

Travels to a Disturbing Foreign Land

by Ariel Bar Tzadok

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Once upon a time, I traveled to a foreign country. The place was remarkably beautiful, and cheap to visit and stay in. While there, I did not speak the language, nor did I understand the local customs. I couldn't figure out how to go about, or how to get along. Finally, in frustration, I just picked up and left.

In spite of the remarkable beauty, and its very affordable rates, I couldn't get those over there to see things my way, or to speak my language. Everything there really made me feel like a foreigner. While no one mistreated me or disrespected me, I still felt out of place amongst all those foreigners, and I still can't understand why they couldn't be more accommodating to normal me.

I felt it was very wrong of them over there to be so foreign and to make me stand out so distinctly. I wish I could change the lot of them. But, as much as I tried, the more they distanced themselves from me. That really offended me! After all, I was only trying to make a really great place all that much better. All they had to do was stop being so foreign.

In spite of how remarkably beautiful their country is, how easy it is to get there and cheap it is to stay there, I understand why so many will go there, look around, and then leave in a huff! As long as the dwellers in that foreign land continue to act so damn foreign they will find that the vast majority of us are not going to tolerate them. We will change them! We will make them to be just like us! After all, it is for their own good that we act this way!

With this clear description and introduction, I am sure that you should be able to identify, with ease, the country to which I have been referring. Being that it is so obvious, I am sure that I have no need to mention it here.

To think of it! Not only are they not willing to change to accommodate us, how selfish of them, they even demand, in their gall, that we change to accommodate them. Such a demand is sheer arrogance on their part! We here clearly have the better way, and it is they who just can't see it. And to expect us to change to accommodate them, this is even more offensive!

Just because they live there, and it is their country, does not mean, in any way, that the way they live there, is better than us. I firmly believe that while they may have the right to live where they do, we should not extend to them the right to continuing living there the way that they do.

I believe that we have the proper right to intervene and to force change upon them. To accomplish this, I have devised a plan. If we cannot force them to change outright, simply by making known our demands, they we should do two things. Number one, we must boycott any actual travel there. Number two we must do everything in our power to convince everyone to agree with us, join in our boycott, and work with us to make every effort to cut off that foreign land from any meaningful visitation from any one of us.

We here have our ways of doing things. We think in a certain way and we have a certain set of morals that define for us right from wrong. We know that our way is right and correct. We even have God's Word, the Torah, to prove it. Yet, those in that foreign land claim themselves, not only to be closer to God than are we, some even claim to be directly in touch with the Divine.

We tend to believe them and accept their claims, but yet, when we see what they do and how they do it, we are left with nothing other than confusion and a growing number of questions. How is it possible that they are closer to God than we and, at the same time, act in ways which are almost the opposite of us?

We can rightfully say that they, over there, are living an upside-down lifestyle! Why this is so, and how this can be, we just do not understand. And to call what they do, closer to God, that just adds insult to injury!

Unfortunately, we cannot change them over there, and make them to be just like us. We do not understand them, and try as we do to understand them, we fail over and over again. They are so confusing to us that many have already decided to boycott them, to teach others to ignore them, and not go to their country. All agree that their country is beautiful, inexpensive and great. But with all that being said, we cannot get along over there, so it is best that we just talk about the place, tell everybody how great it is over there, and at the same time, make sure that no one manages to go over there to experience personally how confusing and upside down that country really is in our eyes.

I have heard that some people have gone over there, and manage to get along just fine. Yet, these people seem to be as confusing and upside-down as those in that country. Neither, our people who understand them, and the inhabitants of that foreign land make any sense to us. They even claim to embrace our Torah, yet, they embrace it in a form and interpretation that makes no sense to any of us. What they call Torah and what we call Torah are two different things.

The best thing we can do is to just ignore the lot of them. If we pay them no mind, at least we can imagine that they have gone away, and therefore are no longer a threat, and a confusion to us. Yes, I am not the first to suggest the boycott, I see that many have been boycotting that damn upside-down place for quiet some time now. The boycotters are sure that they are doing what is right. The boycotted, however, look at them with sadness and scorn.

In the end, one of us will have to win. Either our way will win out, or their way will. If only their country was not so upside down, we could really enjoy it. But, as for now, we can only enjoy it, in name only! Funny, we call them upside down, and they say that it is us that is upside down. Like I said, one of us will have to win in the end.

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I would love for you to share with me your comments. In the end, we will each have to chose where we belong.