

The author's paternal grandmother died in a railway goods wagon during the journey to Auschwitz. One son escaped from Buchenwald ending up in the US, another fled with his wife via Shanghai to South America and the author's father became a refugee in the UK. At ten years old the author visited Dachau concentration camp near Munich and vividly remembers the detritus of its inmates' possessions. In 1967 he worked as a volunteer in a kibbutz after the Six Day War.

To Forget

- I sit beside a wooden window, feeling old,
- To understand Israel it is necessary to forget.
- To forget that the land of Israel was previously occupied by Palestinians.
- To forget that Jews and Palestinians lived together harmoniously under the Ottomans.
- To forget the Balfour Declaration and the fact that, had the Allies not won WWI, Israel in its current location would never have been created.
- To forget Israeli terrorism under the British mandate.
- To forget the bombing by the Irgun of the King David hotel that left 91 dead.
- To forget the hanging by the Irgun of two British army sergeants and the booby trapping of their bodies.
- To forget the ethnic cleansing of the 1948 al-Nakba - 'the Catastrophe'.
- To forget the massacre at Deir Yassin that left 107 dead men, women and children.
- To forget the Lydda Death March when over 400 Palestinians died of whom 170 were massacred in a mosque. The expulsions were ordered and implemented by future Israeli PM Yitzhak Rabin.
- To forget that the terrorist leader of the Irgun, Menachem Begin, became Israeli PM.
- To forget UN Partition Resolution 181 regarding the borders of the Israeli state.
- To forget UN Resolution 194 allowing the return of refugees.
- To forget UN Resolution 242 from 1967 requiring Israel to pull back to its pre-Six Day War borders.
- To forget the ongoing expropriation of Palestinian land outside those borders.
- To forget the Israeli-sanctioned massacres in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps with up to 3,500 deaths.
- To forget the Geneva Conventions.
- To forget that attacking health facilities is ever remotely acceptable, whatever the reason.
- To forget that Hamas, in the 1970s, was set up as a religion-based rival to Fatah, encouraged and even funded by Israel and the USA in the belief that it would undermine the authority of the secular Fatah organisation in the West Bank that had emerged from the PLO.
- To forget that Netanyahu promoted Hamas.
- To forget the ongoing 'administrative detention' without trial of thousands of Palestinians.
- To forget that Gaza is the world's largest open-air prison.
- To forget that without US support, Israel would have had to strike durable agreements with neighbours and its dispossessed populations.
- To forget that an Israeli life is valued more than a Palestinian life.
- To forget that in every conflict Palestinian deaths vastly outnumber Israeli deaths.
- To forget that Palestinians also have a right to self-defence.
- To forget that Israel does not want or to recognise a Palestinian state.
- To forget that Israelis are vilifying Palestinians in a similar manner to the way Nazis vilified Jews during the Holocaust.
- To forget that a senior member of Likud and recent minister Galit Distal Atbaryan said Israel must invest all its energy 'in one thing: erasing all of Gaza from the face of the Earth'.

To forget that Moshe Feiglin, a former deputy speaker of the Israeli Knesset, called for a 'non-nuclear' Hiroshima.

To forget that Israeli government minister Amichai Eliyahu endorsed using a nuclear bomb against Gaza – and told the Times of Israel that the whole Gaza Strip should be conquered and resettled.

To forget that Defence Minister Yoav Gallant called the people of Gaza (over one million of whom are children) 'human animals', and who ordered a 'complete siege' of Gaza, cutting off water, food, fuel and electricity.

To forget how our collective and selective amnesia encourages the continuation of the status quo and the continuation of conflict.

To forget that both ordinary Palestinians and Israelis want peace, however, land theft and judicial inequity prevent it.

Lest we forget.

MIKE

With acknowledgement to Pearls and Irritations <https://johnmenadue.com/>

Deprecation In Favour Of Weather

'I live in the ghetto', certain guys I know sing, and I hear the word 'ghetto' as an unstable metaphor. How else? Tag me if you have any feedback. Critique is always care, ideally. Care for the song, care for those of Wonder, in this case. But also about the resolute trope of not

Being shut down. My name is Geppetto, I live in a nineteenth-century novel, but my name may be heard in the echo of Pixar's screams. I once carved a box of matches big enough to make a house from, but they set fire to themselves, and burned down the peaches.

The meaning of America, businessmen tell me, is father figure and son figure getting on together. Maybe it is, maybe so. But big brother gets on with no one. Do you have a big brother, one that watches you on TV? That wants to stop oppression forever, just as soon as

They assume total power? A plastic bag slips down a mountainside. I'm not English: they see plastic in the sea. I don't know much about ghetto language, but appreciate it, the novels that go into it, just to make a matchstick. Every time I want to make a comment, though, or touch

Your shoulder, my pencil turns into a finger that, wherever it goes bleeds ink. Perhaps pastoral's a sibling of the ghetto, turning every conversation back to the weather. Weather as an unstable centre that keeps us above the ground that we pretend to settle on, and value.

MICHAEL FARRELL