

פטר פרישטאדט

נשות דיין מרוצות

"אתה הוא הגבר הראשון שהצליח לרצות את כל נשותיו של משה דיין", קראה אישיות בכירה לעברו של פטר פרישטאדט, בקבלת הפנים שנערכה לאחר הקרנת הכנורה



פטר פרישטאדט עם יעל דיין ושלמה להט; לא אוהב ולא שונא

של סרטו "משה דיין" במוזיאון תל-אביב. רות דיין אמרה, שמבחינתה הסרט הוא שיא האמינות. יעל דיין אמרה שזה סרט מצוי, ויצריר להכניס אותו למערכת החינוך, כי מעולם לא קרה, שכך החיו את אביה לנגד עיניה. עובדה, עם תום ההקרנה היא נשארה על מקומה כשדמועות זולגות מעיניה, וזה חיזיון מאוד לא נפוץ אצלה. רחל אמרה שהסרט מאוין, שנעשה ברכות, בהתחשבות גם שתיים מכלותיו-לשעבר של דיין הסכימו עם עניין האמינות.

פרישטאדט נתבקש איפוא להסביר איך זה, שכולן כל-כך מרוצות. "דווקא בגלל שלמי הסרט לא הייתי מחסידיו של דיין, ואחרי עשייתו אני גם לא נימנה עם שונאיו", הסביר פרישטאדט, שזהו רק אחד מסדרת סרטים שהוא עושה על "אנשי חזון בהיסטוריה היהודית", סרטין בובי, פנחס ספיר, לוי אשכול ורחב קוק. מה בכל זאת הסוד שמאחורי שביעות הרצון המשותפת? אין סוד ואין גם פלא. פרישטאדט פשוט לא כלל בסרט את סיפורי הנשים כהיו של דיין.

Israel and the moneybags

ENORMOUS though their differences on most matters of state may be, Israeli politicians are generally agreed that filthy lucre is to be blessed after it has been laundered by being passed through their fast-counting fingers. And while they may grant that the power of money, especially private money obtained from abroad, tends to corrupt, they will insist that the proposition is true only for their political adversaries.

Since they cannot very well deny one another that which each one of them wants for itself, the two major parties have, with the support of most smaller ones, assured themselves of a convenient loophole in the strict law of party and election financing. The loophole is foreign contributions. These may be virtually unlimited, and they are not subject to ordinary public oversight. Working through this loophole, both the Likud and the Labour Alignment have in effect regularly made an offer of their post-election services to overseas moneybags in return for help in winning the elections.

The offers need not, of course, be so crassly put. Legitimate, even honourable, party causes are doubtless trotted out to justify begging for political alms even, or especially, when Labour or Likud leaders are on state missions abroad. But the implicit understanding is obviously there that the financial contribution by a non-citizen need not, to put it mildly, hurt him. Some practised and well-disposed overseas donors take out insurance by backing more than just a single Israeli party. This, of course, does not apply to the many donors abroad who often contribute to genuine, non-political, social, educational and cultural projects in Israel.

The grafting of a party upon the national interest in the solicitation of contributions from abroad is a fairly recent invention. Such past leaders as Pinhas Sapir and Levi Eshkol, though both eminently money-minded, knew where to draw the line. Their successors have been rather less punctilious. When a few thousand extra grand is believed capable of tilting the balance of Israeli voter opinion this way or that, concern for propriety is tossed out of the window. And, glasshouses being what they are, no one, or hardly anyone, protests.

On Tuesday, however, one member of the Knesset's Alignment faction made history by raising a hue and cry about it. Since his own political future is now uncertain, Rabbi Menahem Hacohen may be said to have had an ulterior motive in attacking Premier Yitzhak Shamir to his face in committee, and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in his absence, for their "wretched and demeaning" canvassing for party funds abroad. But he did the right thing. While it is true that his manner was insulting, the vulgar response he drew from Mr. Shamir indicated how well he had aimed his barbs.

Whether by design or not, Rabbi Hacohen also demonstrated that there is more to Tora teaching than Shabbat, Kashrut, Who's-a-Jew and Greater Eretz Yisrael. He would, however, have sounded even more convincing if he had included the religious parties in his list of disgraceful international cadgers.