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Blue, White and Orange, Colors of the True Israel

By Rabbi Ariel Bar Tzadok.

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Israel is turning orange, and rightly so. Jewish citizens of the State of Israel who rose up and heard the voice of their government call to them to settle Gush Katif (Gaza) are now hearing their government tell them to abandon their homes and their dreams. The government says such a move will bring peace. Other credible voices say that any removal of the Israeli presence in Gaza will only further radicalize the region and lead to a great increase of terrorism, which will threaten the entire State of Israel.

The question whether Gaza is technically a part of the Biblical Land of Israel and therefore falls under Biblical law is not a point in need of discussion at this point. Theory right now is not important. Practice and reality on the ground is what must dictate.

The struggle to disengage or not is well under way in Israel. In protest of government behavior rushing forward with a plan that many Israeli citizens believe is a betrayal of the Zionist foundations upon which the State of Israel was founded everyday Jewish individuals from all over the country, from every walk of life, have taken to displaying an orange ribbon or wearing an orange garment to show solidarity with the brave residence of Gush Katif (Gaza).

Whether the display of orange ribbons, banners and garments will change government decisions or not is not the issue. Whether Gaza is abandoned or not is not the issue. The issue is that we, the everyday Jewish citizen must take personal responsibility, rise up and be heard. If we cannot physically travel to Gaza to help slow down the government effort, then the least we can do is make a public statement of support for those who can and will do more.

I believe that Mr. Sharon will get his way and that Gaza will be abandoned. This is no withdrawal. This is no disengagement. This is outright surrender and running from an enemy, that Mr. Sharon has neither stomach, resolve nor strength to fight. Therefore, Gaza will be lost. The government will pat itself on the back praising itself for its good deeds and moral conduct.

A picture of the British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain comes to mind returning from his meeting with Adolph Hitler declaring that his surrender of land would lead to peace in their time. Chamberlain, of course, was wrong, as World War II broke out soon afterwards. Hitler was a liar, and Chamberlain was proven to be a deceived, weak fool.

Do we see any comparisons here between Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. Sharon? Mr. Sharon also declares that his surrender of land will lead to peace in our time. After all, Mr. Sharon has secret promises from the U.S. and the E.U. that they will safeguard and protect Israel's existence once a

so-called Palestinian state is established. Alas, one remembers the old nursery rhyme about the big egg-shaped "Humpty Dumpty."

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall.

Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.

All the king's horse and all the king's men couldn't put Humpty back together again.

(Any similarity between egg-shaped Humpty Dumpty and Mr. Sharon's wide girth is a mere coincidence). However, like Humpty Dumpty, Mr. Sharon is about to take a big fall, and no amount of "horses and men" will ever put Mr. Sharon back together again.

Gaza might be slated to be lost, for now. Mr. Sharon will have his victory, as did Mr. Chamberlain before him. Yet, soon the fires of war will be kindled anew from their new stronghold in what is sure to become Hamas/Hezbollah controlled Gaza.

Whatever will be will be. History is in the Hands of the Almighty. HaShem will ordain and do what He deems fit in accordance to a Divine wisdom unseen and unknowable to us. We cannot control the Hand of G-d. However true this be, we nonetheless have obligations. We are not absolved of our moral and righteous responsibilities to act and do the right thing.

We may not be able to stop the surrender of Gaza. We may not be able to stop Humpty-Dumpty Mr. Sharon from falling off his wall and breaking into a million pieces. Let us just pray that when he falls he does not take the State of Israel down with him.

We should not focus on what we cannot do. We must focus on what we can do. We can protest. We can make our voices heard. We can shout loud enough to be heard by everyone throughout the Land of Israel. We can shout loud enough to be heard even in Heaven. We must pray and pray hard with sincere and serious devotion that the Will of HaShem be done. We must stand strong against a Humpty Dumpty government that wants to destroy the very fabric of cohesion holding together the State of Israel. We must stand strong for Gush Katif (Gaza) and make difficult any attempt by government forces to surrender the land and to expel her Jewish residents.

We must do whatever we can, however we can, even if all we can do is help raise public awareness about the struggle. To assist in this sacred endeavor I encourage all readers to at least pick up the orange banner, the sign of solidarity and support for the residents of Gush Katif. Wear an orange garment, tie an orange tie, wear an orange ribbon, wear an orange t-shirt. Whatever it is, however small or however great, take an orange stand, and show your colors. Israel today needs to be blue, white and orange. Show your solidarity, and if you can, do even more than that.

Pray for the peace of Yerushalayim, for the peace of Gush Katif, her residents and for all Israel.

Sincerely,

אריאל צ״ר נדוק

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