

## Artifacts of Daily Life in Israel/Palestine

### 1. Coffee Service & Caesarea Glass

- ❑ Arabic coffee service is a symbol of hospitality. Coffee beans are ground with cardamom seeds & then boiled quite strong. Depending on taste & time of day, from 1 to 3 teaspoons of sugar per cup is boiled in with the coffee. It's served in small amounts & shared. No one drinks coffee alone.
- ❑ Caesarea Glass comes from the sand along the Mediterranean Sea in the region of Caesarea Maritima. It's noted for pastel colors, soft texture & art deco patterns.

### 2. Bedouin Oil Lamp & Kaffiyeh

- ❑ Bedouins still live in animal skin tents in the Judean Wilderness & the Negev. However, they no longer migrate. Some have tractors & cell phones but without electricity use traditional oil lamps for lighting at night.
- ❑ Arab men throughout the Middle East wear the kaffiyeh as protection against the desert sun & sand. Different colors signify tribe (or country, in modern terms). Palestinian kaffiyehs have black embroidery, Jordanian have red.

### 3. Calendars & Shekels

- ❑ The larger calendar contains black and white photos of Palestine taken prior to the British Mandate following World War I. The smaller calendar contains modern-day color photos of the Palestinian Occupied Territories (the West Bank of the Jordan River & the Gaza Strip). Both reveal scenes of daily life.
- ❑ The shequel (plural: shequelim) is the currency of Israel. 1 shequel is worth about a quarter in US currency. Coins include ½, 1, 5 & 10 shequelim. Paper denominations include 20, 50, 100 & 500.

### 4. Jewelry & Religious Symbols

- ❑ The Arab eye is found throughout the Middle East & Africa, as a sign of luck.
- ❑ Mother-of-pearl & abalone from the Mediterranean Sea are common sources of religious jewelry.
- ❑ Eilat stone, a combination of malachite & lapis lazuli, is native to Israel/Palestine & a source of jewelry from ancient to modern times.
- ❑ The silver Jerusalem cross dates from Byzantine times. Pilgrims visiting the holy sites, particularly the Church of the Holy Sepulchre (or in Orthodox nomenclature Church of the Resurrection), left their mark by scratching crosses in the stone walls. A larger central cross represented themselves. Smaller crosses surrounding it represented friends & family members on whose behalf they made the pilgrimage.

## 5. Olive Wood Camel & Rosary

- ❑ Bethlehem is the traditional place of olivewood carving. Some is done by machine, with hand-finished details, while others are made entirely by hand. This camel is hand-carved. Camels are still used as means of transport among Bedouins & are a traditional dowry given by the father of the bride to her husband.
- ❑ Olive wood is a source of much religious art in Palestine, including nativity scenes, Christmas ornaments, doves of peace, rosaries and crosses.

## 6. Olive Oil Soap & Ahava Beauty Products

- ❑ Olives supply oil for anointing, cuisine & cleansing. This soap was made by a Druze family. The Druze are a secretive sect of Muslims, found throughout the Middle East. The men wear a special type of baggy pants. They are devoted to the country they live in & serve in the military.
- ❑ Ahava (love in Hebrew) is the most common brand of cosmetics & skin care products made from the minerals in the Dead Sea. Located at the lowest point on earth, the Dead Sea water is poisonous if taken internally, but healing externally. The Jordan River feeds both the Sea of Galilee & the Dead Sea. The Galilee (also called Lake Gennaserat/Kinnesaret & Lake Tiberius) is a living sea, because it receives water from the Upper Jordan & releases water into the Lower Jordan. The Lower Jordan feeds into the Dead Sea, which has no outlet. The Dead Sea receives, but does not give, water. Located in the Negev Desert, it contains extremely high concentrations of minerals & mineral deposits form pillars along its shore, such as Lot's Wife.

### **Statistics of Daily Life in Israel/Palestine**

1. 60% of the land in Israel/Palestine is desert, including the Negev & Judean Wilderness. Historically & religiously significant monuments are in the desert, including Masada (Bar Kockba's last stand in the Jewish revolt, Qumran (the Essene community & Dead Sea Scrolls) & several early Christian monasteries.
2. 40% of the water in Israel/Palestine comes from the Sea of Galilee, which is located in Israel proper. Israel controls the water distribution for both peoples.
3. In 1948, at the Declaration of the State of Israel, 20% of the population of Israel/Palestine was Christian. 50 years later, less than 2% of the population is Christian. Most churches – including those from Roman, Byzantine & Crusader periods – are museums, having lost their indigenous worshipping congregations.
4. In 2004, more than 60% of Palestinians live below the poverty level of \$2 per day.

5. The separation wall cuts off Palestinian villages, making them invisible.