

Persia #4

## Yom Atzmaute / Israeli Independence Day

Next week we celebrate the Restoration of the Modern State of Israel.

As we close out our studies on Persian Jews, we will weave them into the celebration of Israel.

There seemed to be nothing that the Ayatollah despised more than Zionism and the State. For most Persian Jews though, his vitriol fueled their determination to love and support Israel even more. Plenty of them followed their hearts towards Aliya. At the seder, when they sang "Next Year in Jerusalem," it was a serious, hopeful reality. Which came true through blood, sweat and tears.

In our fourth Iranian segment, we will relate stories of Jews who emigrated from Iraq and Iran to Israel. We'll learn of the herculean efforts the State made to rescue and assist these eager souls.

Once upon a time, the State had quite a relationship with Iran. Plenty of sharing and flights went on between the two countries. Yet with the Islamic revolution it disappeared quickly. The Jews were ready to end their exile in Persia (But not all of them at the same time. Persian Jews had a long patriotic culture there)

Of course, when we examine all of this in our time, the 100% turnaround of Iran is unfathomable. A fact nevertheless.

To an extent, the severe disdain for Israel goes way back to Biblical days. Remember, both Jews and Moslems trace their connections back to Abraham the Patriarch. As you know, he had two sons (actually more, but that's not for now). The Jewish connection is to his son Yitzchok / Isaac. The Moslem connection is to the older son Ishmael. Maimonides has what to say about the effect of these early connections on world history.

Then don't forget the episode of Matriarch Sarah and the other wife, Ishmael's mother, Egyptian princess Hagar as well. That too has a part in the puzzle.

The State of Israel is one of the greatest polyglots of blended cultures ever to exist. Our Iranian Jews are a significant portion of that.

So, join us please next Tuesday as we celebrate Israel and our Persian brethren.

Harry