

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

שאל אביך ויגדך זקניך ויאמרו לך

Q:

In Rejoice O Youth, on page 146, paragraph 272, you wrote as follows concerning the Muslims in the holy land: "They protect the holy ground, not only against idol worshippers and against images, but also against irreverent Jews. If they could have access to the holy place, they would come with their women and cameras and their lunches and desecrate the holy grounds. Besides we are all unclean today, so it will be a great sin for Jews to ascend the mountain of the Holy House."

Now, in view of what Prime Minister Sharon has done recently to desecrate the holy mountain, would you say that the Har Habayis better off in Jewish hands or is it better off in Muslim hands?

A:

I'm going to tell you a little anecdote first. When I first wrote my book Rejoice O Youth, I had no money to print it. I needed two thousand dollars; I didn't have two thousand dollars.

So I went to Mr. Feldheim, *alav hashalom*; I thought maybe he'd take my manuscript. I showed it to him and he opened it up just at that place where it says how good it is that the Mohammedans have the Har Habayis because if Jews had it then the women would come there with their shorts and they'd profane the place. But now that the gentiles are there, Jews can't profane the place.

He looked at me. "I don't know if the book will sell," he said. He refused my book. Later he was sorry; he was sorry later that he refused my book.

Now let me say something. We don't want the Mohammedans to have jurisdiction there. We are the ones who own the place and we can tell them that.

However, we don't want Jews to go there at all. *Chas v'shalom!* It's *kareis* to go there today. We're *temei meisim*. We can't go there. And if we would permit Jews to go there, you can be sure there would be picnicking there and there would be all kinds of *tumos* and *nevalos* there. That's out!

And therefore, we're better off that no Jews can come there. That's the truth!

Of course, we should say we have the right to own that land and therefore you have no right to dig in there and to break up any artifacts you find. No. That we can demand. And we can punish them in court for doing those things. שועלים הלכו בו – Foxes walk on that place. They're foxes, it's true. But Jews can't go there anyhow. That's all.

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