

# Yoram Taharlev and Zan Nadir – the ZOOM show

May 17, 20:00

## The program:

### 1. – Zan Nadir

The ballade about Yoel Moshe Salomon

### 2. – Erga Netz

Opening word

### 3. – Yoram Taharlev

If you know the location in the forest, if you can light a fire, if you can remember the prayer – you can save the day.

I don't know any of those, but I do know some stories and this might do the work.

Nowadays we want to be told stories no longer then one SMS.

For you - I managed to condense into only one minute the story of The state of Israel, starting on November 1947 – The vote in the UN for “the resolution on the partition of the land of Israel.”

The UN,  
the speeches,  
many cups of tea and coffee,  
independence declaration,  
shootings,  
war,  
immigration,  
austerity,  
another war,  
polder work at the swamps,  
recession at the door.  
Nothing has been learned,  
Yom-Kippur war,  
Oy vey,  
and the next minute –  
Saadat signs an agreement,  
peace with Egypt,  
there's some light,  
but then a war in Lebanon,  
'87 Intifada  
and a highway to the NADA,  
Oslo agreement,  
Peace with Jordan,  
the assassination of Rabin,  
Arafat,  
Hizballah,  
the Hamas in Gaza.  
BIBI always prime minister –

Days pass by –  
don't envy me –  
life here is like a race,  
a survival game in the wilderness.

#### 4. Zan Nadir

Water from the Well

#### 5. – Yoram Taharlev

The History of the Israeli Politics.

Our first Prime minister, David Ben Gurion, was our hero – one of his contemporaries said  
“I follow him blindly, but still, once in a while, I open one eye, to be sure Ben Gurion has both his  
eyes, open.”

The first Knesset session was, as if to prove the British that we can do as well as their parliament –  
sessions full with laughter.

I was a young boy then, and I remember in one of the first sessions – a discussion on whether a  
certain quote was of CICERO or KIKERO.

Those were the days...

Ever since the gap between the Israeli and the British parliaments grew bigger and bigger.

There is lots of anger in the Knesset today, hardly any humour, hardly any laughs ...

We, the Israelis, embrace a long history of disagreements between us.

Actually, To Disagree is one of our customs.

When Moses had a dispute, it was solved easily – “the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the  
Opponents.” The controversies never stopped. Now we swallow each other –

Secular versus religious,

left against the right,

Ashkenazi and Sephardi,

and so on and so on and so on for ever....

#### 6. Zan Nadir

Be My Friend, Be My Brother

#### 7. – Yoram Taharlev

The History of the Israeli Defence Force.

we went through so many wars and military actions;

If you were in three of them, you get one for free.

In the old days, after every war, many songs were written.

But none were praising the IDF itself.

The songs were a recognition of the different Military divisions and their soldiers.

I know it, as I was the one to write many of those songs... some 130 of them.

The songs had a big part in raising the morale, but the highlights of the military entertainment  
were the sketches (not mine) where the jokes were about the army.

I think that a military force that can also mock itself – is a great sign of strength.

#### 8. Zan Nadir

Medley of IDF songs

## 9. Yoram Taharlev

1878 is when, for me, the Israeli story starts – when a few young Orthodox Jews from Jerusalem under the Ottoman rule, went to build up a new pioneering settlement – a MOSHAVA, which is now the city of PETACH-TIKVA.

On a humid day that year, four determined fellows went on a mission.

They went to buy the land and were confronted with some hassles...

Even though I wrote it fairly loyal to the historic story, I get constantly corrected for leaving few other fellows out.

As it all occurred many years ago, I decided to bring my four fellows UpToDate and see how would they behave had they appeared here again on their horses, in our times, not finding a swamp but a traffic jam and an angry policeman asking them for papers.

## 10. Zan Nadir

The Ballade about the Horse with the Spot on its forehead

## 11. Yoram Taharlev

The first song I wrote some 60 years ago, was a love song – “You, Me, and the Wind – walking on the sandy beach”. Last week I typed it on my computer and the Hebrew spelling corrector didn’t recognize a few of the words, they were marked under with a thick red line ...

When I wrote this song, all Hebrew love songs took place in the rural landscape.

The names of the bands that sang them had all been inspired by nature.

Today the Israeli bands borrow their names from the office: Tipex, Machina etc.

But I am not complaining – today’s best songs are at least as good as they were then, and the worst ones as well...

I do regret the vanishing of the classical Hebrew rhyme.

When songs started to be written in spoken language, the writers used rhyme that was meant for the ear, not for the eye.

The world-famous song JERUSALEM OF GOLD is a good example.

It is true these rhymes sound great, but if you look at it, it is not a rhyme whatsoever, it is strange to the eye, but still, this way of rhyming brought a lot of colour and humour to the songs.

I still miss the classical rhyme which I find juicy and tasty. So, I wrote for you a short story all in one breath with the same ending sound for each line:

HAMTZITZ on the SHPITZ

of the ATZITZ

etc.....

## 12. Zan Nadir

Your Wonders Never Cease

## 13. Yoram Taharlev

When I quote a phrase from the book of Psalms in my songs, it is due to the way my generation was taught. Even though being secular – like all of us in the Kibbutz, I can cite chapters from the bible by heart. My children and their generation know nothing of this, and so a lot of our cultural linguistic heritage gets lost on the way.

Not all of our teachers were professional educators.

English for example, we studied with some 5 different teachers along my high school days.

We had volunteers in the Kibbutz from all over the world.

If they spoke English, they were good enough to teach us...

As they came and went, they were replaced with a new one, after a short time.

No wonder I didn't pass the exams.

Here is an odé to my, still wonderful, English teachers, which I wrote.

"The English teacher"

(in English)

## 14. Zan Nadir

You Can't Do It

## 15. Yoram Taharlev

With the Corona came various instructions for quarantine measures, and no gathering was allowed.

But in the very first evening we heard already about a big crowd at a wedding.

This reminds me of the three pioneers who searched a place to settle down in –

the first said he heard about a valley where people are very happy, energetic fellows.

The second echoed him saying – "indeed I hear they work all day and dance all night"

The third nodded his head – "indeed they dance all night, but those are not the same ones who work all day... "

On the second week, at the entrance to the supermarkets, the lines got longer, distance kept, and at the door, the guard was aiming a (temperature) gun to each and every forehead.

This sight reminded me of the guy on his horse who was severely hit by a car.

He took the driver to court, but the judge said – "Man, (it was in America), you told the sheriff that you never felt better, so how come you say you were badly injured?"

"On the accident site," said the man, "I saw the sheriff looking at my dog, who was laying there suffering – and he shot him in the head.

Then the sheriff went to my horse who had two broken legs, and to save him from his pains – he shot him in the head.

Then he came to me - I didn't dare telling him I'm hurting..."

The third week – we had a severe Shortage of eggs.

As they say - If it gets too difficult, give up the goose and keep the eggs.

The fourth week - the government concluded that the economy was suffering.

We had to get out of the BROCH – this mess. In order to get out of this crisis, we will need to change our working place or our professions.

Long ago there was this country of fighters – each and every one of them had mastered a martial skill. They had incredible military experts. That's all they did.

The workers in that country were all prisoners of war.

To make their work efficient, there was a minister whose task was to find for each prisoner the most suitable work.

He did well with all the captured men except for one.

He was the only one to fail at every single job he got.

The minister called him over. He wanted to know what was the prisoner doing before, how-come he is so unqualified.

To make the long story short – you want to know what he did in his own country?

– "Oh, there I was the king" ....

## 16. Zan Nadir

Just a Prayer

## 17. Yoram Taharlev

This is the only song I ever wrote that has 2 titles for the same lyrics, and it has two different audiences.

If you go to YouTube you will see the popular Yardena Arazi's version with some 400,000 views  
And Avraham Fried – an orthodox singer with 3 million views!

Why do religious people like this song so much? Maybe because it is a prayer.

Everyone can write their own prayers. How do I know it? Because it's in the book I wrote "In the Lap of Elders".

I wrote a Mishna about Rabbi Shimon's saying: "Don't make a habit of your praying."

(Yoram Taharlev wrote not only songs and Spoken Word poems but also a few books on religious matters from a secular point of view.)

People say that songs come from the guts, I rather have them from my heart, as prayers.

The phrase "Do not make your prayer a habit." You can understand in few ways:

The same prayer can be practiced differently.

There is the story about the cantor (HAZAN) , who sang a prayer in two different versions – one with Open eyes and the other with eyes shut – the second was always more touching and... more expensive ...

Or you can have different prayers from different books:

There's a story about a Jew who forgot to say the Voyage Prayer and indeed, he got punished:

As he was walking, he saw a lion right in front of him.

The man took out his prayers book and started praying.

Suddenly he sees that the lion also takes a prayer book and starts praying.

The man asks him: "Who are you praying to?"

"I'm not praying" says the lion "I bless my food!"

Indeed, the Jewish people wondered all over the world, so we did need the Voyage prayer.

But these days, when we have our own country, we need a different prayer and I call it "The Parking Prayer".

(The word Parking - HANAYA in Hebrew can be seen as stems from the words Grace + God, and it has cultural references to exoduses and other historical events.)

## 18. Zan Nadir

Let me have this day

## 19. Yoram Taharlev

We were chasing PEACE for so long. Now, still asking for this moment,

we don't insist any more on right now. Maybe later, I'll settle for next year.

As everything around is changing, I hope to still be able to enjoy the obvious.

Let's hope we'll have it at least as good as now - It isn't much, but this is all we have.

I hope to long for good tomorrows, as what we have is more than any prayer.