Global JEL Mission

Reflection

Jo Toledano, France

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"Kol Ysrael Arevim zeh ba-zeh"

**Repair and educate, mission of an entire people**

As with Yehuda, who vouched for his brother's return, which the Viceroy of Egypt demanded as proof of the family's honesty, we can imagine that he first secured Benjamin's agreement. "Arevim zeh ba-zeh", guarantors for each other. In a way, the contract of responsibility is conditional on a reciprocal agreement between the guarantor and the guaranteed. Coming home, but also sharing the road ahead together.

**The impact of the October 7 pogrom on education.**

From January 29 to February 1, 2024, we were summoned by the cruelest collective tragedy to befall Israel since 1948. We were presented with the facts and discussed them with each other and with members of Israeli society, visiting memorials and meeting witnesses. Mourning and distress. Acts of heroism. Resilience. A wound still open in the Jewish body in Israel and around the world. Many questions.

This is the project we are opening up between Israeli educators and Jews of the Diaspora. We need to update the modalities of reparation through educational processes, and update the teaching of mutual responsibility by taking into account the heartbreak.

The meeting with the hostages' families was the most Jewish moment of the seminar, because it brought us back to the raison d'être of our personal and professional commitments. Our responsibility is based solely on the contract that has always stipulated that the Jewish people has a duty to save each and every one of its members.

Of course, the collapse of the feeling of trust is immediately counterbalanced by the massive movement of identification with the destiny of the State of Israel and the Jewish people. And even if we are persuaded that Israel is militarily a Goliath, we now know that Israel is still David, a delicate and fragile poet, threatened by a diabolical coalition of the Arab-Muslim world and all those who make the Palestinians absolute victims.

**Where do we go from here?**

The Jewish people, their certainties shaken, are seeking to get back to basics. To focus on the question of how to be Jewish today? Internal barriers are breaking down, rendering obsolete the quarrels between religious and secular, Zionist and non-Zionist. Each with his or her own background, all we need to do is get along and make ourselves heard, understood, respected and, once again, admired. Everything has to be rebuilt.

The centrality of Israel in the transmission of Jewish identity has been shaken, but so what? The question is not to think about what we'll have to do in five or ten years' time, but to know what we're doing today. Commitments can't wait. Let's not give in to the temptation to suspend or slow down educational action - quite the contrary! Decision-makers and players in Jewish education in Europe, America, Australia and South Africa, let's take the risk of anticipating, through experimentation, responses to the challenges that the new reality imposes on us. While continuing to support the families and staff of our educational systems, let's value the commitment to repair and pass on. As guarantors of the perpetuity of the Jewish people, let us not shirk our duty to stand up to our students. Let us initiate and share programs of education for peace and inclusion, and immediately train the new generation for full and committed citizenship.

As for our identity, let's pursue the noblest of our educational endeavors, to make Hebrew the universal Jewish language. Speaking, reading and writing in Hebrew to improve communication and the sharing of emotions and knowledge between Jews across borders and cultures. It's possible everywhere, and at very low cost.

Let's resume the exchange of educational ambassadors on a large scale. Let's invest in the circulation, for periods of voluntary service, of teachers, educators, animators, authors, trainers and artists, between the educational systems of Israel and the Diaspora. Since October, more than 25,000 Jews have visited Israel for volunteer periods, and as many Israelis have carried out missions to displaced civilian populations. Platforms and partnership spaces exist. Let's use them!