

## In Memory of Yitzhak Rabin

King Shlomo, at the very beginning of his rule, wrote to Chiram, the king of Tsor, in order to request fine wood for use in building the Temple. Shlomo diplomatically said (Kings 1:17): “you know that my father David could not build a house for the Name of the Lord because of the war that was all around him” (מִפְּנֵי הַמִּלְחָמָה אֲשֶׁר (סָבְבוּהוּ)).

David himself had told Shlomo this, but in a somewhat less diplomatic fashion:

דברי הימים א פרק כב :

(ח) וַיְהִי עָלַי דָּבָר יְדוֹד לְאֹמֵר דָּם לָרַב שָׁפַכְתָּ וּמִלְחָמוֹת גְּדֹלוֹת עָשִׂיתָ לֹא תִבְנֶה בַּיִת לְשְׁמִי כִּי דָמִים רַבִּים שָׁפַכְתָּ אֶרְצָה לְפָנָי :

God said: Thou hast shed blood abundantly, and hast made great wars; thou shalt not build a house unto My name, because thou hast shed much blood upon the earth in My sight.

David was, in fact, by no means ashamed of his military abilities or his violence. He says:

38 I have pursued mine enemies, and destroyed them; neither did I turn back till they were consumed.

39 And I have consumed them, and smitten them through, that they cannot arise;  
yea, they are fallen under my feet.

43 Then did I beat them small as the dust of the earth, I did stamp them as the mire  
of the streets, and did tread them down.

But while David praises God for teaching him war, and due to the blood he spilt he cannot build the temple, Shlomo praises God for teaching him wisdom and justice, and it is he that God wishes to build a temple to his name:

Chronicles 1, 22

8 Behold, a son shall be born to thee, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give  
him rest from all his enemies round about; for his name shall be Solomon, and  
I will give peace and quietness unto Israel in his days.

Shlomo rules through justice and wisdom, not through military might, and thus he will build the temple.

But without David, the man of war, there could have been no Shlomo, the man of peace - as is implied by God's speech to David and in Shlomo's letter to Hiram.

Even as these two, David and Shlomo, were great leaders of Israel, neither of them could be both a leader of war and a leader of peace - neither of them could be both warrior and statesman.

Yitshak Rabin, zicrono levracha (may his memory be blessed), struggled to do what David and Shlomo could not. He was a man of war and blood, defending Israel by crushing her enemies like David, and yet sought to bring peace through wisdom and compromise like Shlomo

I can't help but think that .Yet Rabin was murdered by a Jew claiming to be religious .he might have led Israel to better days than these ,if he had lived on

יהי זכרו ברוך - er him On this day we rememb

*By Shaiya Rothberg*