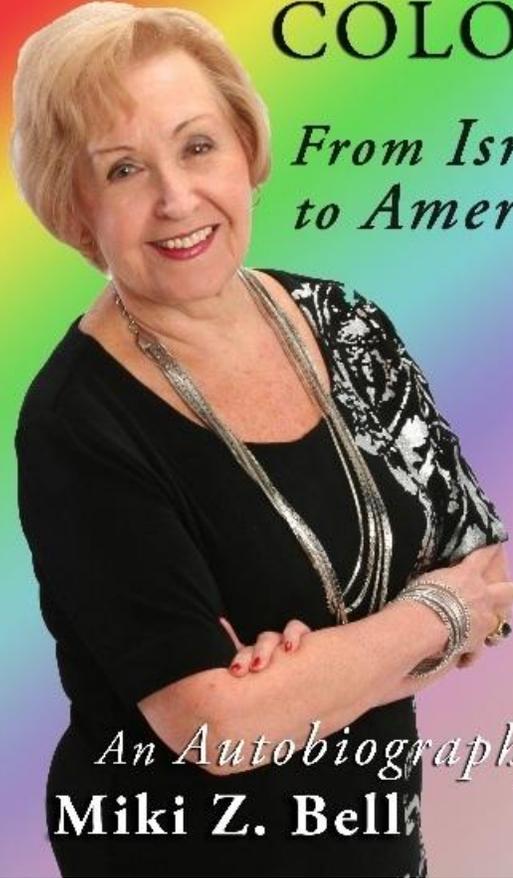


A LIFE of MANY COLORS

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*From Israel
to America*



Miki Z. Bell

An Autobiography of
Miki Z. Bell

A LIFE OF MANY COLORS

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1948 – The State of Israel Was Born

On May 14, 1948 the United Nations proclaimed the partition of Palestine into a Jewish State. Israel was born. I remember that day and night so vividly.

Hatikvah, the Israeli anthem flowed through the radio as the UN proclaimed the birth of the State of Israel. We were dancing in the streets all night.

The streets became a big celebration for all Israelis. The joy we felt was infectious; it was as if we all became one. Unfortunately, our joy was soon replaced with a war for our survival.

The first undertaking by the Israeli new provisional government was to null and void the White Paper of 1939, written into law by the British Government. The White Paper restricted the immigration of Jews into the country and forbade the purchase of land by Jews in all but 5% of its areas. Palestine was almost the only country in the world in 1948 in which the law discriminated against immigrants and residents on the grounds of their being Jewish.

This cruel law was applied when Jews were being slaughtered by the millions in Europe.

The newly formed government of Israel opened the gates to immigration into Israel. The flood gates to those seeking a refuge in their homeland were opened.

The Arab nations rejected the partitions voted by the United Nations and in a single voice declared war and suggested that Israel would not exist one month after its birth. Israel responded in defense for its survival and won that war, but not the peace.

The Arabs that resided in Palestine at the time were told by their Arab leaders to leave their homes and escape, since a war is being waged against Israel. They were also told that within one month, they will return to their homes as they will win the war.

The Arab nations were sure they would win the war and claim Israel/Palestine their own. The numbers were surely on their side. Israel was surrounded by Egypt Syria and Jordan, three armies with one purpose, to push Israel to the sea. But Israel's survival instinct was stronger than the hatred of three armies determined to crush and drown her.

Had the Arabs accepted the partition for two countries living side by side, the region could truly be "the land of milk and honey". Israelis and Arabs lived side by side in peace and were good neighbors to each other prior to the partition.

The Arabs that elected to remain and not flee, are today Israeli citizens given all the rights that Israelis have. They are full fledged Israeli citizens. They have equal voting rights, and can serve in the Israeli Parliament.

After Israel won the war of independence, the Arab refugees who were told to flee, have since been used as political pawns by their corrupt Arab leaders. The Palestinian refugees could have easily been absorbed into their Arab countries, just like Israel absorbed the Jewish refugees from the Diaspora. The Arab nations surely have much more land than the small territory Israel has. However, their corrupt politicians have kept the Palestinian refugees all these years living in tents, without a home or the benefit of belonging to a country, using their own people as political pawns, and indoctrinating them with hatred toward Israel and the Jews.

If achieving peace was in the people's hands, rather than politicians, I am sure we would have peace today, and we would all benefit. However, politicians have their own agenda which does not take in consideration the peoples' wellbeing.

The Jews and Muslims have more in common than they have differences. Peace would benefit everyone. Hatred only breeds more conflict, and the blame game benefits no one. I so wish for peace in the region to become a reality. From my mouth to God's ears!!!