

CEREMONY AT RABIN'S GRAVE

Compiled by Rabbi Fred Guttman

READER #1

PRIME MINISTER YITZHAK RABIN ASSASSINATED IN TEL AVIV / SATURDAY NIGHT, NOVEMBER 4, 1995

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated Saturday night outside of City Hall in Tel Aviv at the conclusion of a rally supporting the peace process.

A lone assassin fired from close range as the Prime Minister was about to enter his car. One bullet struck the Prime Minister in the chest, and two additional bullets hit the chief of his security detail. Immediately following the shooting, Prime Minister Rabin was rushed to Ichilov Hospital and was brought to the operating room with his wife, Leah, at his side. Doctors fought to keep the Prime Minister alive, but a short time later pronounced him dead.

The assassin was identified as Bar Ilan University law student Yigal Amir, 27, of Herzliyah. Amir told police investigators that he planned the assassination methodically. He said, "I acted alone on God's orders and I have no regrets."

On Monday, November 6, the Prime Minister was buried with full military honors at the Mount Herzl Cemetery. Among those who offered heartfelt eulogies were President Clinton, King Hussein of Jordan, Shimon Peres and Rabin's granddaughter. Yassir Arafat did not attend the funeral due to concerns of violence.

READER #2

From the Eulogy for Yitzhak Rabin, by Atlanta Consul General Arye Mekel:

The biography of Yitzhak Rabin is the history of the State of Israel. He was involved in every major step the Jewish state took from its inception, and long before that.

Rabin was born in Jerusalem in 1922. He was to become the first Israeli Prime Minister to actually be born in Israel.

As a teenager, he was inducted into the Hagana by Moshe Dayan and as early as 1941 participated in an operation in Syria. His unique style of leadership was immediately recognized and he was rapidly promoted in the

ranks. His talents were not hidden from the eyes of the British rulers in Palestine and in 1946 Rabin was arrested along with hundreds of other Jewish leaders.

During the 1948 War of Independence, Rabin fought in Jerusalem, Lod, Ramle, and the Negev. After the war, he continued his meteoric rise in the ranks of the Israel Defense Forces. On January 1, 1964 at the age of 42, General Rabin became the IDF's seventh Chief of Staff. In this capacity, he led Israel to its glorious victory in the Six Day War in 1967 and will forever be remembered in Jewish history as the General who liberated and reunited the holy city of Jerusalem.

READER #3

In 1968, he retired from the army and was named Ambassador to the United States, where he served for five years. Upon his return to Israel, he became active in the Labor Party and was elected to the Knesset. Rabin served as Minister of Labor in Golda Meir's cabinet and after her resignation in June 1974, Rabin, then 52 years old, became the Prime Minister of the State of Israel.

Rabin served as Prime Minister for three years. Under his leadership the government issued the order for Operation Entebbe in 1976 liberating the hijacked passengers. Between 1984 and 1990, Rabin served as Minister of Defense. In 1992, he won the elections becoming once more the Prime Minister of Israel as well as the Minister of Defense.

READER #4

Yitzhak Rabin was taken away from us so abruptly. He left a void that cannot be filled. However, he also left a legacy in the form of the struggle for peace.

Today, we are saying good-bye to a great leader who is now entering into the annals of Jewish history. Next to giants such as David Ben Gurion, the father and founder of Israel, Golda Meir, the mother of Israel, Menachem Begin, who brought about the first peace agreement between Israel and an Arab neighbor, and now they are joined in heaven by their equal, Yitzhak Rabin. A soldier during wartime and a warrior for peace, his contributions to the Jewish people, the Jewish state, the Middle East, and indeed the entire world, will never be forgotten.

Shalom Haver - Good bye my friend. Shalom, Mr. Prime Minister.
Farewell, General Yitzhak Rabin. A soldier and a statesman, we all salute you.

(Sing - Shir Lashalom)

Yitzhak Rabin

On November 4th, 1995, Yitzhak Rabin, Prime Minister of Israel, was assassinated by a right-wing extremist. Israel has been in turmoil ever since. We are in search of an answer as to how this could have happened, and dealing with the constant growing pain of his absence.

Yitzhak Rabin was born in Jerusalem and responsible, as the Commander of "Har'el" Division and as Chief of Staff during the Six Day War, for the release and unity of the city. He was a soldier for a major part of his adult life, who chose to join the army of "peace for the future in the Middle East."

He was assassinated after a continuous and calculated campaign of sedition against the policy of the democratically elected government.

When President Clinton first learned about the tragedy, he wanted to express his deep sorrow by translating from English "Good-bye Friend" to Hebrew "Shalom Haver." The Rabin family decided that "Shalom Haver" was an appropriate name for the Association commemorating Yitzhak Rabin, a non-profit organization which, among other projects, arranges rallies, distributes unique memorial candles, stickers, and framed pictures of Yitzhak Rabin to schools throughout Israel.

The death of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was a deplorable act of violence and was the darkest and lowest point in the history of the State of Israel. His absence is felt more with each day passing.

Thank you for sharing the memory of our Prime Minister who wanted, most of all, to enable the people of Israel to live in peace.

Sincerely,

Ayelet Nahmias, Adv.
Executive Director,

Shalom Haver Association for the Commemoration of Yitzhak Rabin

Yizkor

Let us remember the comradeship he displayed as a soldier, a warrior, a commander, and Israeli army general since the days of the Palmach, the I.D.F. and the magnificent days of the Six Day War.

Let us remember the warrior who spent his whole life waiting for the day that he could beat his sword into a plowshare, sit without fear beneath his vine and fig tree and enjoy the fruits of peace.

Let us remember the statesman who predicted a different future for the Jewish People, fought the battle for peace and fell at the dawning of a new age.

Let the Jewish People remember and cherish the memory of the Prime Minister of Israel, Yitzhak Rabin, of blessed memory.

May the Jewish People have the wisdom to mourn the vision and the mission that have ended.

May God remember the soul of Yitzhak, son of Rosa and Nehemiah Rabin, soldier, officer and leader. A statesman who, having turned a dream into reality, was plucked by the bullets of a murderer from his own people, from a world of deeds, a world of peace and a world of vision.

May his soul be bound up in the bond of eternal life.

Yitzhak Rabin - Curriculum Vitae (1922-1995)

Yitzhak Rabin was born in Jerusalem in 1922 to his parents, Rose and Nehemia, immigrants who came to Israel on the third Aliyah. He spent his childhood in Tel Aviv, greatly influenced by his parents' constant public involvement. He began his schooling at the "House of Education," continued on to Kibbutz Givat Hashlosha and completed his education at the agricultural school "Kaduri," one of the strongholds of the Jewish settlement. As part of his studies, Rabin joined the "Hagana" fighting forces, participating in public affairs, and serving the country. This he would do until his last day.

After finishing his studies, Yitzhak Rabin was amongst the first people to join the "Palmach" fighting force. He was amongst the few who served during the entire seven years that this force was in existence, starting as a private, and finishing as a Brigade Commander. In the spring of 1948, a few days before the Independence Day war broke out, Yitzhak Rabin, then 26 years old, was assigned to command over one of the main brigades. After a few months of fighting in the Jerusalem area, Rabin was nominated to be the assistant to the commander of the "Palmach" force, Yigal Alon. In the midst of the war, Rabin married his wife, Lea Shlosberg.

In 1953, Yitzhak Rabin was promoted to Colonel. In the decade until he became the Chief of Staff, he acted as Head of the Instruction unit, Commander of the Northern headquarters and Deputy Chief of Staff. In 1963, he was renominated as Chief of Staff for the next four years. During his last year in this position and in uniform, he led the I.D.F. and the State of Israel to the ravishing victory of the Six Day War and the reunification of Jerusalem.

After five years as the Israeli Ambassador in the United States, the Rabin couple returned to Israel. Shortly after the Yom Kippur War, Rabin was chosen to be a Parliament member, representing the Labor Party, and was nominated to be Minister of Labor. After Golda Meir's resignation in 1974, Yitzhak Rabin was nominated to be Israel's fifth President; the first Israeli born. In 1976, after three years and several political crisis, Yitzhak Rabin resigned from this position.

In 1984, after seven years in the opposition, Yitzhak Rabin returned to the government as the Minister of Defense. During the six years in this position, he led the I.D.F. forces out of Lebanon and coped with the new reality posed by the "Intifada".

In the 1992 elections, Rabin led the Labor Party to victory and returned to serve both as Prime minister and Minister of Defense. His second cadence is remembered for his negotiations with the Arab states and the Palestinian representatives. In September, 1993, a preliminary Peace Agreement was signed between the Israelis and the Palestinians. This agreement paved the road for the Jordanian Peace Agreement. In the same year, Rabin, together with his partner, Shimon Peres, and the Chairman of the Palestinian Authority, Yasser Arafat, received the Nobel Peace Prize.

The rapid progress in the negotiations with the Arabs, accompanied by terrifying Palestinian terror, divided the Israeli public. This division was expressed in extreme opinions and the deterioration of accepted norms of democratic dialogue. Scenes and words, that until then were unheard of in Israel, became part of daily life.

On the night of November 4, 1995, in the end of massive peace rally in Tel Aviv supporting Rabin's peace policy Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated by a Jewish man. The shock felt by the Israeli people and Jews all over the world that this assassination came from within, intertwined with deep grief and mourning that the life of one of Israel's outstanding leaders had been taken.

Yitzhak Rabin was a man devoted to his country , a man of action, and a man of peace.

Rabin Resources

Shir Lashalom Translation

Let the sun rise, the morning shine,
The finest of prayers can bring us back no more.
And he whose flame has been extinguished,
Who's buried in the ground,
No bitter wails will wake him, will him restore.
No one can bring us back from the dark of the grave.
Here, neither the joy of victory
Nor paeans from the brave can help.
Just sing therefore a song to peace
Don't whisper prayers.
Far better, sing a song to peace,
And sing it way out loud.

Let the sun in through the flowers.
Don't look back, let the fallen rest.
Raise your eyes in hope, not through the barrel of a gun.
Sing a song to love and not to victories.
Don't say "a day will come" - go bring that day yourself,
For it is not a dream.

In all the squares, ring out a song for peace.

1.
Yitchak Rabin - Bibliography

1922 Born in Jerusalem. Grew up in Tel-Aviv in a modest background.

Rabin's father was a member of the Hagana. When regarding his parents he stated "I think that the most important thing that my parents taught me was to do what needs to be done, without asking too many questions; without looking for self-reward, but with personal interest in the matter."

Schooling: Kibbutz Givat Hashlosha. & on to the agricultural school at Mount Tavor. He wanted to be an Israeli farmer.

1940 joined the Palmach. This was the beginning of his involvement with Israel's security issues. He soon joined the leadership of the Palmach.

1946 he was arrested and held at Latrun for 6 months.

Headed the storming of the Atlit detention camp.

During the War of Independence Rabin was stationed in Jerusalem. After the cease-fire in Jerusalem he was moved to the South where his brigade conquered Eilat and the Southern Negev.

1949 took part in peace talks in Rhodes with David Ben-Gurion.

Married Leah.

1950 Dahlia was born.

1955 Yuval was born.

At age 31 was the youngest brigadier in the army.

1961 appointed the deputy Chief-of-staff.

1964 appointed Chief-of-Staff at age 42.

Lead the army during the Six-Day War. In his words "this army that I had the honor of heading during the war- comes from the people and is part of the people. This is a people who can defeat any enemy thanks to its moral, spiritual and mental standards, which are displayed in times of need."

1968 appointed ambassador to the United States.

After the Yom Kippur war Rabin was voted Prime Minister. Placed an emphasis on fighting terrorism.

1977 resigned as Prime Minister.

1984 was appointed as Minister of Defense. His main target was to withdraw the troops from Lebanon.

1987 the beginning of the Intifada.

1992 appointed Prime Minister as head of the Labor Party.

1993 September 13, the famous signing and handshake at the White House. OSLO ACCORD

1994 May 4, forces IDF forces withdrawal from Jericho and Gaza.

1994 October 26, Rabin met with Abed a Salem el Magali (Jordanian Prime Minister) and the state of war between the two countries ended.

1994 he received the Nobel Peace Prize.

Rabin stated " Peace between nations is a peace between peoples. It is an expression of trust and appreciation. The leadership can show the way, but it is the people themselves who have to take the journey."

November 4 1995 Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated after a mass gathering in Tel-Aviv.

2.

Speech by Prime Minister Ehud Barak at the Memorial Ceremony for Yitzhak Rabin

Oslo, Norway - November 2, 1999

Your Majesties, President Clinton, President Ahtisaari, Mrs. Leah Rabin, the Rabin family, Chairman Arafat, Shimon Peres, Prime Minister Bondevik, Prime Minister Putin, your excellencies, distinguished guests. I came to Oslo from Jerusalem to pay tribute to Yitzhak Rabin - a soldier, a statesman and a peace-maker.

The pre-eminent author of Norway, Henrik Ibsen, wrote,

"Hvis alt du gav, foruden livet, Da vid, at du har intet givet."

"If you have given everything, except life, Then know, that you have given nothing."

These words of Ibsen capture the essence of the death of Yitzhak Rabin. But it is Rabin's life and vision, which shine as a beacon and inspire us to fulfill his legacy.

Rabin understood that peace, like war, starts and ends in the hearts of human beings.

Standing in this very place, five years ago, Rabin said, "There is only one radical means of sanctifying human lives; neither tanks nor planes: only peace."

Acting on his own vision, Rabin lived up to his duty towards the "Young Dead Soldiers who do not Speak." The poet Archibald MacLeish expressed their sentiments: "They say: we were young. We have died. Remember us. They say: our deaths are not ours; they are yours; they will mean what you make them. They say: we leave you our deaths. Give them their meaning."

And Yitzhak was determined to give them a meaning. As he said at the peace rally, just minutes before being assassinated, "Peace entails difficulties and pain, but it is preferable to war. For the sake of our children, we must not give in. Peace will triumph over all our enemies."

And I vow to you, Yitzhak, a soldier who fell in the battle for peace, that we at the head of the new government of Israel are determined to give your death a meaning by following your legacy until we achieve peace. My government is determined to strengthen Israel and to bring prosperity to the region by putting an end to the century-old conflict between Israel and its neighbours.

We have concluded the Sharm el-Sheikh Agreement, and are currently implementing it. Ahead of us is the Framework Agreement for Permanent Status. Time is short and the challenge is demanding.

Together with my partner, Chairman Arafat, we will strive to overcome the difficulties and to reach our common goals. The road is bound to be arduous, but our positions and demands are clear and well known.

We will strive to ensure Israel's security interests and vital needs; but, at the same time, we will seek to achieve a fair settlement which reflects the needs and sensitivities of our neighbors. All disagreements must be resolved only through negotiations. This is our duty towards our children and future generations of the entire region.

I recall the day Rabin was notified of the Nobel Peace Prize. On that very day, an Israeli soldier, Nachshon Wachsman, was murdered by terrorists. During the rescue attempt, one of our officers, Nir Poraz, son of a fallen Israeli Air Force pilot, was also killed. Wachsman's father and Poraz's mother are here with us today. The day of the Nobel Award for Rabin, Peres and Arafat turned into a horrible day. I was with Rabin during these moments, and I saw him in his agony. There was nothing like that day to symbolize Rabin's entire life - the battle for freedom and security and the struggle for peace. And today, Wachsman's father meets regularly with bereaved Palestinian families in Gaza, illustrating that the peace we seek is not only a diplomat's peace, but a people's peace. There are still many who will try to sabotage the peace process. But courageous leadership must rise to the occasion and summon the will to overcome every obstacle.

Today, we honor Norway for helping to open the way to peace, and particularly the late Foreign Minister Johan Jorgen Holst.

The journey started here led on to the White House lawn - where our friend and partner President Clinton presided over that indelible handshake of healing and hope - and then to the Nobel Peace Prize for Yitzhak Rabin, Shimon Peres and Yasser Arafat.

Today, we pay tribute to the heroes of peace, who are no longer with us - Anwar Sadat, Menachem Begin and King Hussein, who walked a new road of hope and taught us that peace required painful decisions.

I still mourn the death of Yitzhak, my commander and mentor. And I tell you, Yitzhak, that you are fallen dead, but your spirit and will are stronger than ever.

So today, I pledge to you, Yitzhak, to all our neighbors, and to the whole world - to travel the course you charted and to finish the journey you've led towards security and peace.

Only then, when we reach this destination, will we proclaim, in the words of Walt Whitman,

"O Captain! My Captain! Our fearful trip is done; The ship has weather'd every rack, the prize we sought is won;

O Captain! My Captain! Rise up and hear the bells; Rise up - for you the flag is flung - for you the bugle trills."

And here today I bring to all of you the prayer that we will see in the not too distant future the fulfillment of the vision of Psalms about Jerusalem, "May peace be within your walls, tranquility within your palaces".

This is our hope. This is our responsibility.

3.

From The Book of Isaiah 2:4

"And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people; and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks, nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore."

4.

More than a Prime Minister

- Rabbi Johnathan Sacks, Chief Rabbi of Britain

'Yitzhak Rabin was more than a Prime Minister of Israel. He embodied the very spirit of Israel, a brilliant soldier who hated war, a man of battle who longed for peace... This was a man who felt in his bones the Jewish imperative of shalom... And in the minds of most Israelis it was only Yitzhak Rabin, the hero of so many battles, whom they could trust to take the risk. But this was no remote politician concerned only with peace in high places. What drove him was the suffering of ordinary Israelis, the human face of war... But we grieve not only because he has died but also because of the way he died. Yitzhak Rabin died because even though his own security advisors warned him of the risk, he believed with perfect faith that a Jew would not kill another Jew.'

5.

The Educational Legacy of Yitzhak Rabin

- Minister of Education, Culture and Sports Yitzhak Levy October 30, 1998 (From the Yitzhak Rabin Center for Israel Studies)

The Memorial Day of Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Yitzhak Rabin, blessed be his memory, obliges the education system, every year, on the 12th of Cheshvan [the date of the murder in the Hebrew calendar], to stop its day-to-day operations and to ask itself whether it is doing enough to deepen education about democracy, whether it is indeed passing on to the younger generation the resilience and the way of democracy, and whether it is appropriately dedicating its lessons to the struggle against any kind of violence.

This year we mark the third anniversary of the murder, whose despicable perpetrator wished to shake the very foundations of our young democracy with his deed. The volley of bullets hit not only the body of the late Yitzhak Rabin, one of the most prominent citizens, soldiers and leaders the people of Israel have had in their new independent state, but it hit also the souls of all of us. Had the former prime minister and minister of defense been asked to leave us an educational legacy, he surely would have asked us to teach the nature of the democratic-political culture, how to ensure the stability of a democratic regime, and how to combat violence.

A few minutes before he was murdered, Yitzhak Rabin said: "Violence is undermining the very foundations of Israeli democracy. It must be condemned, denounced, and isolated. This is not the way of the State of Israel. Controversies may arise in a democracy, but the decision must be reached through democratic elections." These words deserve to be studied, as they are, in every single classroom in Israel, and should be recited over and again to all of our students.

Our true test as educators is - to what extent can we instill in our students the values of democracy, of pluralism and tolerance, so that they truly understand them? The annals of our people are fraught with harsh disputes, with differing opinions and opposing beliefs. They should not be hidden from our students. We should not ignore the disagreements, the many opinions that exist among us regarding the nature of our nation and society, the contents of our Jewish heritage, our security requirements, the nature of the peace and its relation to the Land of Israel.

Indeed, let us teach our students that "Any dispute that is for heaven's sake will last, and if it is not for heaven's sake, it will not last." Let us teach our students that disagreements, principled and ideological as they may be, should have no influence on our personal and social relationships. We shall always hold before us the words of the late Minister of Education Zvulun Hammer, blessed be his memory, who said at the Israel Prize ceremony two years ago, "We attach labels, and with such labels the speaker frees himself from the duty to listen to the other and to examine the content of his words. Labeling the other is simplistic and shallow, and leads to hatred and violence, and on this slippery slope we could slide and fall into the abyss."

This and more: I see no contradiction between our people's democratic values and Jewish values. Contradiction - as if they are at odds with each other. The very opposite is true. Our writings are full of very clear educational guidelines on how to

instill the love of man, the love of Israel, and the love of the other. "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" and "Love ye therefore the stranger," present us with a distinct educational, religious and moral challenge that none of us can avoid, either in our private lives or in our public lives.

Side by side with equipping our students with the tools of how to conduct a civilized disagreement and the culture of debate, let us teach our youngsters that no man should give up his positions or deny his beliefs, but learn how to persuade, in an open and sensitive manner, that his way is the right one. Rabbi Kook expressed this educational-ethical question well when he said,

"... and as we struggle for the things that are close to our hearts, we must not be swept by our emotions, and always be aware that the emotions that are opposite to ours also have plenty of room in our world."

The future nature of the State of Israel and of Israeli society is dependent on the students of today. We, the educators, face the question of how well we can equip our youngsters with the spiritual strength that is required in order to defend those values we mentioned here. Yitzhak Rabin's Memorial Day is a permanent day for an educational soul-search, on which we shall have to ask ourselves, year after year, whether we persist and insist, throughout the entire year, to mend the tears, to listen to and respect one another.

6.

Quotation inscribed on the wall of the Israeli Ministry of Defense.

Yitchak Rabin

"We are going to a war that has no dead or injured, no blood or suffering - the war for peace."

7.

We put our trust in ourselves

adapted from Prime Minister Rabin's address to the Council of Jewish Federations in Montreal , November 18, 1993 Yitchak Rabin

I know that many of you watched that ceremony on the White house Lawn with mixed emotions, many of you grinding your teeth. I knew, as you knew, that the hand outstretched to me from the far side of the podium was the same hand that signed the order to shoot, to kill. Of all hands in the world, it was not the hand that I wanted or dreamed of touching.

But it was not Yitzhak Rabin on that podium, the private citizen who lives on Rav Ashi Street in Tel Aviv; it was not the father of Dalia, and of Yuval, who both completed their army service, or the grandfather of Yonatan, a soldier today, a grandfather who doesn't sleep well at night and worries like all parents and grandparents in Israel....

I would have liked to be signing a peace agreement with Holland, or Luxembourg, or with New Zealand. But there was no need to. That is why, on that podium, on that world stage, I stood as the representative of a nation, the emissary of a state that wants peace with the most bitter and odious of its foes. I stood there as the representative of a state that is willing to give peace a chance. As I have said, one does not make peace with one's friends. One makes peace with one's enemy.'

8.

A Dangerous World

Albert Einstein

"The world is too dangerous to live in - not because of the people who do evil, but because of the people who sit and let it happen."

9.

Give Peace a Chance

ARTIST: John Lennon

Ev'rybody's talkin' 'bout
Bagism, Shagism, Dragism, Madism, Ragism, Tagism
This-ism, that-ism, ism ism ism
All we are saying is give peace a chance
All we are saying is give peace a chance

Ev'rybody's talkin' 'bout
Minister, Sinister, Banisters and Canisters,
Bishops, Fishops, Rabbis, and Pop Eyes, Bye bye, Bye bye
All we are saying is give peace a chance
All we are saying is give peace a chance

Ev'rybody's talkin' 'bout
Revolution, Evolution, Masturbation, Flagellation, Regulation,
Integrations, mediations, United Nations, - congratulations
All we are saying is give peace a chance
All we are saying is give peace a chance

Ev'rybody's talkin' 'bout
John and Yoko, Timmy Leary, Rosemary,
Tommy Smothers, Bobby Dylan, Tommy Cooper,
Derek Taylor, Norman Mailer, Alan Ginsberg, Hare Krishna
Hare Hare Krishna
All we are saying is give peace a chance
All we are saying is give peace a chance

10.
Land of Milk and Honey

Yitchak Rabin

"We should not let the land flowing with milk and honey, become the land flowing with blood and tears."

Shalom, Haver

To Cry For You

Words and Music: Aviv Gefen
Performed by Arik Einstein
Translated by Larry Yudelson
I am going to cry for you
Be strong above
My yearnings
Are like doors that are opened at night

Forever, my brother
I will remember you always
And we'll meet in the end, you know
And I have friends
But they too are dimmed
Before your crazy light