

The Last Expulsion

by Francis Clark-Lowes

- ‘That was a great day at the Israeli Confederation Theme Park, wasn’t it son.’
- ‘Sure was, Dad. But why wouldn’t you come to the Palestinian attraction? It was great! There were real Palestinians with dishcloths on the heads, carrying ancient guns, and they even did a little act about a blood feud.’
- ‘Was there anything about the intifadas, son?’
- ‘Yeah! That was really spooky. You mean when they started murdering Jews?’
- ‘And did they tell you why they attacked Jews?’
- ‘Well, no, I suppose they were just like that. Like - anti-Semites.’
- ‘Look, I’m going to tell you something which will surprise you. My Dad, your Grandad, tried to help the Palestinians. He thought it was unjust what had happened to them, having their land stolen and their culture destroyed.’
- ‘Dumb old Grandad! Didn’t he know this has always been Jewish land? They told us so at the Eretz Israel Heritage attraction.’
- ‘You know, son, sometimes things aren’t quite the way people want you to believe. I used to think my Dad was dumb as well. When he died I read one or two of his books for the first time. I checked other history books, even Israeli ones, and I found it was true what he had written about the Palestinians’ land being stolen. It seems unbelievable, doesn’t it?’
- ‘You mean like they took the Native American’s land?’
- ‘Well you’re not so dumb either, son. Yes, just like that. You wouldn’t think this now that the Israeli Confederation talks so much about international morality and peace.’
- ‘There was another attraction you didn’t want to go to and there was such a massive line I didn’t either. It was called “The Great Liberation War.” What was that about, Dad?’
- ‘There’s a chapter in one of your Grandad’s books about it. Let’s see if I can find it. ... Yes. Here is it is. “The Final Expulsion.” You need to know one or two things before I read it to you. In 1948 Israel took over three quarters of what used to be called Palestine. They drove out most of the Palestinians, destroyed their villages and stole their land and houses. Then in 1967 they took over the rest of Palestine and started to steal the land there as well. Of course the Palestinians didn’t like any of this, and that’s why they sometimes attacked Jews. Israelis wanted to get rid of the Palestinians in the new territories just as they had done in the old ones. But what had been achieved in war was not so easy in peacetime, with all the world watching. So they just made life unbearable for the Palestinians, attacking them, killing them, destroying their economy and so on. They hoped the Palestinians would run away, but they didn’t. Here’s what your Grandad wrote in 2020:

Following the Israeli assaults on Palestinian towns in March and April, 2002 (euphemistically called ‘incursions’) Israeli forces simply withdrew to the edge of the towns. [I’ll skip a bit here.] On 23rd May 2003 Yassir Arafat died in his sleep ...

- ‘I’ve heard of him. He was the head of the terrorists, wasn’t he?’

‘That’s not quite right. He was a resistance fighter who became Chairman of a very weak Palestinian government. But let me read on.’

A violent bid for power ensued in which, certainly not by chance, all those opposed to future collaboration with Israel were assassinated. An election followed which was monitored internationally, and judged to be completely fair. No sooner had Ahmad Al-Damia taken his seat as chairman of a ‘reformed’ Palestinian Legislature than Israel demanded he disband Hamas and Islamic Jihad. [These were Muslim resistance organisations who didn’t accept Al-Damia’s authority.] Al-Damia tried to comply, thereby provoking the civil war which Israel had intended, and which it hoped to benefit from. So long as the killing was in full swing, Israel waited patiently, but when unexpectedly Hamas and Islamic Jihad joined forces and declared an administration which was enthusiastically welcomed by ordinary Palestinians, Israeli forces were sent back into the Palestinians towns. This time there was no doubt about the massacres [the Israelis had disputed a massacre in Jenin in 2002] – indeed while Western liberals looked on in horror and futilely called for restraint Israel used publicity about the massacres as a way of persuading Palestinians to leave. There were also large-scale deportations of “terrorists” to Jordan and Egypt, both of which states cooperated under pressure from the United States. Meanwhile Hisbollah [that was another Muslim resistance movement outside Israel] started a fierce offensive on Israel’s northern border.

At around this time the Americans had been planning an attack on Iraq to topple the regime of its leader, Saddam Hussein, but they were hesitating in view of the developments in Palestine. On 3 July 2003 a scud missile ...

‘Yeah, I saw one of them. It didn’t look as if it could fly more than a few yards.’

‘Well they could, believe it or not. Listen.’

... a scud missile was intercepted and destroyed en route from Baghdad to Tel Aviv. We were told it had a biological warhead, though no proof was produced and Baghdad denied it. Following the precedent of 1956 [that was when Britain and France invited Israel to invade Egypt], the US now gave the green light to Israel to attack Iraq. To everyone’s surprise, the Iraqis fought back ferociously, though at huge human cost, arousing a massive wave of sympathy in the non-Western, and especially the Muslim world. US-puppet regimes began to fall to radical regimes of more or less Islamic persuasion; Pakistan went first, Afghanistan shortly thereafter, and Jordan in September. Egypt and Saudi Arabia teetered on the brink. Iran went to Iraq’s aid.

The US and Israel, sensing meltdown of their ambitions, started nuclear blustering [that means they threatened to use nuclear weapons]. Pakistan now rashly attempted a preemptive nuclear strike on Diego Garcia [that’s an American base in the Indian Ocean], India (encouraged by the United States) threatened a nuclear attack on Pakistan if it did not vacate Kashmir, and China similarly threatened India. It was at this point that Russia, also sensing final meltdown, threatened to respond with nuclear weapons against any country which used theirs, and in retrospect one can see that it was this which stabilised the situation.

But while the world hovered on the brink of nuclear catastrophe Israel invaded Jordan, mercilessly crushed stiff resistance, deposed the government and established a Palestinian administration under the Haifa-born George al-Masih. From now on Israel and Gentilia (as Jordan became known) would together form the Israeli Confederation, the land west of the Jordan being exclusively for Jews, that east of the Jordan for Palestinians and other Arabs. Accordingly Israel commenced the largest known expulsion in history. Four million Palestinians living west of the Jordan, including one million of its own citizens, were 'transferred' across the river in a massive convoy operation named Plan T. It emerged later that European coach companies whose vehicles were used had negotiated deals with the Israeli government several years previously.

After the crisis was over, there were furious denunciations of this action by every country in the world, including the United States. The most stiffly worded resolution ever drafted was passed at the United Nations calling upon Israel to allow the immediate return of the refugees. No one now remembered the four million refugees who had been waiting to return *before* 2002 and soon the return of the second four million became a mere mantra chanted by liberal politicians. Israel quickly convinced a broad swathe of Western opinion that the Palestinians had in reality left of their own accord because they feared a nuclear attack by Pakistan or Russia. (The story about the buses was, of course, put down to anti-Semitic propaganda.) While the Israeli government recognised the humanitarian disaster this mass emigration had caused, and respected the will of the international community, they would only implement the UN resolution when conditions were right. Of course they never were, according to Israel, and no one was prepared to risk nuclear war again on behalf of the Palestinians. In truth many thought, more or less privately, that the new arrangement was quite satisfactory. By totally separating the Palestinians from Jews they were easier to deal with, and if necessary liquidate, which is the subject of my last chapter.

'So you see, son, I wouldn't have felt too comfortable visiting the Palestinian attraction – what they show you there is what they want you to believe. ... Oh dear, poor little mite. I got quite carried away. He's fast asleep!'