

**THE JEWS:
WHY ARE THEY, ONLY TOO OFTEN,
PERSONA NON GRATA ?**

In Toronto, Canada, a young Jewish lady was engaged in a conversation with a group of very conservative, orthodox Jews, known as Ashkenazim because their origins was Eastern Europe.

Present, also, there was one Chinese lady who was not of the Jewish faith.

The young Jewish lady, who had just been enrolled as a student at The University of Toronto, was asked as to what kind of man she would select to be her future husband.

She replied to the question by saying, words to the effect:

‘I haven’t even considered the matter of getting married. My mother will guide me along the correct path when it is time. She will choose the correct partner for me. She knows best!’

The Ashkenazim men and women all nodded their heads, signifying that the answer was intelligent and, also, it was the correct one.

But the Chinese lady asked, impertinently:

‘Would you marry a Chinese man?’

The young Jewish lady, quickly snapped:

‘Never!’

The Chinese lady, then, asked a second impertinent question:

‘What about an Afro-American man?’

The young, Jewish lady, becoming increasingly irritated by this line of questioning, sneered, as she blurted out:

‘Of course not!’

The Chinese lady, then, said:

‘Then, I suppose you only want to marry a Caucasian. Isn’t that correct?’

The young, Jewish lady, nodded assent and said:

‘That’s correct. But that Caucasian must be Jewish. No Gentiles for me! Anyway, my mother would never allow that. She will choose my future husband. I am not concerned about such matters, at this stage in my life. I am still young. I am only 20, you know.’

The Chinese lady, again:

‘Why only a Jew? Aren’t there any suitable, non-Jewish males out there from which to select a husband?’

The young, Jewish lady, obviously feeling somewhat trapped, said:

‘I am a Jewish girl from a good and decent, religious family. I shall do what my mother wants for me. She knows best. Anyway, how can I marry a Gentile: He would never be acceptable to me? He comes from a very different background: Oil and water do not mix, you know.’

The above extract is from a real conversation, recorded faithfully at a luncheon on a Saturday morning.

The answers from this young Jewish lady, having experienced life in the warmth of a loving, orthodox Jewish family for 20 years, are those that would be considered, widely, as being quite acceptable to most devout Jewish men and women of Toronto, be they Ashkenazi or Sephardic (Sephardic: Jewish men and women whose ancestry can be traced back to Arab states, such as Iraq, Morocco, Tunisia and Yemen).

On studying the answers of this young, Jewish lady, one might be tempted to ask:

‘Are many Jews prejudiced?’

The simple answer is: Yes.

There are many Jews, males and females, who, in respect of Gentiles, bear preconceived opinions of them, those opinions, not based on rational thinking or experience, but passed down from generation to generation.

This situation is such, not only in Toronto, Canada, but in many parts of the world.

The State of Israel

The State of Israel is, today, the home to a little more than eight million people.

Of the total population of the country, about 75 percent are Jewish, 17.50 percent are Muslim, two percent are Christian, 1.60 percent are Druze and the remaining 3.90 percent are given the nomenclature of being ‘others’.

When World War II ended, officially, on September 2, 1945, with the surrender of Japan at Tokyo Bay, Great Britain withdrew from Palestine.

The United Nations, then, proposed partitioning Palestine into what is now The State of Israel and a number of Arab states.

The Arabs, however, rejected the United Nations’ proposition, outright, but, on May 14, 1948, The State of Israel was proclaimed at the Tel Aviv Art Museum.

The first Prime Minister of The State of Israel was Mr David Ben-Gurion.

During World War II, some six million Jews were murdered in concentration camps and on the streets of many European cities.

The concentration camps were established by the Government of Germany, the Chancellor of which, between 1939 and 1945, was Adolf Hitler.

Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion welcomed the surviving Jews of Europe, and anywhere else in the world, to come to The State of Israel and to become citizens of their country.

It was a dream that was realised by the Founder of The State of Israel: The first homeland of the Jews in 2,000 years.

Israel went through very turbulent times, following the founding of the country, with its Arab neighbours, declaring war on the new Jewish state.

Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, personally, supervised Israel's War of Independence with the country's Arab neighbours, including the Palestinians.

The IDF – the **I**srael **D**efence **F**orces – was created out of The War of Independence, with Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, announcing that the country's IDF would serve, inter alia, to cause all of the immigrant Jews of the country, many of whom spoke vastly different languages, to adopt what was to be the national language: Hebrew.

Fearful of having an enemy in its midst, the remaining Arab residents of Israel were placed under martial law; and, that situation lasted until 1966.

Many of these Arab residents of Israel lost a great deal of their lands. These lands were, subsequently, given to newly established Jewish communities.

It is held, today, that Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion underestimated the power of religion in trying to cement various factions in the country to work toward a common goal.

These factions comprised culturally diverse populations: Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion wanted to promote all of the factions into an homogenous, Jewish society.

Orthodoxy reigned, however, preserving educational autonomy, thus, guaranteeing that future Israeli generations would be religious voters.

The secular modernity of which the Prime Minister first dreamed, initially, withered on the doctrinal vine.

During Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion's two terms of office – 1948-1953 and 1955-1963 – he oversaw the creation of one of the most-modern states – in the middle of what had been, merely a desert – a world-class military machine, along with a nuclear deterrent, and scientific and technological institutions that have become the envy of world.

The IDF amazed the world with its victories on the battlefield, in 1948, 1956, 1967 and 1973.

The military might of the country caused the IDF to become a central force of Israeli society ... and in Israeli politics.

It became well known that to serve in prestigious units of the IDF was a path to climb the ladder of success in the shortest, possible time.

Many of the IDF's top officers found their way into top positions in Israeli politics.

However, subsequent Israeli Prime Ministers took difference stances to that of the Founder of the Jewish state.

Prime Minister Menachem Begin, for instance, who held the reins of Government from 1977 until 1983, helped to cause Israeli's religious parties to work together for the sake of the entire country.

He, achieved this feat by accelerating the building of Jewish settlements in the West Bank – which delighted

the Zionist Faction – and gave numerous educational subsidies to the children of ultra-Orthodox Jews.

He was a firm believer in the separation of powers, defending judicial independence.

Mr Benjamin Netanyahu was the first Prime Minister to have been born in Israel after the country was established in 1948.

As with many Israeli politicians, he had served in the IDF with distinction.

He assumed the Premiership in 1996 and held onto power until 1999.

Then, once again, he rose to the top of the political heap, being Prime Minister of Israel between 2009 until 2013 and, then, his third term of office, from 2013 until 2015.

He remains as Prime Minister to this day, assuming the mantle of office for the fourth time in 2015.

He is the longest-serving Prime Minister of the Jewish State.

In what has become a political coup de théâtre, in June of 2009, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu endorsed the idea of Palestinian statehood.

This shocked the world and many of its leaders, right down to their proverbial bootstraps.

But it was, all, a ploy of the wily Israeli premier.

The endorsement of the establishment of the Palestinian state, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated, was conditional upon the Palestinians, recognising The State of Israel as a legitimate Jewish state.

As expected, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas rejected the idea, outright.

To the world, it was seen that The State of Israel had made a very brave attempt at trying to appease the Palestinians, but to no avail.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had won the day with his seeming attempt to placate the Palestinians.

Any pressure, from thereon in, for Israel to try to mend fences with the Palestinians faded into history.

Today, Israel is less open debate than in days of yore; Arab-Jewish relationships have hit a new low.

A very positive result for Israel, with regard to the way in which Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas had thumbed his nose at Israel's attempt to seek peace with his people, was that Israel no longer had to concern himself with trying to please Washington.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, today, rules the Knesset with an iron fist, his fist, wrapped in opaque layers of muslin.

The Islamic Republic of Iran

Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has gone on record, on numerous occasions, stating that he would like to see The State of Israel, along with its people, wiped from the map of the world.

Iran is known to have been supporting terrorist groups, such as Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon, for many years.

The aim of Hamas is to liberate Gaza from the iron grip of Zionists of The State of Israel.

Imam Yousif al-Zahar stated, in his sermon at the Katib Wilayat Mosque in Gaza:

'Jews are a people who cannot be trusted. They have been traitors to all agreements. Go back to history. Their fate is their vanishing.'

On August 10, 2012, Ahmad Bahr, Deputy Speaker of the Hamas Parliament, made a statement that was broadcast on Al-Aqsa Television:

'Oh, Allah! Destroy the Jews and their supporters. Oh, Allah! Destroy the Americans and their supporters. Oh, Allah! Count them one by one, and kill them all, without leaving a single one.'

Hamas is known to dress its fighters – males and females – in suicide vests and it makes no bones as to its intentions toward the Israeli state and all of its citizens.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had begged the Government of The United States of America not to come into an Accord with Iran over its nuclear ambitions because, inter alia, Iran cannot be trusted to keep its promises.

He even flew to Washington to meet President Barack Hussein Obama, entreating him not be entrapped by the spider's web of the Government of Iran.

However, on April 2, 2015, at a meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland, an agreement was reached on a framework that would lift most of the sanctions, imposed on Iran over the years, from 1979, by the United Nations, in exchange for limits on Iran's nuclear programmes, for at least the next decade.

As a result, on January 16, 2016, all sanctions, imposed on Iran, were lifted and many billions of US dollars were handed back to the Iranian Government.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has made it known, overtly, that he does not put much credence on Iran's promises, suggesting that the government of the country will, secretly, press ahead with its nuclear ambitions – and that the Middle East would suffer the consequences.

On August 4, 2015, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu travelled to The United States of America in order to marshal Jewish civilians to his way of thinking which was – and still is – in opposition to the plan of President Barak Hussein Obama to reach an agreement with Iran over that country's nuclear ambitions.

The Prime Minister said, among other things, in his address to some 10,000 Jewish Americans, via a conference call and webcast:

'This is a very dangerous deal and it threatens all of us. My solemn responsibility as prime minister is to make sure Israel's concerns are heard.'

'The days when the Jewish people could not or would not speak up for themselves, those days are over. Today we can speak out. Today we must speak out.'

'The best way to prevent Iran from getting nuclear weapons is not change. Increase the sanctions; increase the pressure. Don't, prematurely, give away the best leverage you have.'

He went on to foretell that investment monies would flow into Iran after the sanctions were lifted and that this money would bolster the Iranian Regime with even more financial support for the terrorist organisations of Hamas and Hezbollah, to name just two such organisations.

His words rang true – as history has proved.

On the flip side of the coin, in respect of the premiership of Mr Benjamin Netanyahu, is that the country that he maintains to be trying to protect from pariah governments, such as Iran's, and Palestinian killers of members of the IDF and any 'soft' Israeli civilian targets, is that many of the citizens of Israel have become

averse to open debate on the subject of *'love thy neighbour as thyself'* (Mark 12:31), preferring dogmatism.

The words of that young, Jewish lady of Toronto, Canada, again:

'My mother will guide me along the correct path when it is time.'

The original concept, propounded vehemently by Israel's first Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, appears to have withered and the vine and is no longer bearing olives as in the days of the late 1940s up to the early 1960s.

Tolerance of other people's opinions appears to be but a distant memory for many Israelites: They hear only the Palestinian missiles, flying over the country in an effort to kill them. Those missiles, having been funded by Iran.

The challenges with regard to the occupation of Palestinian land are rarely heard, today: Because they are accepted as being totally necessary for the safety of all Jews in the Jewish state.

As for Arab-Jewish relations, they hardly exist, today.

Native-born Israelis are called, *'sabras'*: Prickly on the outside, but soft and sweet on the inside.

Sadly, for many people of the world, too many people of the Jewish faith, not just those, living in Israel, but in many other parts of the world, sabras are just prickly ... to the core.

But, in Toronto, Canada, the Jewish community is among the biggest supporters of charitable foundations, such as helping to fund hospitals and institutions of higher learning.

The Jews of Toronto, Canada, for the most part, however, do not assimilate into the secular, Canadian society, preferring to remain aloof.

If one cannot become on friendly terms with one's neighbour, in order for there to exist some semblance of social intercourse, one cannot comprehend how one's neighbour thinks and the opinions that he or she holds as being sacrosanct.

Without understanding, there can be no compromise between men.

Can two people ever walk together without meeting first?

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