



## INTRODUCTION

# Where Is this Book Heading?

## Suave Lies

A writer who strings you along for 150 pages before telling you where his book is heading is lying to you in a suave, writerly way.

I don't like lying, no matter how suave it is.

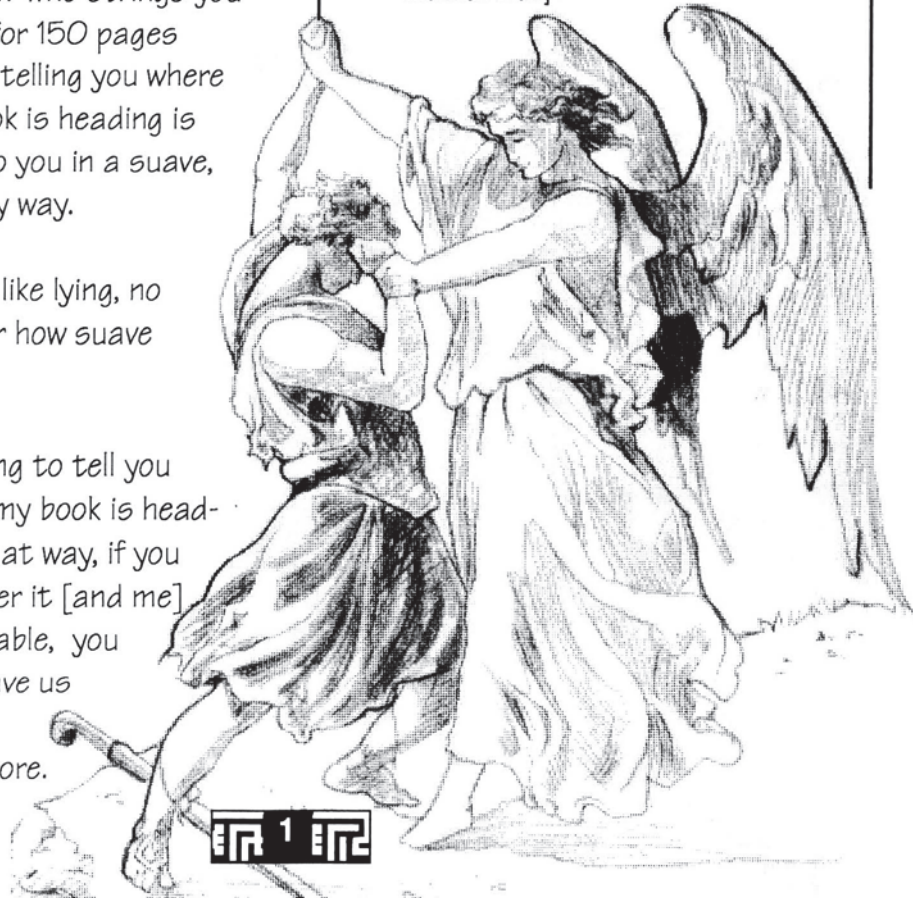
I'm going to tell you where my book is heading. That way, if you consider it [and me] despicable, you can leave us in the bookstore.

## Researching the Angels

Until six or seven years ago I was certain that the Israelis were on the side of the Angels, *period*. No questions, no conditions, no mitigating factors—just the Good Guys versus the Bad Guys.

A few years ago I started doing some research. Research is pretty basic stuff: you follow clues, you go off in different directions, and you keep snooping until you find what you want. [It takes more stamina than brains.] The one thing you *cannot* do is have a closed mind. A researcher who has his mind made up in advance is *not* a researcher, he's an ideologue and a justifier.

[He's also a liar and a fake, but we won't mention that.]



## The Vow

The first thing that strikes you [like an elbow in the groin?] when you begin researching the Arab/Israeli conflict is the unChristian feeling that everybody involved has taken a Vow of Closed-Minded Stupidity. The Arab/Israeli conflict makes smart people dumb, sensitive people brutal, and open-minded people pigheaded fanatics.

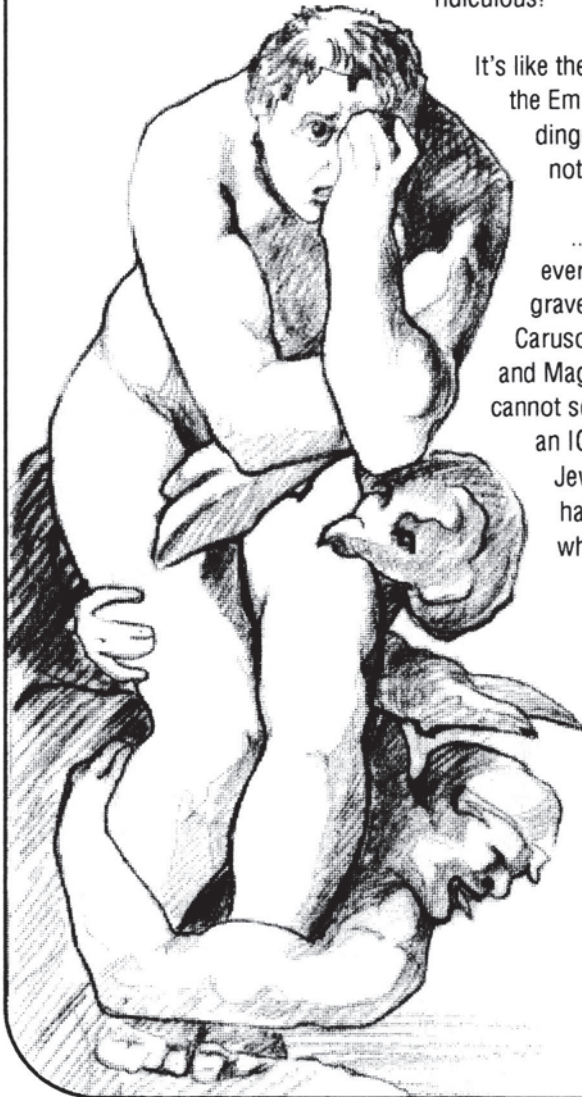
## The Emperor's Privates

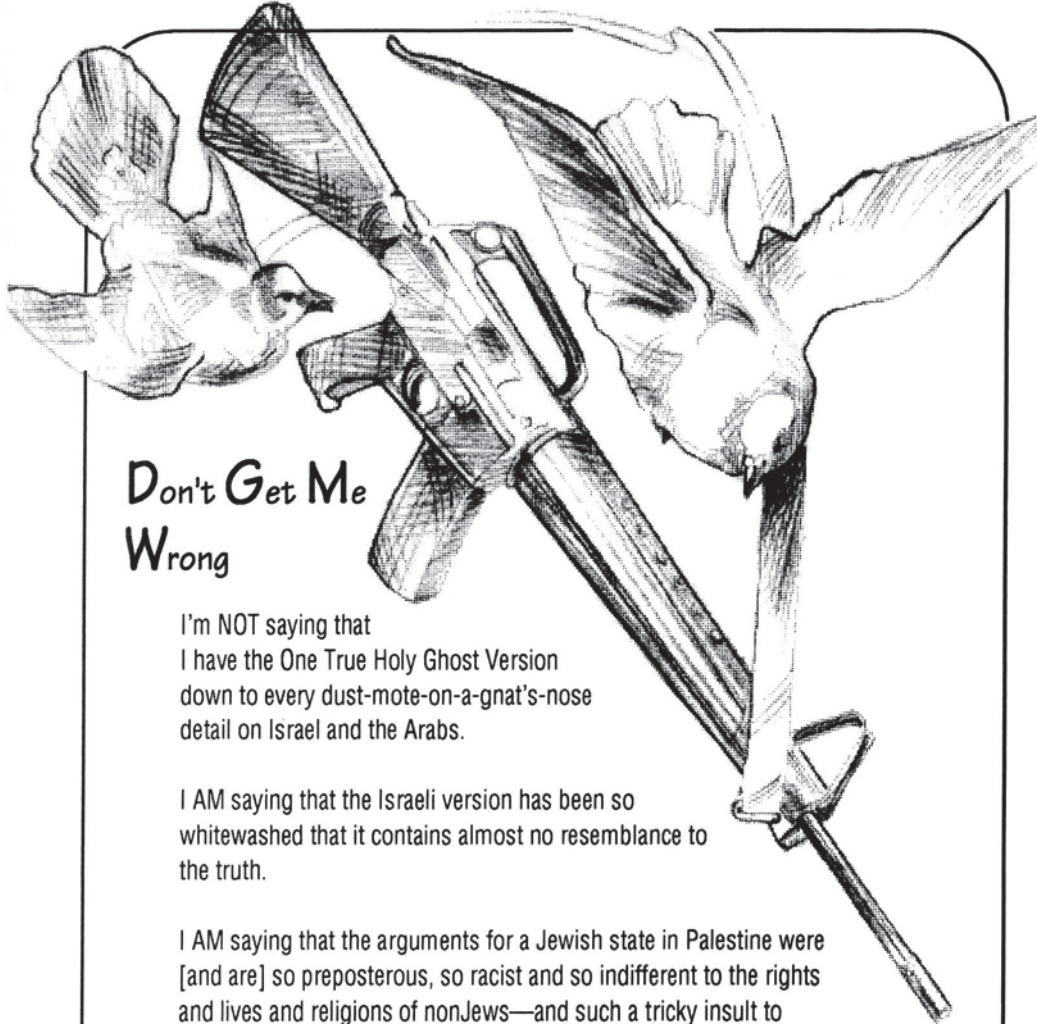
The second thing that strikes you is how dumb you've been. ['How could a smart cookie like me fall for **that** snowjob?'] If it was a good snowjob, maybe, but it's ridiculous!

It's like the Emperor's clothes: once you see the Emperor standing there with his little dingus hanging out, it's all you can do not to burst out laughing.

...to put it another way: I swear on everything I believe in—on my father's grave and my mother's laugh, on Caruso's voice and Malamud's "Jewbird" and Magic's no-look pass—I swear to you, I cannot see how any fair-minded person with an IQ over fifty can believe the Zionist/Jewish/Israeli version of what happened in the Middle East—and of what is happening now.

*Mother Goose  
is more  
plausible than  
that!*





## Don't Get Me Wrong

I'm NOT saying that I have the One True Holy Ghost Version down to every dust-mote-on-a-gnat's-nose detail on Israel and the Arabs.

I AM saying that the Israeli version has been so whitewashed that it contains almost no resemblance to the truth.

I AM saying that the arguments for a Jewish state in Palestine were [and are] so preposterous, so racist and so indifferent to the rights and lives and religions of nonJews—and such a tricky insult to democracy—that if they were made now you'd have no doubt that the carpetbagger who made them was *at least* as crazy as Mussolini.

I am NOT saying that Jews should be expelled from the Middle East.

I AM saying that the Palestinians, when **any** **version** of the **real** story is told, have a case that conforms to EVERY PRINCIPLE in which Americans and others who pay lip-service to democracy believe.

**That** is what this book is about.

Read it with an open mind and decide for yourself.





# B

## asic Questions

### No Question is too Basic

I have a friend who specializes in asking mindbogglingly basic questions.

A few months ago he asked me a question so basic that it stalled my mind.

"I keep hearing about Palestine," he said, "but I can't find it on the map. Where in the hell *is* Palestine?"



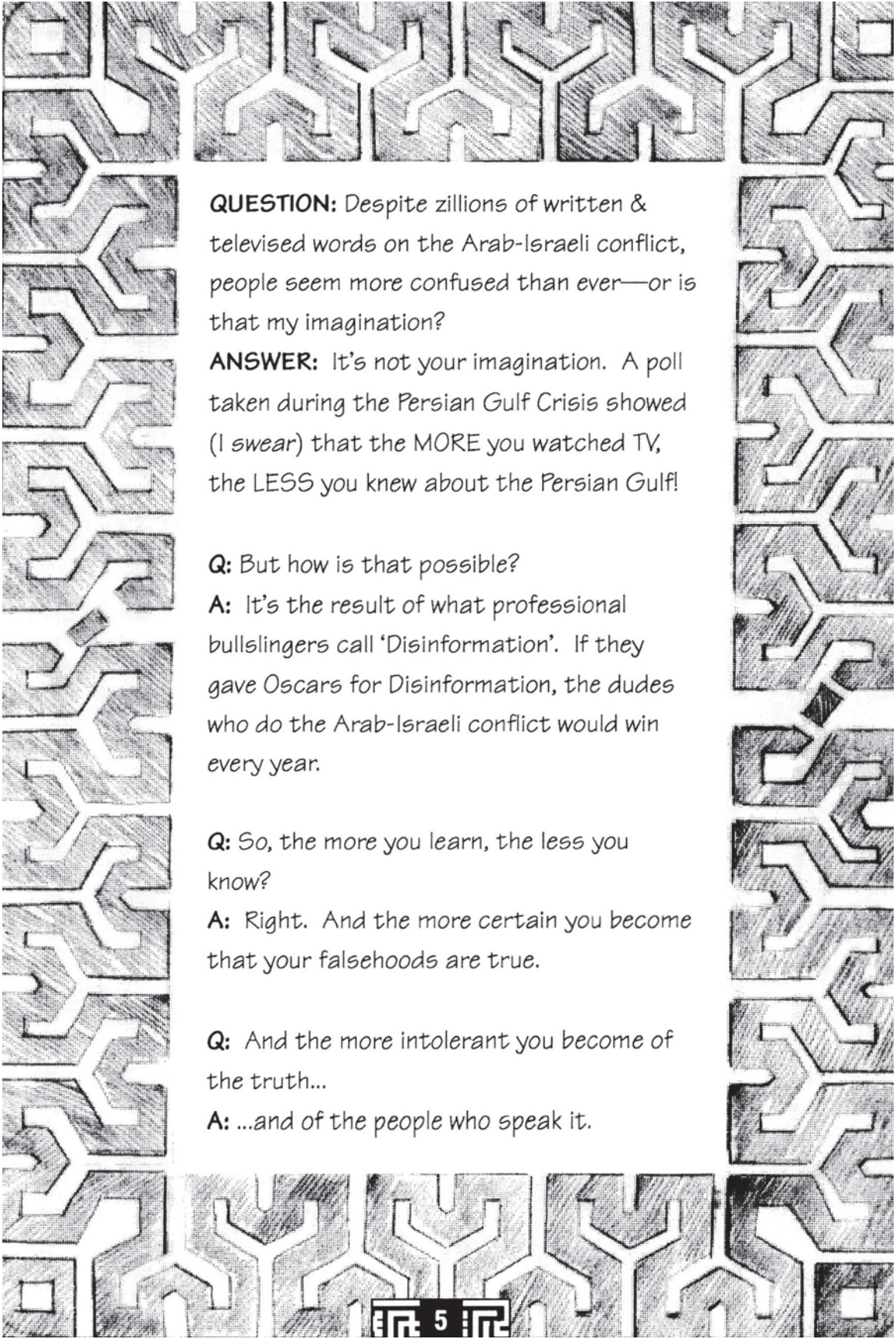
My friend wasn't a scholar but he was smart and well-informed. If he didn't know the answer to a question *that* basic, maybe others didn't, so I began asking around. I couldn't believe it: most people didn't know the answers to basic questions, like:

- ◆ Where exactly *is* Palestine?
- ◆ What exactly *are* Palestinians?
- ◆ Exactly what countries make up the Middle East?
- ◆ Are they *all* Arabs?
- ◆ Are they *all* opposed to Israel?
- ◆ Do the Arabs really "deny Israel's existence"?
- ◆ What does "denying Israel's existence" *mean*?
- ◆ Why do Israelis say that there are no Palestinians?
- ◆ Is that denying the *Palestinians'* existence?
- ◆ Where did Palestinians come from?
- ◆ Who created Israel?
- ◆ Who owns the Occupied Territories?

...and zillions of others, including *The Mother of All Questions*:

What in the hell are those Ayrabs & Jews fighting about?





**QUESTION:** *Despite zillions of written & televised words on the Arab-Israeli conflict, people seem more confused than ever—or is that my imagination?*

**ANSWER:** *It's not your imagination. A poll taken during the Persian Gulf Crisis showed (I swear) that the MORE you watched TV, the LESS you knew about the Persian Gulf!*

**Q:** *But how is that possible?*

**A:** *It's the result of what professional bullshingers call 'Disinformation'. If they gave Oscars for Disinformation, the dudes who do the Arab-Israeli conflict would win every year.*

**Q:** *So, the more you learn, the less you know?*

**A:** *Right. And the more certain you become that your falsehoods are true.*

**Q:** *And the more intolerant you become of the truth...*

**A:** *...and of the people who speak it.*

## Q: Where Exactly is the Middle East?

'Middle East' is a general area, not an exact place.

The countries that are *always* considered Middle Eastern are:

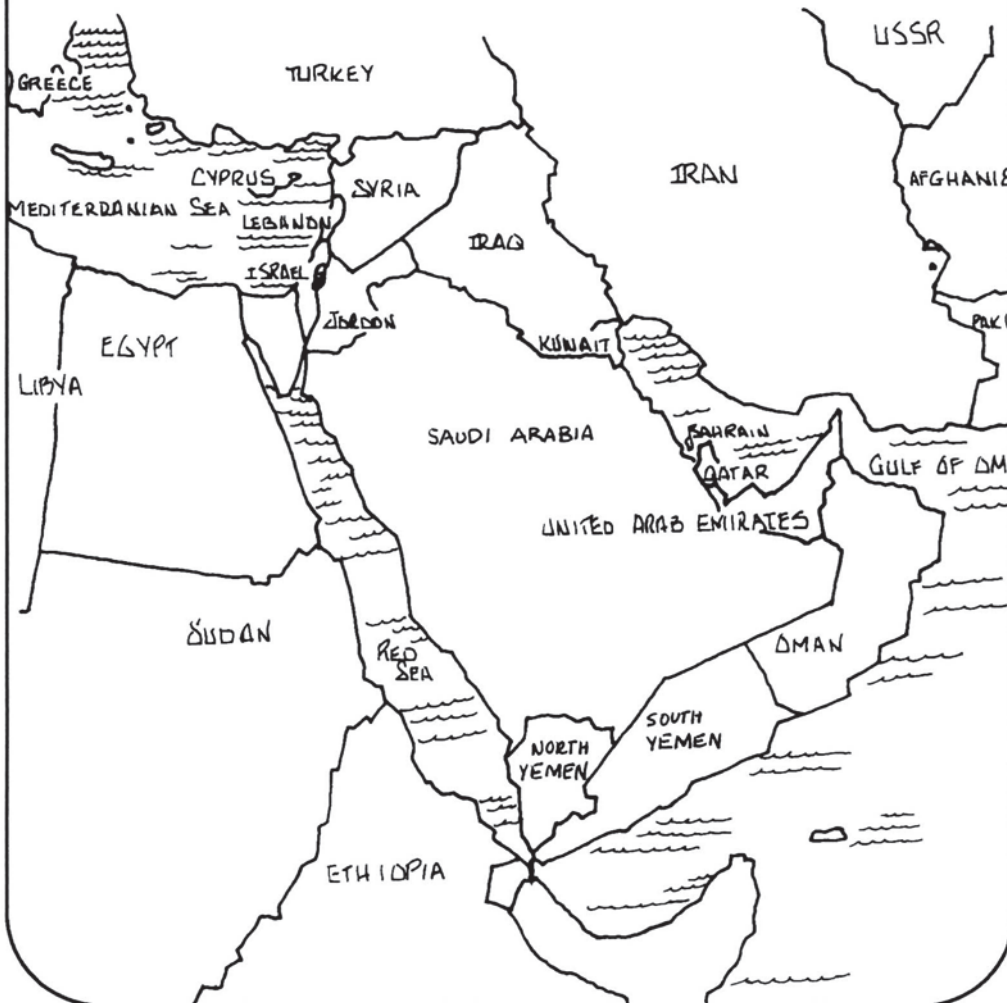
- ◆ Egypt
- ◆ Iran
- ◆ Iraq
- ◆ Israel
- ◆ Jordan
- ◆ Lebanon
- ◆ Palestine
- ◆ Syria

...and the eight countries of 'Arabia', the Arabian peninsula:

- ◆ Bahrain
- ◆ Kuwait
- ◆ North Yemen
- ◆ Oman
- ◆ Qatar
- ◆ Saudi Arabia
- ◆ South Yemen
- ◆ United Arab Emirates

Countries that are sometimes considered Middle Eastern are:

- ◆ Cyprus
- ◆ Greece
- ◆ Libya
- ◆ Turkey







**Q: What EXACTLY is an Arab?**

Before World War I, the answer was clear & simple: an Arab was:

- ◆ A person from Arabia, or...
- ◆ A bedouin—a nomad who toiled around the desert on a camel.

That's changed.

**Q: How has that changed?**

Two new definitions have been added:

- ◆ Anyone whose native language is Arabic
- ◆ A person who identifies with Arab history, culture & religion (*Islam*).

It is no longer clear & simple.

**Q: Are all Middle Easterners now Arabs?**

No. There are still millions of people in the Middle East who are *not* considered Arabs—and millions *outside* who *are*.

- ◆ The eight countries of Arabia (listed on page 6) *are* Arabs.
- ◆ Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Sudan, Libya, Algeria, Morocco & Tunisia are almost always considered Arab countries.

Turkey is usually considered Arab. Greece is *not* an Arab country.

**Q: What about Iran?**

Normal people consider Iran a *very* Arab country but experts don't (because most Iranians speak Persian, not Arabic).

**Q: How many Arabs are there?**

Somewhere between "more than 100 million" (*Compton's Encyclopedia*) and 260 million (as in "Israel is surrounded by 260 million Arabs"). Most sources are closer to the 260 million.



## A Few Helpful Facts

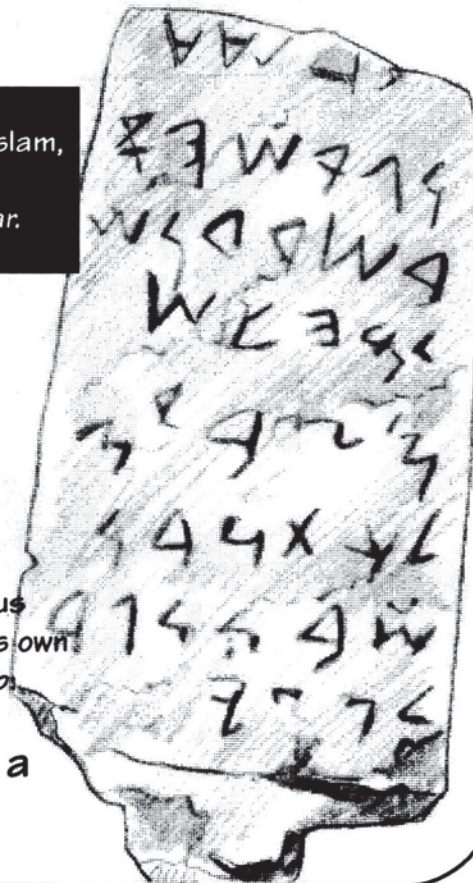
- ◆ The 8 countries of the Arabian peninsula have a total population of only 30 million...so as many as 230 million Arabs live *outside* of Arabia.
- ◆ Islam: The largest unifying force among Arabs is the Islamic religion but:
  - ◆ There are some 260 million Arabs.
  - ◆ There are over 750 million Muslims (followers of Islam).
  - ◆ ...so, even though most Arabs *are* Muslim, most Muslims are *not* Arabs

For a clear, concise description of Islam,  
see  
*Islam For Beginners* by N.I. Matar.

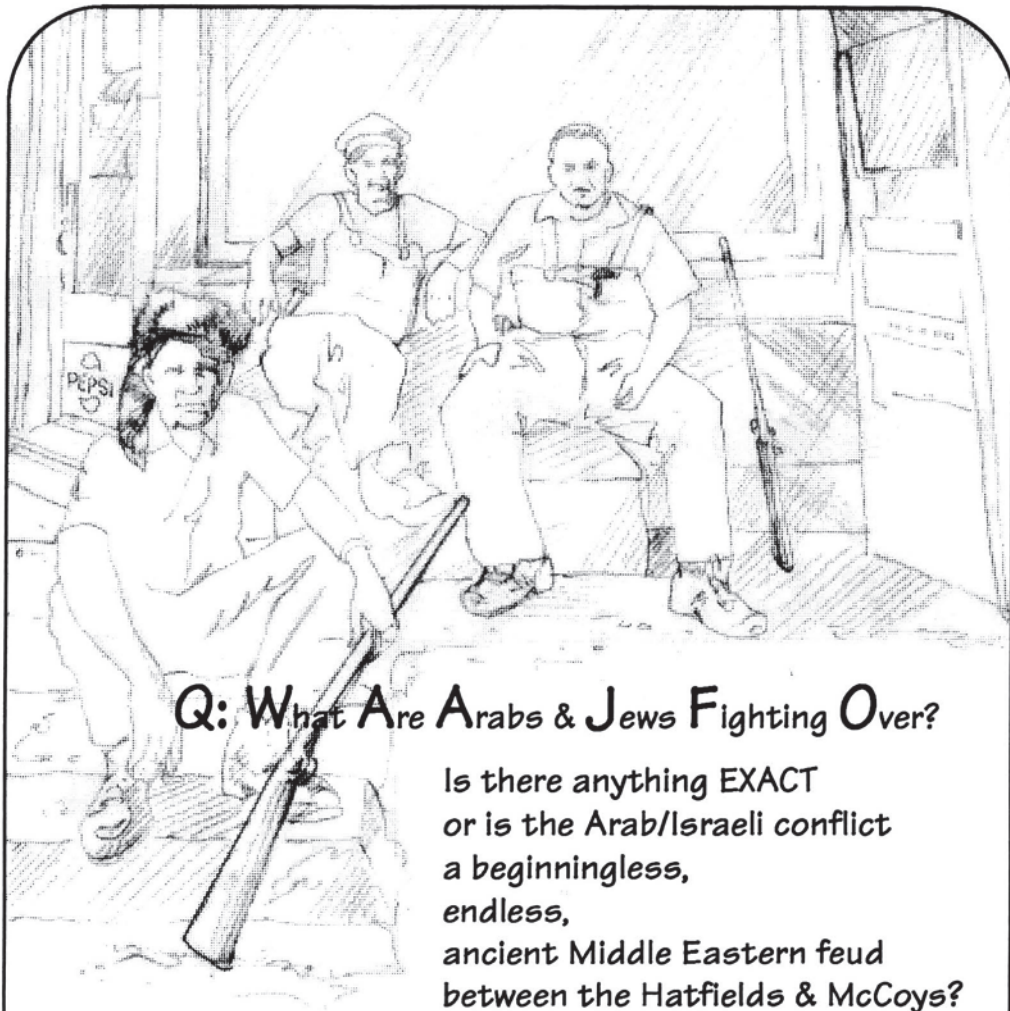
- ◆ Lebanon is interesting: it is (or was) primarily Christian & many of its natives spoke French & insisted that they were Phoenicians, not Arabs... yet Lebanon joined the Arab League.

THE LAST WORD... The semifamous General Rafael Eitan of Israel has his own sentimental definition of an Arab:

"The only good Arab is a dead Arab."







## Q: What Are Arabs & Jews Fighting Over?

Is there anything EXACT  
or is the Arab/Israeli conflict  
a beginningless,  
endless,  
ancient Middle Eastern feud  
between the Hatfields & McCoys?

Many 'experts' (geezers who write books with titles like *Understanding the Arab Mind*) talk about the Arab-Israeli conflict as if it were a feud between Yasir Hatfield & Yitzhak McCoy: ("There's no point in trying to make sense of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The violence between Arabs & Jews is part of an ongoing, centuries-old conflict...*et cetera*.")

That is a bunch of crap.

The Arab-Israeli conflict is **NOT** a "feud" between the Hatfields & McCoys. If any war is rational (and, if it is, we should redefine "rational"), the Arab-Israeli conflict is rational.

Indeed, the horror of the Arab-Israeli conflict is that it does make sense.

If they have any respect for logic, Arabs & Jews will go on killing each other for a long long time.

What are they fighting over?

What is *that* precious?

**Palestine.**

**Q:** Where is Palestine?

Why can't I find it on the map?

Why do Palestinians & Jews both say that it belongs to them?

Who was there first?

What is the historical background of the place?

**A:** First the *where* (That's the easy part): Palestine covers/covered what we now call Israel, plus the Occupied Territories, part of Jordan, and part of Egypt. It's roughly the size of New Jersey.

... but the REAL question isn't

WHERE is Palestine. . ?

... it's

... WHEN is Palestine?

