

Eureka!

Comment on Brighton & Hove PSC Discussion List

Eureka! Around 3 a.m. on Tuesday 19th August our resident virus detector found irrefutable evidence that I am an antisemite. In what was obviously a piece of private correspondence in the tail of a message which I had sent to the discussion list appeared the cryptic sentence: 'If Jews gave up their superiority and victimhood they wouldn't be Jews!'

The virus eliminator system then goes smoothly to work to alert not only all discussion list users, but anyone else who might have dealings with me and who would therefore need to be warned about the contagion which I carry.

This is all rather unnecessary, because I have already admitted at least twice on this list that I am antisemitic, that is to say, I am opposed to the doctrine of semitism, seeing it among other things as the real enemy of the Palestinians. By semitism I mean a construction of Jewish identity which is both chauvinistic and wallows in victimhood.

This construction of Jewish identity is the basis of Zionism, and as Zionism has become the dominant ideology of Jews since the Second World War, it has also become the basis of modern Jewish identity. Some argue that this way of seeing their own identity is much older than Zionism, and they may be right, but I'm primarily interested in the Zionist era.

I do not hate Jews, as Jews – in fact I try not to hate anyone since people are what they are – but I do dislike the dominant modern Jewish ideology and the power which it wields over all of us. Of course there are many Jews who do not subscribe to this ideology, but they are a minority. Some Jews who reject this ideology are also quite content to use the power base which that ideology has established to get what they want. That is what I believe this 'virus detection' is about.

I think we are also quite entitled to ask secular Jews what they mean when they say that they are Jewish. When I have done this the answer has usually had something to do with victimhood. You don't have to be particularly clever at psychology to realise that victimhood and superiority are different sides of the same coin. That was what I was saying privately in the correspondence which I inadvertently included on our discussion list.