

Conscientious Objectors

Dear ha Emeq and brothers in Sus,

On behalf of Yoneq, I write in the love of the one true Messiah, our Master Yahshua. We discussed your letter about the conscientious objection (Bekor from Portugal). We listened to the full range of opinions expressed and sympathized with everyone.

First of all, it seemed clear that if someone is saved (truly saved), there is little to be gained in condemning him for doing what he thought was right (especially if it was central to his coming to us in the first place). After all, we ourselves once were in the nations, without God, in the dark, making very few good choices and none from pure motives. It is not surprising that some choose against military service. For us then to make an issue of it, after a person's clean confession of faith in Yahshua, could be an example of a morbid controversy that produces bad fruit (1 Tim 6:4). It may have been a bad choice for them that our Father used to bring them to see their need or to come in contact with us. We should be merely glad they are here. Or it could have been them doing the best they knew at the time.

In fact there can be a true conscientious objection, where a person would not serve in the military of his nation because of the *fact* that the war in question was clearly unjustified and unnecessary. There are also societies so unjust and corrupt that to serve in their armies would be more than a sensitive conscience could stand. A truly just nation recognizes that such a person makes a worthless soldier, and makes a way for them not to have to bear arms. Any nation that insists on drafting everyone may very well have another motive than the just cause of national defense for their military draft. We should not be on principle here, but proceed, in each person's case, from the Holy Spirit. Israel clearly, in the New Covenant, has no interests in the affairs of the nations and their wars, except to pray for our Father's will to be done. We obviously will never join any army or cooperate with any military draft.

There are some persons who cannot bring themselves to kill or put to death other people for any cause. This could be out of moral or religious beliefs. We cannot condemn someone who truly has this in their heart, if it leads them to come to the Kingdom of peace that will put an end to all wars. This of course is the Stone Kingdom of Dan 2:44. Such persons, though, will have to be washed of the political philosophy of Pacifism. This ideal is often adopted by liberal socialistic minds to cover more subversive ideas. In any case, it always is unrealistic because it expects the nations to live like Yahshua has returned, when in fact he has not. If any nation ever did adopt such a policy of folly it would be quickly enslaved by some neighboring nation more aggressive or by some group of their own that could not stand it.

Everyone must admit that "there will be wars" (Mt 24:6). Therefore, there will be armies to fight them and some men of conscience in those armies trying to do right. Those who want peace should come to Yahshua and live in the "protection of peace" that he has established in the Edah. Underneath the shelter of his wings we can rejoice in the deliverance from such horrors.

Now there are other reasons to refuse to join the military. There could be an anti militarism inspired by Communists working to weaken the non communistic nations to prepare for their eventual overthrow. Such persons need their eyes opened to the truth about the nations. There also is a simple rebellion, a dislike of being told what to do. Such persons may mouth slogans or repeat philosophies but their real motive is hatred of authority. Such persons enjoy, but do not deserve, the blessings of a free society. They in time of war should be the first to leave the country they so despise. Any real person of conscience, when living in a society actually attacked by another, that cannot bring themselves to bear arms, would certainly volunteer to help any other way they could out of gratitude for their freedom.

When people come to us as deserters, AWOL, or draft evaders we must preach the gospel to them in such a way as to expose their motives, and if they are perhaps men of conscience, affirm their stand while exposing their errors and sins. No rebel or Communist can be saved except they repent, but such were some of us (and even worse).

In the United States, we do not register for the draft, having judged that it is an anti Christ system because of how it brings a person into a computer network that we want nothing to do with. However, were the United States actually invaded or attacked by another nation and the whole country mobilized, if the Elders and Apostles so

judged, we could volunteer to help out in *non military* ways (be EMTs, volunteer firemen, or other forms of local service), out of gratitude for our freedoms.

So we do recognize the possibility of true conscientious objection, but recognize the effects of liberal religion, Communist philosophy and human rebellion. Everyone who comes to Messiah, comes to the light. They are cut by the sword that exposes even the thoughts and intents of the heart. If a person left the military of some nation for an evil motive and this person repents it still has to be judged what happens next. We could not send back a little sheep to a firing squad or 30 years hard labor. The Edah must step in to bring release to these by giving them forgiveness and liberty that their unjust societies that they came out of are incapable of recognizing. We have in the U.S. sent back brothers who went AWOL and were baptized afterwards, to give them a chance to express their hearts and not be a fugitive.

This is a summation of the discussion of your letter by teachers and responsible persons in Island Pond. I hope that it leaves things clearer for all concerned.

We are so thankful that you, ha emeq, give up your husband for us. We know that you need him and his ministry no doubt reflects your unswerving faithfulness in prayer for him. We are fed by the words he passes on to us from the one Good Shepherd.