1

00:00:06,312 --> 00:00:09,979

With spirit, with blood,

Gaza we'll redeem!

2

00:00:10,761 --> 00:00:13,820

May your village burn down!

3

00:00:14,104 --> 00:00:17,377

May your village burn down!

4

00:00:28,891 --> 00:00:33,173

Do you want to make Smileys?

- Yes!

5

00:00:36,449 --> 00:00:39,652

Bring me water!

6

00:00:40,751 --> 00:00:43,204

With the Israeli reality

continuing to strike

7

00:00:43,283 --> 00:00:47,997

Jews and Arabs in the communities near

Gaza and in lower Haifa,

8

00:00:48,165 --> 00:00:51,235

in this kindergarten the children

are exposed to a different reality,

9

00:00:51,354 --> 00:00:57,058

that which could be if it depended

on the children themselves.

10

00:00:57,120 --> 00:00:59,892

Rali or Basim?

Whose turn is it now?

11

00:01:00,012 --> 00:01:02,751

Basim. I had already.

Great. Come on Basim.

12

00:01:03,700 --> 00:01:04,700

Stand here.

13

00:01:07,020 --> 00:01:10,726

With your knee.

Great! That's the way!

14

00:01:11,360 --> 00:01:14,827

Have some Samira!

I brought you dates and apricots.

15

00:01:14,869 --> 00:01:16,980

I brought it all in honor of Ramadan.

16

00:01:17,059 --> 00:01:21,855

At Beit Berl, they marked Shavuot

and the start of Ramadan

17

00:01:21,918 --> 00:01:24,601

on the same day.

Together and not individually.

18

00:01:24,641 --> 00:01:28,374

It happened the very day

fighting resumed in Gaza.

19

00:01:30,562 --> 00:01:33,962

Every child comes to

kindergarten with a basket.

20

00:01:34,109 --> 00:01:40,383

First we celebrated Shavuot.

Every child danced with his basket.

21

00:01:40,471 --> 00:01:44,992

Then we put hung the Ramadan lantern

and sang the song of Ramadan.

22

00:01:50,240 --> 00:01:55,493

When we asked them to bring

a basket full of fruits and a treat

23

00:01:55,589 --> 00:02:00,042

I think it wasn’t easy

for the Arab parents.

24

00:02:00,090 --> 00:02:05,090

on a day when you're hearing the news

about everything happening in Gaza.

25

00:02:05,201 --> 00:02:11,544

To show up on that hard day,

with all those reports in the background.

26

00:02:11,593 --> 00:02:15,872

and to celebrate with the children

and to dance with them.

27

00:02:15,961 --> 00:02:20,185

and to hug them and talk to them.

It's not easy,

28

00:02:20,229 --> 00:02:23,998

but we do it,

because that's what the children need.

29

00:02:24,339 --> 00:02:26,412

Should I pour it?

- Yes! Pour it!

30

00:02:26,622 --> 00:02:27,908

So how do we do it?

31

00:02:27,955 --> 00:02:30,755

How do parents of Jewish and Arab children

32

00:02:30,828 --> 00:02:33,820

cut themselves off

from the pictures of the dead in Gaza,

33

00:02:33,848 --> 00:02:36,586

of frightened children

in the Israeli communities near Gaza,

34

00:02:36,617 --> 00:02:39,739

of violent demonstrations

and hateful, racist shouting?

35

00:02:39,786 --> 00:02:42,903

What's your father's name?

- Karim! - Karim!

36

00:02:42,972 --> 00:02:47,117

How do you create an almost sterile,

prejudice-free environment,

37

00:02:47,188 --> 00:02:51,174

without accusations,

and without winners and losers?

38

00:02:51,198 --> 00:02:55,253

As the children grow,

the questions grow harder, more complex.

39

00:02:55,285 --> 00:02:57,126

Obviously they understand more.

40

00:02:57,166 --> 00:03:01,922

In preschool, it interests them less.

They ask about it less.

41

00:03:01,969 --> 00:03:05,201

The adults worry about this,

whatever their kids' ages.

42

00:03:05,260 --> 00:03:10,127

What happens with the parents

when the reality on the outside changes?

43

00:03:10,186 --> 00:03:13,154

We talk to one another! We clear the air.

44

00:03:13,208 --> 00:03:16,368

There's no "OK, Everyone will

just stick to his own views."

45

00:03:16,395 --> 00:03:19,750

No! We talk about these things

in an organized fashion.

46

00:03:19,964 --> 00:03:22,849

We have real meetings,

with all the parents invited.

47

00:03:22,904 --> 00:03:25,479

We sit in a circle

with moderators.

48

00:03:29,244 --> 00:03:34,290

Ma'ayan, a Jew, and Nai, an Arab,

are friends from kindergarten.

49

00:03:34,339 --> 00:03:38,845

They live near each other, but

what bridged the mental gap

50

00:03:38,897 --> 00:03:41,286

was not their geographic proximity.

51

00:03:42,992 --> 00:03:48,579

Their bilingualism doesn't just influence

them and their education

52

00:03:48,619 --> 00:03:53,549

but influences

the wider circle around them too.

53

00:03:53,578 --> 00:03:57,737

Here's the playground where we played.

54

00:03:57,770 --> 00:04:03,247

The parents, especially the mothers,

find themselves with new friends

55

00:04:03,277 --> 00:04:06,251

they wouldn't have

if not for this kindergarten.

56

00:04:06,319 --> 00:04:08,887

You didn't make it to

“Ramadan Market,” right?

57

00:04:08,919 --> 00:04:11,699

In the end, no.

- A pity it doesn't last all month.

58

00:04:11,770 --> 00:04:15,243

Right, right.

Actually it's a big production.

59

00:04:15,267 --> 00:04:18,036

Next year.

- Right, oh sure.

60

00:04:18,115 --> 00:04:20,163

Together.

61

00:04:20,252 --> 00:04:25,212

I think we're creating something

that's very necessary right now.

62

00:04:25,242 --> 00:04:30,032

but in several years, it will

definitely be even more necessary.

63

00:04:30,071 --> 00:04:35,204

There's no reason why Jewish and Arab

children shouldn't know each other.

64

00:04:35,410 --> 00:04:38,632

That's our life.

That's how it should be.

65

00:04:38,736 --> 00:04:44,611

Jewish kids waiting to see the

Ramadan moon to know it's starting,

66

00:04:44,634 --> 00:04:47,477

and Arab kids waiting

to dress up on Purim -

67

00:04:47,540 --> 00:04:49,540

that's how it should be. Together.

68

00:04:49,636 --> 00:04:52,369

What Jewish holiday do you like the most?

69

00:04:53,524 --> 00:04:56,286

Purim.

- Really?

70

00:04:56,345 --> 00:05:03,156

Which Arab holidays do you know?

- Ramadan and the one with the olives.

71

00:05:04,439 --> 00:05:06,249

Who am I now?

72

00:05:06,376 --> 00:05:10,179

One kindergarten. Two teachers,

a Jew and an Arab,

73

00:05:10,218 --> 00:05:12,264

and each speaks her own language,

74

00:05:12,327 --> 00:05:17,354

completing what the other says,

and the children just catch on.

75

00:05:17,423 --> 00:05:20,892

He had a hat on his head.

What exactly was his job?

76

00:05:20,998 --> 00:05:26,438

So people would get up

and eat the Ramadan meal.

77

00:05:26,608 --> 00:05:29,272

We're all waiting for you.

- Ramadan.

78

00:05:29,384 --> 00:05:33,947

Besides the educational value

of using 2 languages at such a young age,

79

00:05:34,050 --> 00:05:36,917

it genuinely influences

brain functions,

80

00:05:37,008 --> 00:05:39,019

as has been proven scientifically.

81

00:05:39,042 --> 00:05:42,480

We'll celebrate!

- Ramadan!

82

00:05:42,573 --> 00:05:46,884

At first it was a bit hard

to see the children

83

00:05:46,924 --> 00:05:52,088

unable to talk to me, just Hebrew.

I only use Arabic in the class.

84

00:05:52,160 --> 00:05:57,171

Then they began speaking Arabic.

85

00:05:57,288 --> 00:06:02,200

It's fun raising a child in a language

new to him and his family.

86

00:06:02,303 --> 00:06:03,761

One, two, three,

87

00:06:03,807 --> 00:06:05,863

four, five, six,

88

00:06:05,957 --> 00:06:09,753

seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven,

89

00:06:09,848 --> 00:06:12,404

twelve, thirteen, fourteen,

90

00:06:12,478 --> 00:06:14,851

fifteen!

-fifteen!

91

00:06:17,322 --> 00:06:19,921

Rama Mansur from Tira, almost six,

92

00:06:20,008 --> 00:06:23,165

can already write her name

in Hebrew and Arabic.

93

00:06:23,276 --> 00:06:26,730

The children learn a lot more

than another language.

94

00:06:26,771 --> 00:06:30,901

In the bilingual kindergarten,

the culture of the "other" is central.

95

00:06:30,951 --> 00:06:36,018

and the children, with their parents,

learn about holidays and traditions.

96

00:06:36,068 --> 00:06:37,931

while everyone preserves their identity.

97

00:06:37,978 --> 00:06:40,855

Was there criticism

from family and close friends

98

00:06:40,934 --> 00:06:44,934

about your sending your child

to a bilingual kindergarten?

99

00:06:45,011 --> 00:06:46,542

At first yes.

100

00:06:46,636 --> 00:06:49,618

"Her daughter won't stay Jewish!"

"She won't learn Bible!"

101

00:06:49,699 --> 00:06:54,232

"They don't learn religion there."

"Where's she sending her daughter?"

102

00:06:54,273 --> 00:06:58,638

"She just wants to show off

with a private kindergarten..."

103

00:06:58,805 --> 00:07:00,903

It's the beginning of change.

104

00:07:00,971 --> 00:07:04,892

True, they're little now, but

imagine a high school, say in Jerusalem.

105

00:07:04,929 --> 00:07:09,324

They'd be almost adults.

They'd see the whole picture.

106

00:07:09,409 --> 00:07:15,375

They'd respect one another,

share in the suffering of both sides.

107

00:07:15,442 --> 00:07:17,664

They'd see life as it really is.

108

00:07:17,734 --> 00:07:20,265

One, two, three.

109

00:07:20,311 --> 00:07:23,226

When one teacher, Shahanaz,

fasts during Ramadan,

110

00:07:23,290 --> 00:07:27,406

the other teacher, Shahar,

shows consideration by not eating as well.

111

00:07:27,499 --> 00:07:33,180

This bilingual program has been run

for 20 years by "Yad BeYad",

112

00:07:33,255 --> 00:07:37,171

parents and educators in

Jerusalem, the Galilee, Haifa,

113

00:07:37,243 --> 00:07:40,441

Jaffa, Beit Berl and Kafr Kara,

114

00:07:40,474 --> 00:07:45,499

about 1,800 pupils,

divided evenly between Jews and Arabs.

115

00:07:48,588 --> 00:07:54,216

In the past 5 years,

yearly enrollment has risen by 15%.

116

00:07:54,362 --> 00:07:59,119

Last year alone,

there were 800 pupils on waiting lists.

117

00:07:59,188 --> 00:08:02,003

The Gaza border this week.

118

00:08:02,403 --> 00:08:07,603

And specifically, this week,

when tensions flared and war threatened,

119

00:08:08,029 --> 00:08:13,762

the Kfar Saba Center held a registration event

for next year's bilingual ed program.

120

00:08:13,827 --> 00:08:17,090

Whoever thought no one would come

was proven wrong.

121

00:08:19,655 --> 00:08:23,597

Interest in bilingual education

has grown greatly in recent years.

122

00:08:23,777 --> 00:08:27,970

Parental uncertainty is not tied

to the political/security situation,

123

00:08:28,113 --> 00:08:30,462

but chiefly to logistical considerations.

124

00:08:30,512 --> 00:08:35,299

The main problem is the distance, the trip.

Who will take her in the morning?

125

00:08:35,491 --> 00:08:39,902

If you learn as a child,

that there are other people in the area...

126

00:08:40,031 --> 00:08:42,192

then it's easier. I didn't learn that!

127

00:08:42,360 --> 00:08:45,248

For me, Arabs were something

scary and far away.

128

00:08:45,357 --> 00:08:49,336

From the earliest age,

children can be taught

129

00:08:49,602 --> 00:08:52,594

that we're all human beings,

we’re not different, we’re all equal,

130

00:08:52,648 --> 00:08:55,381

even though each of us, per se,

is an individual.

131

00:08:55,857 --> 00:09:01,207

Bilingual education doesn't pretend

it can solve the quarrel between peoples.

132

00:09:01,259 --> 00:09:04,904

Its backers say that for them

it's an attempt to fix

133

00:09:04,995 --> 00:09:07,932

what we see in the news almost every night.

134

00:09:08,003 --> 00:09:12,860

They believe we can change the reality

between Jews and Arabs in our country.

135

00:09:13,308 --> 00:09:15,725

People say I'm raising my kids

in a bubble.

136

00:09:15,882 --> 00:09:17,880

I say: not a bubble, a greenhouse.

137

00:09:17,909 --> 00:09:21,109

I'm not talking about

some new political solution.

138

00:09:21,193 --> 00:09:23,270

I'm talking about living together.

139

00:09:23,407 --> 00:09:27,387

Real life is about

regular people living together.

140

00:09:31,921 --> 00:09:33,997

"A Little Different"

141

00:09:34,063 --> 00:09:36,097

Written by Michal Vasserman

Edited by Amitai Arnon

142

00:09:36,143 --> 00:09:38,343

Filming and Sound: Slava Kanizhin