

THE CHILDREN OF THE CHILDREN OF WINTER '73



THE JEWS ARE COMING

BACKGROUND

This song is a close and sharp parody of a hugely famous song by Uri Vidislavski with lyrics by the renowned playwright, Shmuel HaSfari. In 1994 HaSfari wrote "[The Children of Winter '73](#)" to great acclaim. It was a lament directed towards the generation that had fought in the Yom Kippur War of 1973, from their children who felt let down. After the terrifying and deadly Yom Kippur war, in which just under one out of every thousand Israeli was killed, parents had promised their newborns that wars were over. As the original gently accused:

You promised a dove
An olive branch
You promised peace at home
You promised Spring and blossoms
You promised to fulfil your promises
You promised a dove

The song itself was controversial, and seen by some as too depressing, too weak in the face of Arab aggression. However, 1994 was also the year of the Oslo accords, and lines such as "you promised to do all you could for us, to turn enemies into lovers", resonated healthily with the Rabin government of the time. At the Transition ceremony between Yom HaZikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut of 1994, an army choir sang the song on national TV. The song is now known as the all-time favorite army choir song, and is always played on the radio on Yom HaZikaron.

It is a staple of army bands ever since, and it often resonates with the staged, earnest performances of the singers in khaki.

The song has known several parodies, from all sides of the political spectrum. In 2011 the right-wing satire, Latma, released their furious response to the results of the Oslo accords: "[We are the Children of Oslo 1993](#)". From their perspective, an act of political vanity led to



suicide bombers, Kassam rockets, and expulsion of Jewish settlers from their homes. The song is delivered with bitter sadness, and little desire to entertain.

This latest in the long line of parodies, is happy to poke traditional fun at Army bands' stylings while offering a sharp and painful take on the current aspirations of Israel's young adults.

We are the children of the children of Winter
1973
Even before we were born you gave in, defeated
You surrendered up front
When we arrived you made it clear that this is what it is
It won't get better
Life here is tough, with no hope for change
And it's best to just give up
For peace is difficult
Demonstrations are crowded
And it's much easier to quit
Look what happened with Rabin
Who needs that kind of headache?
You promised it would not
Be comfortable here
You said that no biggie
You promised passable
Or less
You managed to keep your promises
You promised passable

*Anachnu hay'ladim shel hay'ladim shel choref
Shnat shiv'im v'shalosh
Od terem noladnu haramtem yadayim, huvastem
Nichnatem merosh
Kshehiganu hivhartem shezeh ma sheyesh
Lo yihyeh tov yoter
Hachayim po kshuchim, eyn tikvah l'shinu'i
V'adif kvar pashut l'vater
Ki shalom zeh kasheh
Hafganot zeh tzafuf
V'hachi kal zeh lifrosh
Tireh mah kara az im Rabin
Mi tzarich od kazeh ke'ev rosh?
Hivtachtem shelo
Yihyeh po no'ach
Amartem shechetzi ko'ach
Hivtachtem savir
Oh pachot
Hitzlachtem l'kayem havtachot
Hivtachtem savir*

אנחנו הילדים של הילדים של חרף
שנת 73
עוד טרם נולדנו הרמטם ידים, הובסתם
נכנעתם מראש
כשהגענו הבהרתם שזה מה שיש
לא יהיה טוב יותר
החיים פה קשוחים, אין תקווה לשנוי
ועדיף כבר פשוט לוותר
כי שלום זה קשה
הפגנות זה צפוף
והכי קל זה לפרוש
תראו מה קרה אז עם רבין
מי צריך עוד כזה כאב ראש?
הבטחתם שלא
יהיה פה נוח
אמרתם שחצי כוח
הבטחתם סביר
או פחות
הצלחתם לקיים הבטחות
הבטחתם סביר

We are the children of the children of Winter
Of that same Yom Kippur
We grew up, we live in the basement with the dog
At the parents'
We too learned not to try

*Anachnu hay'ladim shel hay'ladim shel choref
Shel oto yom kippurim
Gadalnu, anachnu garim bamarteff im hakelev
Etzel hahorim
Gam anachnu lomdim shelo l'nasot*

אנחנו הילדים של הילדים של חרף
של אותו יום כפורים
גדלנו, אנחנו גרים במרתף עם הכלב
אצל ההורים
גם אנחנו למדנו שלא לנסות



And to say there is no solution
We too scorn yordim and gentiles
While working on getting a (foreign) passport
And so we'll not make any effort
And so we'll not initiate
And so we'll not make a change
When we were little you promised
When we grow up it'll be meh...
And here take a peek at the sequel
We'd just like to warn you ahead of time
This is how it'll be for the children
Of the children of the children of '73

So there's no peace here
An olive is expensive
I have no savings
Or house

You promised passable
Or less
You managed to keep your promises
You said life would screw us
And so it did
Big time
We have no plan or hopes
If there are no expectations there are no disappointments

You promised passable

*V'omrim she'eyn shum pitaron
Gam anachnu bazim layordim v'goyim
Uveyntayim ovdim al darkon
V'lachen lo nitrach
V'lachen lo nizom
V'lachen lo neshaneh
Kshehayinu ktanim hivtachtem
Kshenigdal yihyah lanu eh...
V'kablu hatzatza lahemshech
Birshut'chem rak natriya merosh
Kach yihyeh gam etzel hay'ladim
Shel hay'ladim shel hay'ladim shel shiv'im v'shalosh*

*Az eyn po shalom
Yakar li zayit
Eyn li chesschonot
oh bayit*

*Hivtachtem savir
Oh pachot
Hitzlachtem l'kayim havtachot
Amartem shehachayim hem zayin
Kibalnu oto
B'ayin
Eyn lanu tochnit oh tikvot
Im lo m'tzapim az eyn achzavot*

Hivtachtem savir

ואמרם שאין שום פתרון
גם אנחנו בזים ליוֹרְדִים וגוֹיִים
ובינתיים עובדים על דרכון
ולכן לא נטרח
ולכן לא ניזם
ולכן לא נשנה
כשהיינו קטנים הבטחתם
כשנגדל יהיה לנו אה...
וקבלו הצצה להמשך
ברשותכם רק נתרע מראש
כד יהיה גם אצל הילדים
של הילדים של הילדים של '73

אז אין פה שלום
יקר לי זית
אין לי חסכונות
או בית

הבטחתם סביר
או פחות
הצלחתם לקיים הבטחות
אמרתם שהחיים הם **ז
קבלנו אותם
בעיני
אין לנו תוכנית או תקוות
אם לא מצפים אז אין אכזבות

הבטחתם סביר



AND NOW YOU

The song is pretty depressing, and hopeless!

- When looking at your country, do you share this hopelessness, or see rays of light?
- Is this representation of young adults in Israel one that you recognize, or do you have a different sense of your counterparts in Israel?
- While the original song addressed the security situation, this version only seems to refer to security obliquely and focuses more on socio-economic issues. (In what way) does this surprise you?

THEMES

- # **Despair**
- # **Hope**
- # **Disillusionment**
- # **Young adulthood**
- # **Surrender**