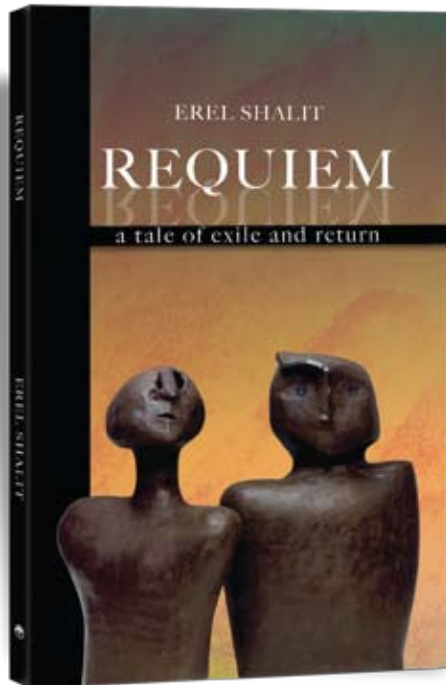


What happens if the third Palestinian Intifada breaks out in Israel?

Erel Shalit's novella *Requiem: A Tale of Exile and Return* (il piccolo editions, 2010) paints a fictitious scenario, which in the last months has powerfully taken place in neighboring Arab countries.



The razor-sharp edge of religious beliefs and national conflict, of shadowy projections and existential anxiety, that characterize Israel and its neighbors, gives rise to a particular blend

of archetypal fate and personal destiny, of doubt and conviction, despair and commitment, of collective identity and personal choice. However, the essence of the author's wonderings reach beyond the shores of the eastern Mediterranean, deep into Jewish tradition and beyond. The tension between exile and return, belongingness and estrangement, are universal aspects, certainly experienced in our post-modern world.

While Israeli reality provides the external context, the story we are told serves, as well, as a metaphor for the exile and return of the soul, which necessarily is a journey through shadowy valleys.

"*Requiem* returns us to an eternal theme, a dialogue with Soul, and we know quite well what happens when one dialogues with Soul- we change, consciousness is enlarged, the impossible becomes possible and we no longer are compelled to blindly follow in the deathly path of our forefathers."

"*Requiem* is a fictitious account of a scenario played out in the mind of many Israelis, pertaining to existential reflections and apocalyptic fears, but then, as well, the hope and commitment that arise from the abyss of trepidation."

"While set in Israel sometime in the present, it is a story that reaches into the timelessness of history,

weaving discussions with Heine and Kafka into a tale of universal implications."



Slender, Succinct, Superb

A review of **Erel Shalit's**
Requiem: A Tale of Exile and Return
by **Edith Sobel**

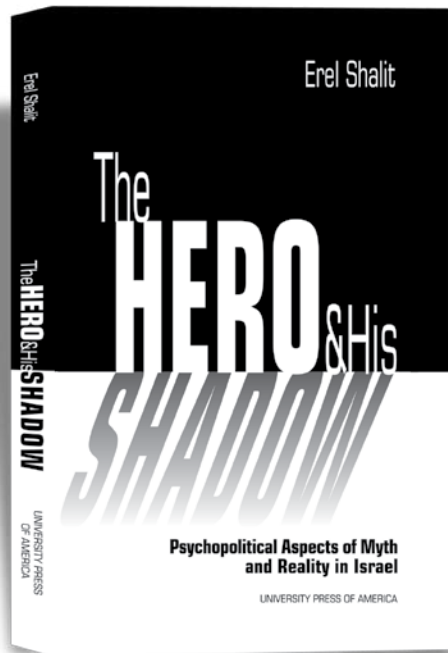
This slim but incisive novella is a philosophical but completely comprehensible take on contemporary Israel. From a "litany of lamentations" drawn from the current generation which appears to be the antithesis of their idealistic founding fathers, the thoughtful narrator Eli Shimeoni (about to give a lecture in New York) recounts his overriding despair - but eventually concludes with hope.

Elegantly and thoughtfully mourning today's saga of Israeli disillusion without hope, bitter alienation, and collapse of Zionist ideals, Shimeoni indicts the present movement out of the country for profit and the concomitant surrender of "soul."

But relying on the consistency of past Jewish history and the "triumphalism of hope" the reader reluctantly puts the book down - and smiles!

The Hero and His Shadow

introduces a psychological approach and archetypal background to the history, development and the guiding myths that have shaped modern Israel, including perspectives on the suicide-bomber, *sociocide*, and the peace process.



The realization of Zionism relied on the pioneer, who revolted against the Way of the Fathers and sought spiritual redemption through the revival of Mother Earth in the ancient land. Myth and history, psyche and matter are constantly intertwined in the birth and development of Israel, for example when in the Declaration of Independence, we are told that pioneers make deserts bloom, the

text actually says they make spirits blossom. The literal and the psychological are concurrently present in the Zionist venture.

Pioneer, guardsman and then warrior were admired hero-ideals. However, in the shadow of the hero and the guiding myths of revolt, redemption, strength and identity-change, there were feelings of despair, doubt, weakness and fear. Where there has been renewal, lurks the threat of annihilation.

The suppressed aspects of past and present myths, which linger in the shadow, are exposed. The psychological consequences of Israel's wars, from independence to the war of terror, are explored both from a personal and a psychoanalytic perspective, with social examples and clinical vignettes.

Shadow aspects of the conflicting guiding myths of Peace and Greater Israel, respectively, are examined. The mythological background of the archetypal struggle between Isaac and Ishmael, and the relationship between Jerusalem and the archetypal images of Wholeness and Satan are explored.

From the Table of Contents: The Beggar in the Hero's Shadow; A Return to the Source; From My Notebook; From Dream to Reality; Origins and Myths; From Redemption to Shadow; A Crack in the Mask; The Death of the Mythical and the Voice of the Soul.

"An outstanding psychological study of one of the

world's most complicated and fraught political situations." —**Prof. Andrew Samuels**

"...A fascinating book" —**Prof. Yoram Yovell**, author and psychoanalyst.



Dr. Erel Shalit is a Jungian psychoanalyst in Ra'anana, Israel. He is a past President of the Israel Society of Analytical Psychology. He is Academic Director of the Jungian Psychotherapy program at Bar-Ilan University. He is a past Director of the Shamai Davidson Community Mental Health Clinic, at the Shalvata Psychiatric Centre, and has served as officer in the IDF Medical Corps. He is a member of The Council for Peace and Security.

Besides *Requiem: A Tale of Exile and Return* and *The Hero and His Shadow*, Dr. Shalit's books include *The Cycle of Life: Themes and Tales of the Journey* (July 2011). His book *Enemy, Cripple, Beggar* was a 2009 nominee for the Gradiva Award.

Erel Shalit's books are available from your local bookstore, on-line booksellers, **Amazon and Barnes & Noble**, and from **Fisher King Press**, **www.fisherkingpress.com** or call toll free in the U.S. & Canada **1-800-228-9316**, or international **+1-831-238-7799**

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