

## **The Peace on The Horizon - 70 Years after The World War 2 in the Middle East(54)**

[\(Japanese Version\)](#)

[\(Arabic Version\)](#)

### **Epilogue**

#### **7-1(54) Middle East meets Far East**

Palestinian refugees who were involved in the war against Israel were expelled from the Palestinian territory of the West Bank of Jordan River and moved to the east of the border, where Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan was. But the life was not so easy in Jordan. In late 1960s, they again moved from Jordan to Gulf state. It was the east of Jordan. They, however, could not settle in the Gulf state as the last heaven. Their host countries did not give them permanent residence, and they themselves disliked nomadic people of oil producing countries who was arrogant and incompetent. People in the Gulf countries looked down on the poor Palestinians. They hoped to return to their home country when two-state coexistence policy would be realized. Most of Palestinians had expected that Israel and Palestine could agree a peace treaty with a mediate effort of Arab colleague.

But after several wars took place in the Middle East, the dream of Palestine independence has gone away. To make matters worse, Iraq invaded to Kuwait in 1990. The world criticized the violence of President Hussein of Iraq. Saudi Arabia, the monarch states in the Gulf, was afraid seriously that the next target after Kuwait was its own country. Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) , however, had different dream. They enthusiastically supported Hussein regime who claimed to overthrow Israel. As a result, after Iraq was defeated in the Gulf War next year, both Saudi and Kuwaiti governments ordered Palestinian and Jordanian migrant workers to go home immediately.

Three Arabs, Khatib, Zahra and Shatila, working at a Japanese oil company that produced the oil in the offshore of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, were fired. Jordanian Khatib invited Palestinian Zahra to return together to Amman, Jordan. With the savings during the migration and retirement allowance, Khatib planned to be the landlord in Amman and Zahra planned to set up an automobile repair shop. Another Palestinian Shatila decided to immigrate to the United States where his younger brother got residence visa. Two Palestinians were just about to leave the Gulf. This time they moved from east to west.

One night, Japanese colleagues held a farewell party for three Arabs. Guests were served food and beverage. Japanese colleague took alcohol drink. In Saudi Arabia alcohol was prohibited, but Japanese staff was assigned a company house where the authority overlooked Japanese drinking habit. All attendees indulged in memories. Shatila spent 30 years in Japanese company. Zahra had been working for 23 years, and Khatib 21 years respectively. It was in their prime of life. Usually

migrant workers did not work so long for one company. In case of Kuwaiti or Saudi company, they had to be fired by the owner's caprice or they changed spontaneously their job unbearable of the tyrannical owner. But in the Japanese company they could work in peace. The work environment was comfortable. Concession agreement between government and the company was overdue in year 2000. They would like to continue to work until that time, if possible. But the Palestinians, who had been at the mercy of history, had to accept their destinies.

They sincerely appreciated that they had been able to work in a honest and generous atmosphere of Japanese company. Japan that was defeated by the World War II and burned to the ash achieved miraculous reconstruction. Japanese products such as automobiles, TVs, cassette recorders, refrigerators were overflowing in the daily life in the Middle East. Furthermore, they were so happy that Japanese staff treated them equally without racial discrimination. It was a special experience they never had before joining to Japanese company.

When they enjoyed the chat, suddenly they heard the crystal voice of unknown singer from the cassette recorder behind them. It looked like Chinese song. Shatila asked to Japanese colleague the name of the song. A Japanese explained that the singer was a famous Taiwanese lady and the song's name was "何日君再来？(He ri jun zai lai; When will you come back again?)". The song described that she missed farewell to a loved one and wished to be reunited someday.

好花不常開，

(Lovely flowers don't bloom very often)

好景不常在。

(Beautiful scenes aren't always here to stay)

愁堆解笑眉，

(Worries dissolve my smiles)

淚灑相思帶。

(Memories of love bring back tears)

今宵離別後，

(After you leave tonight)

何日君再來？

(When will you come back again?)

For Palestinians, "you" meant "Goddess of Peace". "Peace" always passed by them quickly. The sweet melancholic text and melody evoked nostalgia for them. That night, the hearts of ordinary citizens of Middle East and Far East melted into one. It was a moment that Middle East met Far East.

Shatila's first journey to the east was from Tulkarm on the West Bank of Jordan River. His second journey to the east was from Jordan to Gulf countries. Now, he turned to west and immigrated to the United States skipping Palestine. It was not easy for Muslims to live in the United States dominated

by Christianity, but the United States was still the world's best place to live in peace and safe for everyone. Letters and calls were frequently exchanged between the US and Jordan. It was not sure whether Shatila could meet with his relatives and old friends in Jordan again.



One day Shatila was received a letter from his father in Jordan about Rania, a daughter of al-Yashin family, who had been a long-time neighbor. She graduated from university in Cairo and returned Jordan. She became a journalist and met the prince of Hashemite the royal family. They fell in love and married. Rania became a Cinderella. The blood of the Palestinians and the blood of the noble Hashemite family of which Prophet Muhammad was a member, connected into one. It was a dawn of new era.

(To be continued ----)

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