

## **Yom Ha'atzmaut: Nes Nigleh or Nes Nistar?**

- Nisson Shulman. A discussion of Nes Nigle and Nes Nistar as each applies in our times concerning the land of Israel. In expanded outline form.

Yom Haatzmaut

We don't appreciate gift of Israel as we should... LIMNOT YAMENU KEN HODA... One generation amongst 80, one moment in 2000 years... And do we appreciate awesome responsibility that this implies?

If we build a new home we recite Shehechiyanu, just as we do for a holiday. The reason is, "Im Hashem lo yivne bayit, shav amlu bonav bo." .... But the Lord's blessing..." So for both we say SHEHECHIYANU.

There are two kinds of miracles: A NES NIGLE and a NES NISTAR. Creation is a Nes Nigle. HAMEHADESH BETUVO BECHAL YOM TAMID is a Nes Nistar. So with our people. Exodus is a Nes NIGLE. Slaves out of heart of people who were their masters. How shall we then consider the miracle of the rebirth of Israel, Plucking nation from scores of people amongst whom scattered? Could it have happened today?

Think of conditions after World War II. Minority, discarded, 12 years of Hitler, LO TIRTZACH not binding in relation to Jews... Free world guilty of LO TAAMOD AL DAM REECHA... Closed gates, etc...

Against such a background, emergence of State of Israel is a wonder of God's providence.... immeasurable, indescribable. And from then till now, invasion, victories, triumphs again, salvation, fighting building, defending, planting cultivating a land abandoned for millennia,... now with new cities, farms, factories, hopes, promise pride and dignity, new voice and address of our people, new force on the world scene, new importance of our Jewish nation,... new security with which we declare never again will Jews depend on the voices of others for security and sympathy. Never again allow ourselves, defenseless, to exist at the mercy of other enemy nations, peoples, religious. For all these miracles we declare, SHEHECHIYANU VEKIYEMANU....

A land waste for millennia. This too is a wonder of God. O Israel, what a remarkable living land are you, endowed with all the bounties of God and nature, but withdrawing yourself, turning purposely to desolation and bareness when your children are absent.

Nations from all over the world came and attempted to strike roots. Divine pledge, land faithful to people. COME, says Psalms, SEE THE MIRACLES OF GOD, HOW HE DESOLATED THE LAND FOR OUR SAKES. Had the land been fruitful, who knows.... SHEHECHIYANU VEKIYEMANU...

The wonder of a land waiting for its people is even more marvelous when we think of the people waiting for its land. Nineteen centuries survival, against all rules of history. Mystery confounded

nations and puzzled other faiths. Invented theories.... Rejected by their god, all to be shown false as the State of Israel was founded and grew to prove conclusively that it was God's providence that brought us to this moment.

When God promised Jacob in his ladder dream, "This land upon which you sleep," Jacob saw this miracle and declared, ACHEN YESH ELOKIM BAMAKOM HAZE VEANOCHI LO YADATI...." How easy to forget this.

To forget, Babylon exile, Rome, Torquemada, Chmielnizki, and God's promise to keep us alive. To forget Pharaoh and Haman and Hitler, and yet we are here, ACHEN YESH....

In the archives of the US government there is a report submitted to president Benjamin Harrison in 1891 to the effect that the vast area of Palestine undoubtedly belongs to the Jews historically and legally, for the Jew had never abandoned the Land! They never signed a treaty giving it up! They never surrendered it, even to the Romans! And for 1900 years they continued through the ages, not only to live on it, but to claim it as a Jewish homeland.

This is a miracle that can only be understood in Jacob's words, ACHEN YESH ELOKIM.... The people who waited and yearned and struggled and bled for the land, and persisted without failure till this day, can truly say, SHEHECHIYANU VEKIYEMANU VEHIGIYANU...

Why, of all Jewish generations on earth before us were we privileged for this SHEHECHIYANU? We have no reasonable answer. Surely earlier generations were more worthy than we. They had such great tzadikim, yesharim, shelemim, righteous pure and perfect people. Perhaps part of the answer is that no generations suffered like we did either. LEFUM TZAARA IGRA. Pain is also rewarded....

But then the responsibility is commensurately great.... awesome, to greatly recognize the reward; greatly to appreciate it, to sacrifice for it, to work for it, to build it, so that it become grand as it once was.

In our generation we sorely need HITPAALUT, wonder, enthusiasm, ecstasy. If we do not think every day of our lives is a new wonder of God, we lack awareness of a great truth. And if we do not think of every day of Israel's existence new wonders are done by God in its behalf, we lack awareness of a great fact of Jewish life.

We were mysteriously selected to be at once the most tragic and the most blessed of the last 80 generations and more. We are the generation like that of Egypt, the last of slavery, the first of redemption! In our behalf God fulfilled his promise to Jacob, I WILL GO DOWN TO EGYPT WITH YOU AND I WILL BRING YOU OUT, UP AGAIN.

VEKAL HAMARBE LESAPER BEYETZHIAT, GERMANIA, POLANIA, UNGARIA, ROMANIA, LYBIA, YUGOSLAVIA, MOSCOW, KIEV, LENINGRAD, and all lands of oppression from the affliction of Egypt till today, Harey ze meshuback.

For how much may we today thank the Almighty. Shall we not declare, as in the Hallel, THIS IS THE DAY THAT THE LORD HAS MADE, LET US BE GLAD AND JOYOUS THEREIN?  
Shall we not say, blessed is GOD who brought us to this wonderful moment?  
SHEHECHYANU, VEKIYEMANU, VEHIGIYANU LAZMAN HAZE!

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(Submitted by Nisson Shulman)