Café Ta’ Amon – King-George-Street, Jerusalem

Jerusalem, Palestine 1936: German-Jewish immigrants open the Café Ta’amon in King-George-Street. In 1950 the Israeli Parliament, the Knesset establishes itself right across the street and Ta’amon grows to a meeting point for leading politicians like Golda Meir, Moshe Dayan, Itzhak Rabin and Menachem Begin who have their coffee in here.

In 1960 today 85 year old Mordechai Kopp buys the Café. Two of the most extreme Leftist parties, Mazpen and the Black Panthers of Israel choose his tiny Café as their gathering point, talking politics and insulting the present politicians. However, supporters of the extreme Right who have in mind the idea of a Greater Israel are frequent customers in here as well.

After the end of the Six Day War in 1967 the Leftists call for the immediate withdrawal of the occupied territories. Two of the most extreme standpoints of the Israeli society coexist in a Café with four up to five tables. Daniel Cohn-Bendit visits Jerusalem in 1970 upon invitation of Mazpen and made an impressive speech at the Jerusalem University referring to a Two-State-Solution. In interviews former members of the Leftist groups of Mazpen and the Black Panthers of Israel, as well as former regulars of the cafe will make the sixties and the seventies of last century come alive again.

Owner Mordechai Kopp is considered a religious nationalist, but his tolerance and generosity towards the radical Leftist groups in Ta’amom is literally proverbial. After the termination of shooting, Mordechai Kopp and his wife Jocheved have closed down Café Ta’amom after 53 years in their business and retired for age reasons.

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