

Torah Tidbits from Rabbi Larry Moldo

It has been a while since I had seen the movie Exodus. (I vaguely remember it as having lasted longer, but that could have just been the ads.) The movie captures well the complicated issues that existed at the time, some of which continue on until today. After almost 70 years, we also know that the reality was sometimes as envisioned by the movie, and other times it was radically different. People are complicated, and therefore the history that the sum of their choices makes is also complicated.

The main protagonist of the movie issues a declaration at the end, as the combined group of children's village, Irgun, Haganah and Palmach members bury jointly a young holocaust survivor and a local Arab village leader. He declares that the insanity of the world currently mandates that the only place these two victims can be at peace together is in the grave, and that is not good enough. There has to be a way for people to peacefully coexist on the land, and even if everyone stands in the way, such a life is the only answer to all the persecution, destruction and war.

It was a bit depressing to realize that not much has really changed. Life is still complicated, and enemies can be at peace with each other most easily when buried (as long as the survivors don't cause any problems.)

I guess that is one reason why the repetitive nature of the High Holidays is still necessary. None of us is free from having performed less than perfectly, and until that happens it is nice to have a structure to fall back on while we earnestly strive to be better.

May it be God's will that as we inch our way to being better, that all of us cut each other some slack for the dreadfully long time it sometimes takes.