

Miketz – Chanuka 5778

BS"D Parashat Miketz 5778

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THE REAL STORY BEHIND PRESIDENT TRUMP'S RECOGNITION OF YERUSHALAYIM AS ISRAEL'S CAPITAL

Yerushalayim – the very word resonates as a symphony in the authentic Jewish soul.

Yir'ah (fear of God) and Shalem (perfection) combine to form the name Yerushalayim; for these are the qualities which the city bestows upon those who love her and are faithful to her.

Yerushalayim, in its various forms, appears over 650 times in the TaNaCH. Yerushalayim is not mentioned or even alluded to in the Koran by any name. The Christian world abandoned Jerusalem over fifteen hundred years ago to take up residence in Rome.

A Moslem in prayer turns his back on Yerushalayim in order to face Mecca. Jerusalem is not part of the Christian liturgy. It is only we, HaShem's chosen people who relate to Yerushalayim. A Jew outside of Yerushalayim turns to her in prayer, and we in Jerusalem face the site of the Holy Temple.

King David, himself the embodiment of fear of God and

When I recite this chapter, memories of my youth in Brooklyn, New York uninvitedly creep into my mind.

I don't recall myself or my friends as teenagers ever sitting by the Hudson, Neversink or Potomac Rivers weeping over Zion. I don't recall looking at the gentiles as our "captors" or "tormentors," and they in turn never requested of us to sing for them the "Song of Zion."

I had no problem singing the Lord's song there, because I did not feel I was in "a foreign land".

Days and weeks would pass when the memory of Yerushalayim did not cross my mind. Yet the "fast ball" exploding from my "right hand" pitch never lost "its strength," when the third strike cannon-balled into the catcher's mitt.

I must admit that the joy of Yerushalayim could not compare to the delight the chevra felt when the Yankees beat the Boston Braves in a doubleheader.

Yes, we were the products of the frum yeshiva system of Rabbi Jacob Joseph, Torah Ve'daas, Chaim Berlin, Tiferes Yerushalayim, etc. We learned Torah while we slowly, but steadily, became assimilated into the gentile world around us.

The quicksand of American culture gripped and pulled us down, with no one to extricate us, because we were all entrapped – students and rabbis alike!

Even the holiday of Chanukah, with its memory of the miraculous military victory over the Greeks and the amazing miracle of the lights, the re-unification of the Holy City and purification of the Bet Hamikdash, could not draw us closer to the contemporary city of Yerushalayim or Medinat Yisrael. We were typical yeshiva bachurim, students of typical yeshiva rabbis to whom the ox that gored a cow was real and the

Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket;

they are regarded as dust on the scales;

What we read in the news and whatever the goyim do is background static to blur out HaShem's clear calls to his nation Yisrael.

Mr. Trump has touched the sensitivities of the Jewish world. Jewish hearts were emboldened by the recognition of the obvious, while the gangrenous hearts and minds of our enemies were inflamed by the thought that the Jewish people have intensified and reinforced our religious and historical ownership over the holy land.

We can't know why Mr. Trump took this very courageous step. Chances are that his grandson said, "Saba you have to recognize Yerushalayim – don't you know it's Chanukah time".

But we do know it was the right step by the reaction of our enemies; the more they rant and rave in frustration, the clearer it becomes that this is a step closer to the Mashiach.

Mr. Trump's announcement was primarily a wakeup call; perhaps one of the last great emotionally moving calls to the Jews of the galut, to rise up to the greatness of the moment and come home to Eretz Yisrael. One can still come easily, but no one knows what tomorrow might bring in this unpredictable world. The cancer of anti-Semitism is not going away. It metastasizes to all parts of western society; to the universities, the work place, the city parks, the outer wall of your synagogues, to your supermarkets – wherever there is a neo-fascist or Moslem presence.

The gates of the Medina and our alt-neu capital are wide open. The President courageously oiled the hinges to widen the entrance a bit more. Unknown to him, HaShem is using the

President to send a clear and present message meant for the Jews of the world. Whatever it does for the goyim, it is no more than irrelevant background static.

Trump's Place in the Hall of Fame

The Jewish people are the curators of the world's Hall of Fame and Hall of Infamy; if only because we are civilization's elder nation, and we will survive as long as HaShem keeps electrons spinning around their nuclei.

Our two "Halls" are not meant for Jews, but for the righteous or infamous gentiles of history. Hence the Halls of Fame is sparse in occupants, whereas the Hall of Infamy is very crowded.

As of this moment, Mr. Trump's place in our Hall of Fame is guaranteed; unless he does something to neutralize or negate the greatness of the moment.

In conclusion: It's up to you, my brothers and sisters in the galut to demonstrate your courage for the sake of the holy land and holy city. We are awaiting you to join in the holy task of preparing the world for its long overdue tikun.

Shabbat Shalom,

Nachman Kahana

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