

Riots in Jerusalem.

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A pogrom in Jerusalem! Our minds are loath to absorb the enormity of these four terrible words, but that is the truth, a bitter truth, and there is no way whatsoever to cover it up. So far we have no detailed information about the whole of the incident, but those to whom ink still remains write to say that all was done according to the customary paradigm from Russia, Poland and the like, in all its details and particulars. The "secret" preparation, about which each fledgling chick knew – as did, needless to say, officials both high and low; the appearance of a protest committee before the administration, then the standardized response - to hold to moderation and everyone would return home in peace; the official warnings, which had more in them of the inciting voice calling for pogrom than of real warning, then after that riots sanctioned by the police force, who would not lift even a finger to stop it and, on the contrary, even helped the rioters here and there when the moment was right. But when the Jews attempted to defend themselves, the police would fire bullets at them in the name of 'law and order,' in order that the Jews might know there were police present and would therefore not do in his own defense what any honest man would deem right in his own eyes. Even the number of days was according to the paradigm: for two days they were allowed to burn and to abuse, and on the third came the order for cease-fire, and sure enough - it ceased in the blink of an eye. After that the censorship, which will not allow the truth to be known publicly and covers it up by all possible means even from the English public: all the information received in London until now has had to come obliquely and roundabout; even now no news has come directly from the Land of Israel, and Reuter's official news service endeavors to give a false picture of it all: a mere national dispute, the natives' anger against the Zionists. They even speak of the guilt of the Jews, that they were the first aggressors and the like, everything in the customary style.

Every child of Beit Raban knows, even according to the fractured news that we have received here among us, that all the official stories given out by Reuters are simply lies, and furthermore that because lying is a clear sign of it, we know that the administration is the one who is guilty of everything. But why give us signs, if the simple truth is quite clear. This is not only a pogrom committed by Arabs, but rather a pogrom that was instigated among the Arabs with intention and premeditation. Before our very eyes has unfolded an ordinary political process which local officials have used to safeguard their own ambitions, in order to influence the central government, sometimes even without the latter's knowledge. For the psychology of each and every official, especially in a distant colony, is the same in every time and in every place. He loves the regular, the simple; he does not want to dispute matters; he loves discipline, subservience; and in particular he does not love those representatives of the natives placed under his command, who, if they are supervising his activities, go back and forth with his superiors against his wishes to try and get new orders from those highest ups. All the officials who have been in the Land, apart from a few notable exceptions, are anti-Zionists not due to some higher politics (except due to some expansion of opinion), but because of their devotion to tranquility of mind; because they do not understand anything complex and outside of the ordinary, especially that which demands of them excessive attention, that disturbs their repose at a time when they usually retire to smoke their pipe. When such an official has an issue with the Indians, the Hottentots, or the Arab *fellahins*, all proceeds according to the usual order: there are no questions and answers, everything is quiet, peaceful and tranquil, and if an incident takes place in some

village or other, they send some battalion of soldiers over there and all will end well. But sure enough, when the issue occurs in the Land of Israel, one must reckon with the native Jews and the Zionists, who do not assume that the official is the ultimate landlord, who have demands and claims, who dispute and object to orders from the central government. Then must be imposed on the Jews some complex policy that baffles the officials' minds, that demands from them special attention and excessive feats of understanding; almost every year of the occupation has involved some *imbroglio* between the Zionists and the colonial officials in the Land of Israel: the latter issue decrees, and the Zionists lobby the central government, and then decrees are annulled from above. In any case these officials would be hostile to the Zionists and their aspirations and their interference in the affairs of the local administration, seeing the Zionists as those creating a sort of dual authority that will not allow the local officials to prevail over their territory according to their own desires.

But said higher policy, that not issuing from the mouths of the local authority, is alive, and it has a wider view and greater ambitions. In response, there exists a tried and true stratagem for influencing this policy from below: the arranging of pogroms and their official meanings, that is to say, 'go and see where the Zionist policy leads.' Resentment and anger from the side of the natives and then uprising, in which is danger for the Jews themselves; this is an established pattern that was accepted even in the days of the Russian *fliva* and altered a few times. The short-sighted will think that in so acting they have won, but experience has shown that such victories are in fact defeats.

We still do not know whether the local policy has found echoes in the circles of central governance, or even if it is possible that it could have had any effect there. The atmosphere is still full of lies coming in official guise and the truth has not yet been revealed to any real extent; the guilty parties are still attempting to cover their fig-leafed nakedness with clothes snatched from the air. If the central government is to punish the guilty according to their wickedness, it will be known around the world that its hands are clean and free of any crime, and if not... we cannot even call into our minds that it could be so.

A pogrom in Jerusalem! This is an incident that demands vengeance, and there is no Jew the whole world over who is not enraged to hear such a thing. Jerusalem is the capital of our nation the way it was in days of yore; to this day the majority of its inhabitants are Jews; the eyes of every member of our people is turned toward her, even those are not Zionists at all; and now she is the sole light in the darkness of our exile, the one dot that reconciles us with the corruption of humanity and with the present situation. If this last light goes out, the darkness will increase not only for us but for the whole world. The pogroms will not humiliate our spirit, because even if we are not strong enough to help ourselves, we still have enough power in us to deal harm to others.

**Comment [PJC1]:** Unable to find a definition or translation for this term. My apologies!