it the “Isaac Factor.”

Throughout our history, the Jewish people have been persecuted and attacked – both physically (like this week's attacks in Jerusalem) and verbally (like the BDS vote at UCLA) - but somehow, we always found the strength to move ahead. Like Isaac, we were “bound on the altar with a knife to our throats” many times in our history, but we always recovered and moved ahead. Like Isaac, we also see problems and challenges in our own land, and like Isaac, our response to those problems is to “stay in the land and dig wells.” We are traumatized by persecution, but that does not deter us from continuing to build and promote a better future. We are disturbed by the many problems in the Middle East, but that will nev-

er cause us to leave Israel. We are Isaac, the ultimate “survivor” who always finds the strength to move on and rebuild.

Not only do we survive, but we promote life, no matter the circumstances. While UCLA students voted for BDS in supposed support of the Palestinians, and while Hamas praised the attacks and Palestinians triumphantly celebrated violence in the streets, our Chief Rabbis met with Muslim leaders in a public call for peace, just **one day after** a brutal attack by Muslims against us. While the “righteous of the world” pay lip service to cooperation amongst peoples, we are the people who – in the midst of funerals and shiva for our own families – sent busloads of Jews from Jerusalem to a Druze village in Northern Israel (along with a rabbi to deliver a eulogy), all to pay final respects to the young Israeli police officer from the Druze community who died in defense of the Jewish worshippers. You can shoot at us in our synagogues or shoot us down at student government meetings, but we will always find the strength to move ahead, nothing will drive us away from our homeland, and nobody will take away our strong sense of humanity and decency.

To the brutal terrorists this week, and to those who shamefully voted for BDS, we proudly declare – despite our outrage – that we are not desecrators. We are survivors. We promote life. No matter what you try against us, you will always come up against our strongest and most durable weapon: the “Isaac Factor.”



Shabbat Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Bouskila Shabbat Hanukkah

Saturday, December 20, 2014
Following Morning Services

In celebration of Hanukkah, a holiday most deeply connected to the Zionist ethic of contemporary Judaism, join Rabbi Bouskila in a community conversation on a timely and important topic seriously affecting Israel & the Jewish people.

Topic:
**Delegitimizing Israel:
Who's Doing It, and Why We
Should be Concerned**

INTERNATIONAL NIGHT



Presented by

The Sisterhood of the Kahal Joseph Congregation

Sunday, December 7 at 6:30 PM

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