

POSTFACE

by Marianne Blume

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«Some people think they make a trip whereas in fact, the trip makes you or takes you apart. » (Nicolas Bouvier, The use of the world.)

Travelling is moving to live under another sky.

Travelling is going to meet a different world.

It is also be faced with oneself, one's prejudices, one's fears, one's convictions, one's sympathies.

The young people who have shared their experience with us here did prepared their trip so as not to be mere tourists, innocents or indifferent. Their critical mind alert, they learnt about the history of the country and worked at finding out about present realities. They put questions, which sometimes where left unanswered. And then, they left. They watched and saw. They put their theoretical knowledge to the test of what they experienced. They shared with the other one. Sometimes they confronted him. One back, they wanted to tell about it all, shared their experience.

Don't be mistaken. If the chapters are framed under qualifying titles, the content always bears witness of meetings, conversations, situations and emotions these young people went through. Emotions which emerge here and there, even if they are not always in at their Palestinians hosts' advantage.

You could always argue that these young people only saw one side of reality but the name of their group, "tayyoush" (living together), shows how keen they are on seeing the Palestinians and Israelis live together in peace. It also testifies their fascination for the "beautiful resistance", i.e. the Palestinian citizen and community's way to resist through art, culture and self-expression. A life resistance. A non-violent resistance.

Thank you to Anne-Claire, to Tanguy and to all the young members of this group for this carefully thought out solidarity, first with the people, then with a community which for 65 years has been subjected to exile, dispossession, occupation, oppression and destruction.

A big personal thank you to all the students of the group : seeing you be so open to the world gives me a marvellous hope in young people.