

EXIT NETANYAHU, perhaps.

And now, THE TRIAL.

My imagination takes me to Kafka. Possibly we are not seeing a trial just of Netanyahu but of Israel itself. Let us not forget the earlier trial of Mrs. Bibi, known to some Israeli friends as Biba because of her love of shopping. Let us also not forget the trial for corruption of Olmert, a previous PM.

The question is, can Israel exist without corruption? The total rejection by Israel of the requirement to fulfill the conditions of its establishment, plus the dodginess of the power of the UN to establish it as a state, suggest to me that it has only ever existed in a Kafkaesque world.

Do we, do I, exist in a concrete reality? “The only democracy in the Middle East”. “The most moral army in the World.” Have we floated off through a Political Looking Glass? Are we required to become fluent in political Jabberwokky? All, all must be, all has to be, nonsense. The only way to understand is to accept the nonsense, the lethal nonsense.

Presiding over The Trial might be Humpty Dumpty who told Alice that words meant whatever he wanted them to mean, though he did admit to finding it troublesome to discipline verbs. Judge Dumpty has no difficulty defining victims as terrorists. Steal someone’s house and they become a terrorist.

I very stupidly studied government and politics. It has taken me too long to realise that I was actually writing essays about the Theatre of the Political Absurd. Ask me how many MPs there are in the House of Commons and I can get full marks. Ask me their purpose and my certainty wobbles.

Come on Israel. Shall The Trial be a Mad Hatter’s Tea Party? When the Mad Hatter asks Alice a riddle while she was in Wonderland she says she does not know the answer and asks what it is. His reply? “I haven’t the slightest idea”.

Eventually Alice woke up from the Looking Glass and all was well. I don’t think I am in either Wonderland or Through the Looking Glass.

I must, however, admit to myself that to comment upon so much politics knowledge of Kafka and Carroll is essential.

Cliff Jones, 4th. June 2021

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