

TORN

TOGETHER

composed by Tzvi Freeman for Chabad.org
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The most
brilliant gems
are buried in the
deepest caverns;
the purest of
pearls at the
bottom of
the sea.



The most
pristine beauty
of the human
spirit shines
brightest at its
darkest
moments...



*...if only you
will look deeply,
with a
discerning eye.*







In mid-August of the Jewish year of 5765 (2005), soldiers of the Israel Defense Forces together with Israeli Police were ordered to forcefully evacuate over eight thousand of their fellow Jews from their homes in Gush Katif, an area of the Gaza Strip.



The move
threatened to
tear the nation
apart – and in
many ways, it
did.



Yet, amidst the
rage and anger,
the accusations,
the threats and
the slander,



*...here and there
unfolded a deep
and mysterious
drama, sparks of
a truth that
cannot be
washed away.*







I try to imagine
the police and
army of the
country in
which I live
and how they
would deal with
such orders.



I try to imagine
people of any
other country
besides Israel as
the indignant
evacuees.



In all my dreams,
this I could
never see:

Soldiers and
families together
as though they
were brothers
and sisters...

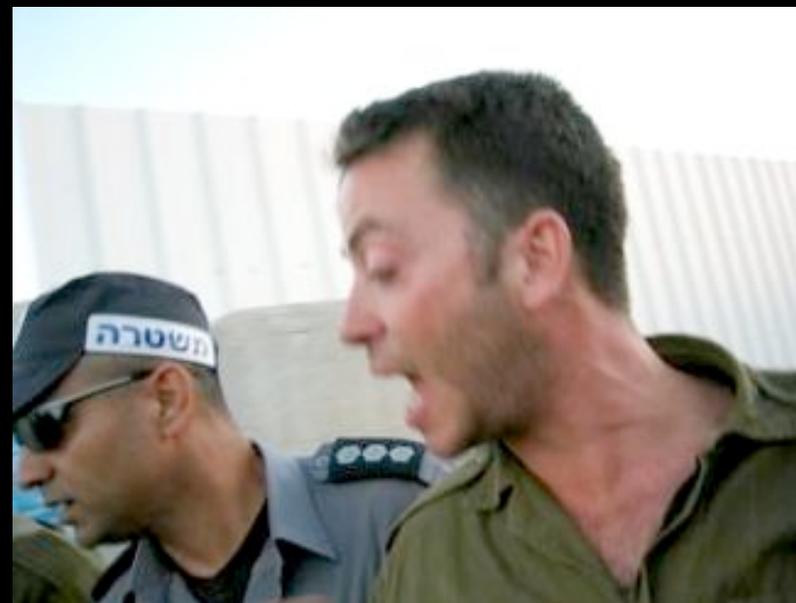


...making
l'chaim together,
praying together,
speaking to each
other's hearts,
crying with
one another,

even sobbing
in embrace,



and hardened
soldiers simply
throwing down
their weapons
and crying,
"Arrest me. I
cannot go on
with this."







*Yes, there were
many ugly
scenes.*

*There was
anger, from
both sides.*



But not a shot
was fired from
either side,
nothing close.









How can you
know that
something is
truly one?
That it is not just
many parts sewn
together?



Try to tear it apart.



If the parts will
cry for each
other and hug
each other as
they are being
torn, you know
they are a
oneness that no
conflict can
erase.



A oneness that
must eventually
return, because
oneness is
forever.







In the scrolls of
the tefillin of the
Master of the
Universe, what
is written?
“Who is like
Your people,
Israel? A nation
that is one upon
the earth!”

– Talmud, Zohar





This
presentation is
dedicated to the
soldiers of the
world's most
humane army,
the IDF...



...and to the
great heroes of
Israel, the
families that
have now left
Gush Katif.



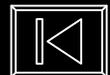


“Your teeth are like the fleece of sheep.”

(Song of Songs 6:6)

*This refers to our soldiers.
Even they are pure, good people.*

– Rashi, based on Midrash Rabba



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