



IRAQI JEWS EXODUS & IRAQI IDENTITY

Rashid Al-Saffar

Agenda

Dissimilar

In the memory

References


My 1985 Trip to Al-Kafil

Three Important Figures - Faisal, Sassoon, Daniel

Contribution to Iraqi culture, Music and Maqam

Prominent Iraqi Jewish families

Transfer Schemes

- 
- Brief Iraqi History - Major events between 1932-1958
 - Events / Facts - The Tigger
 - 1950 Parliament debates
 - Law No. One of 1950
 - History Repeating itself!
 - Contributing factors
 - Final Conclusion - Two main contributors
 - My beloved Bagdad - Poet



- My objectives of today's presentation are:

1. Present to you a HISTORICAL facts based on what I have read and analyzed leveraging three references mentioned in today's presentation. In addition other sources & based on my knowledge that I was able to accumulated over the years.
2. Share with you my finding to the question of "Iraqi Identify"

This is neither a political or religious presentation, My suggestion to you as you are going to listen to me for next 40-50 minutes, Put a side these two things away, that generally divided us and let look at topic from historical context.

IN MEMORY OF
MY CLASS &
HISTORY TEACHER
MOHAMMED
YASSIN AL-TIKRITY



THE OTHER IRAQ

Pluralism and Culture in Hashemite Iraq



ORIT BASHKIN

'Greatly enhances our understanding of the complex and troubled history of the Jews of Iraq.' **Avi Shlaim**

Abbas Shiplak

IRAQI JEWS

A History of Mass Exodus

Preface by Peter Sluglett



فق - عمرا شيرازي - ابراهيم
الاستاذ الباهو عبد العزيز
مليل - ميار سخان - امين -
فق - موني جياوي - بريون
فق - حسنين صدقة - احسن

Orit Bashkin

A HISTORY OF JEWS IN MODERN IRAQ

NEW BABYLONIANS

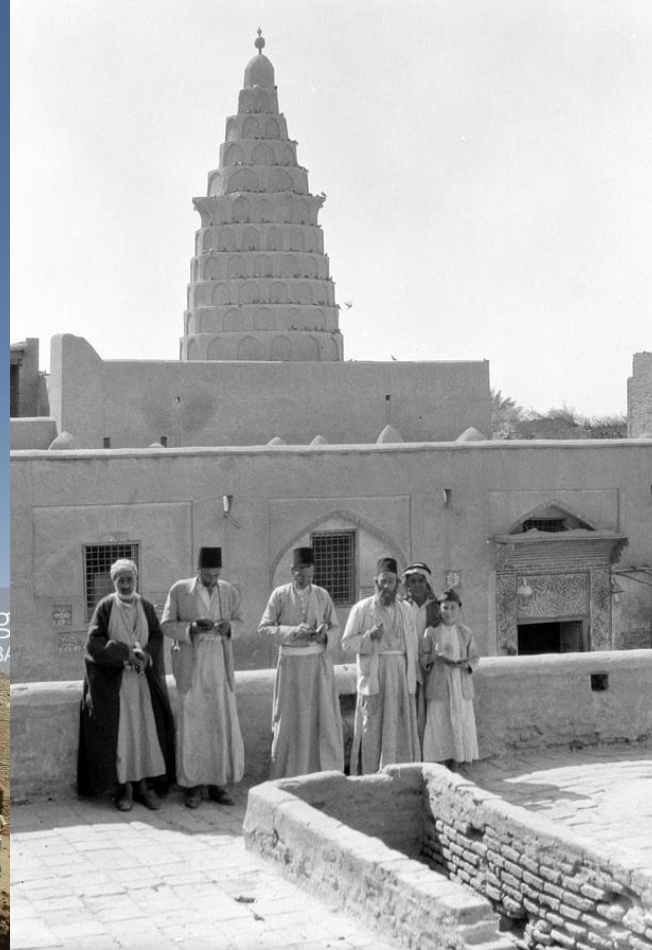




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MY TRIP TO AL-KAFIL; APRIL 1985



King Faisal I
1885-Sep 8 1933

Sir Sassoon Eskell,
(17 March 1860 – 31 August 1932)

DANIEL, MENAHEM SALIH
(1846-1940)

Iraqi Jewish Contribution to Iraqi Maqam

- Iraqi Jews had made significant contribution to Iraqi music and specially Maqam
- -1900-1950's the chalghi instrumentalists were exclusively Jewish
- Two such chalghi ensembles in Baghdad - the Patao ensemble and the Bassoun ensemble.
- Famous Musician are:
 - Saleh & Dawad Al-Kuwaity
 - Salima Mourad Pash
 - Sultana Yusef
 - Nadhima Ibrahim





Prominent Baghdadi Jewish Family

- Sassoons (Shanghai - China early 1917)
- Kudoorie (Hong Kong - early 1920)
- Daniel (Iraq)
- Saatchi (London 1947)



-1916



1916-1920



1921-1932

King Faisal I



1933-1939

King Gazi



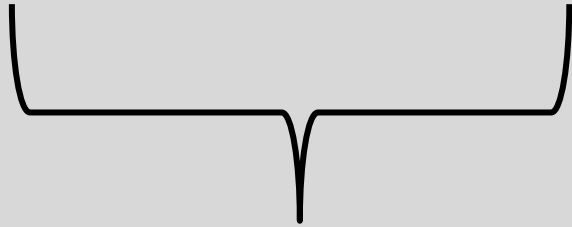
1939-1953

Regent Prince
Abd al-Ilha

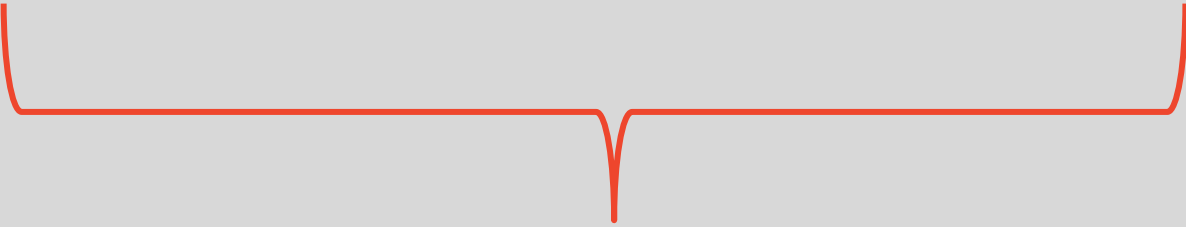


1953-1958

King Faisal II



Period of Building
the new Iraqi State



Period of Political Instability

WWII - 1939-1945



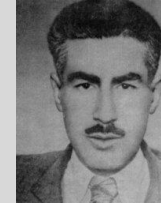
Bakr Sadqi
Coup d'et'ta

Farhud
June 1&2



UN Partition Plan
Nov 29 1947

Yusuf Salman Yusuf
Fahd 02/14/1949



ICP

Denaturalization
law



1958
July 14

Exodus

1933

1936

1939

1941

1941

1942-1947

1948

1950

1951-1952

1953



Jafa AlAskari



Iraqi Coup d'e'ta
April 1, 1941



Amin Al-Husseini
Oct 14, 1938 - May 30 1941
& Al-Muthanna Club



Arab Israel War
May 15, 1948

Shafiq Ades
1900_09/23/1948



King Faisal II



Between 1932 - 1958 - Iraq had 35 Prime Minsters. An Average of 9 months /government

Stories & we should be proud off

- Hayim Habousha in his account of the pogrom (farhud) writes:
- On June 1, 1941, Dr. Saib Shawkat, Dean of the Baghdad Medical College, chief of surgery and administrator of Baghdad Central Hospital entered the surgery ward and scrubbed his hands getting ready to operate. Doctors and nurses standing idly by, had no option but to follow his example. In a few hours, all patients (mostly Jews) were attended to and moved into clean beds. When Jewish nurses reported threats of rape by Iraqi wounded officers being treated at the hospital, Dr. Shawkat sent the officers to their beds and warned on the megaphone that anyone disobeying his order would be shot by him with two guns at his belt. There was no argument--everyone obeyed. On June 2nd, Jewish patients were transferred to Mir Elias hospital where Jewish doctors acknowledged that the treatment provided had been highly professional.
- Sha'ul Menashe recall events in Basra of May 1941
- Recall how Sheikh Abd al-Razzaq al-hammam (property owner & respectable person) on how he saved his family of 12 including 5 women/girls.
- The Sheikh hide them in Turkish bath he owned
- The Sheikh, his four children and three of his Baluchistan guards stood in front of our house to protect their property.
- The sheikh old "mob's", he is bestowing his protection on the Jews; he will not betray them and will Defend them...

1947 Iraqi National Census

Denomination	Total	Percentage %
Arab	3,334,000	71.1
Kurd	840,000	18.4
Persian descendent	52,000	1.2
Turkoman descendent	92,000	2.0
Fayli Kurd	30,000	0.6
Christian	149,000	3.1
Jews	118,000	2.6
Yazidis & Shabaks	33,000	0.8
Sabeans	7,000	0.2
Total	4,655,000	100%

Source - Iraqi Ministry of Social Affairs, Baghdad 1954

Facts & Events

Iraqi Jews were closely integrated with Iraqi society and culture (Food, Music, Habits, events participation)

Emigration prior to 1948 was on very small scale and wasn't a result of ill-treatment of Iraqi Jews and emigration was not mainly destined to Palestine

Iraqi Jews were generally sceptical or antagonistic to Zionism ideology

Establishment of Israel had significant effects on position of Iraqi Jews

The war (1948) gave Iraqi government a pretext to emerge from their internal crisis and use Martial law to impose on Jew's restriction and treated with suspicion

Raise for National Movement (Bakr Sadqi Coup, Golden Square Coup)

The consensus of (Iraq) democratic reform were collapse and difference between Judaism and Zionism became blurred

Exodus made possible by law number one of 1950

Transfer Schemes

- 1936 – Peel commission on Palestine recommended an exchange of land & population
- Hoover plan – “engineering” the transfer of the Palestinians to Iraq
- 1940 – Joseph Weitz – “Between ourselves it must be clear that there is no room for both people together in Palestine”
- Transfer project seemed more realistic after creation of Israel
- 1949 January – Al-Said’ privately “threat” to expel Iraqi Jews as a measure if Israel is not reasonable over Arab refugees
- Autumn 1949 – British proposed to stalled 100K Palestinian in mid Euphrates; scheme was seriously undermined as US government failed to show any willingness to pay for development of the area.
- 1950 June 5th – “An exchange of Iraqi Jews for Palestinian refugees on large scale is neither practical nor desirable” Sir Henry Mark British Ambassador in Baghdad.
- The British has failed in bringing a consensus to Palestinian refugees and settlement led the American to be a major player.
- The report prepared by American embassy in Baghdad dated 8 March 1949 in response to question by state department telegram (Feb. 7m 1949). The questions were designed to probe the attitudes of the Iraqi government & Iraqi Jewish community concern the possibility of Jewish emigration and its economic effects.



IRAQI JEWS PROPERTY

This is a topic by itself and deserved another presentation.

1950 - Parliament Debate

- Daniel was defending the right of Iraqi Jews to stay & lives as a full Iraqi citizens.
- Daniel "What can be done to reassure the Iraqi Jews who do NOT wish to leave their homeland for good and who are loyal & law-abiding citizens?"
- Daniel "questioned the wisdom of some administrative measures placing exceptional restrictions on Iraqi Jews after the 1948 war"

"Dose not the government consider it to be its **duty** to reassure this large section of loyal citizens by removing those **extraordinary restriction** in order to restore to Iraqi Jews their sense of security, confidence and stability? The Jews have lived in Iraq for 3500 years; that is why they are reluctant to emigrate unless they are really obliged to do so"

Law No. 1 of 1950

1. The Council of Ministers is empowered to divest any Iraqi Jew who, of his own free will & choice, desires to leave Iraq for good of his Iraqi nationality after he has signed a special form in the presence of an official appointed by the Minister of Interior.
2. Any Iraqi Jew who leaves Iraq or tries to leave Iraq illegally will forfeit his Iraqi nationality by decision of the Council of Ministers.
3. Any Iraqi who has already left Iraq illegally will be considered to have left Iraq for good if does not return within a period of two months from the date of the putting into operation of this law, and he will lose his Iraqi nationality at the end of that period.
4. The Minister of Interior must order the deportation of anyone who has lost Iraqi nationality under Articles 1 and 2 unless the Minister is convinced by sufficient reasons that his temporary stay in Iraq is necessary for judicial or legal reasons, or safeguard someone else's officially testified rights.
5. This law will remain in force for a period of one year from the date of its coming into effect and may be cancelled at any time during that period by a Royal Iradah "decree" published in official Gazette.
6. This law comes into force from the date of its publication in the official Gazette.
7. The Minister of the Interior will execute this law.



IMMIGRATION
FROM IRAQ
TO ISRAEL
1948_53

YEAR	Number
1948	15
1949	1,708
1950	32,453
1951	89,088
1952	961
1953	413
Total	124,638

Ronnie Barnet



Trans-Ocean Airlines



Abdul Rahman Raouf
Director



Iraqi Tours



Tawfiq al-Suweidi
Board Members



Shlomo Hillel

NEATI



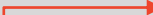
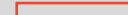
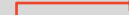
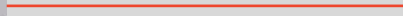
Salih Jabr

BOAC



Sahah Nuri
Al-Said

JWC



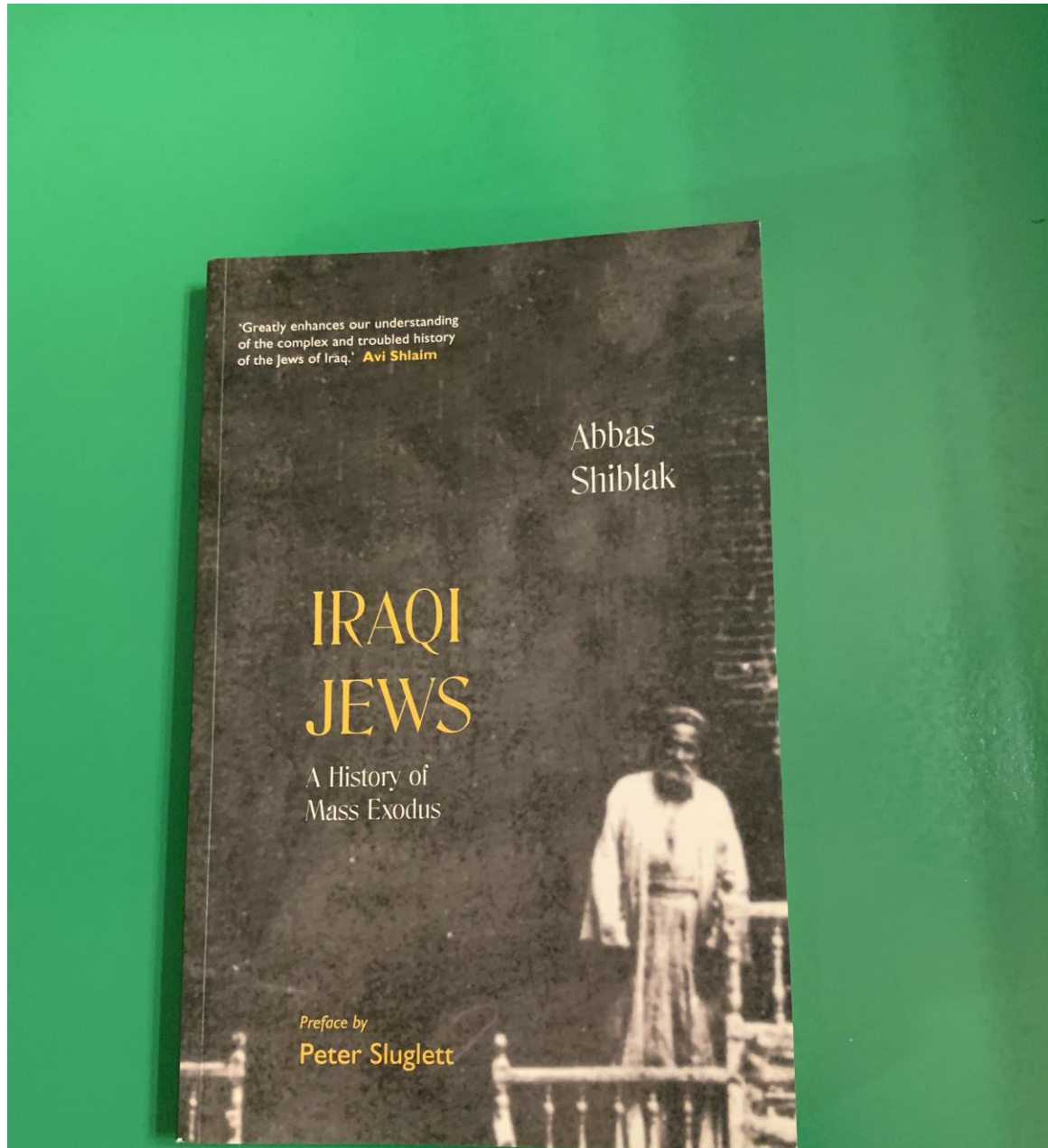
Busting the Myth – Bombs thrown by the Zionists Led Jews to leave Iraq



Copyright – David Basson

Conclusion – Contributing factors

- The war & establishment of Israel did not provide sufficient exploitation of the Exodus
- There is no evidence that exodus came as a result of secret official agreement between two governments (I & I)*
- Transfer Schemes, denaturalization law, freezing Jews properties aid exodus to some extent
- Well organized & effective world-wide Zionist campaign has profound impact in accelerating Exodus
- Miss calculation on part of Iraqi Gov. to predicate the scale Exodus (Caught off-grade)
- There were significant External pressure put on Iraqi Gov. (especially by USA and British)
- Two major contributor in **accelerating** mass exodus are:
 - Managed Anxiety of Jews community - Neither Iraqi Gov. or Jews Leadership were able to reduce the "Anxiety" felt by Iraqi Jewish community about prospect of "FUTRUE" Iraq.
 - Zionist movement was able to exploited (Anxiety, fear, prospects, trust) very successfully in accelerate Exodus



“The Straw that Broke Camal’s Back”

- Crux of mass exodus has been contributed to:
 - **Hillel-Suwaidi agreement on evacuation arrangement**
 - **Bomb attacks organized by Zionist agents**
- **In final analysis -The evacuation agreement legitimated the Zionist position (and introduce a hitherto significant American Interest) while the second element “Bomb” helped many Iraqi Jews to make their minds.**

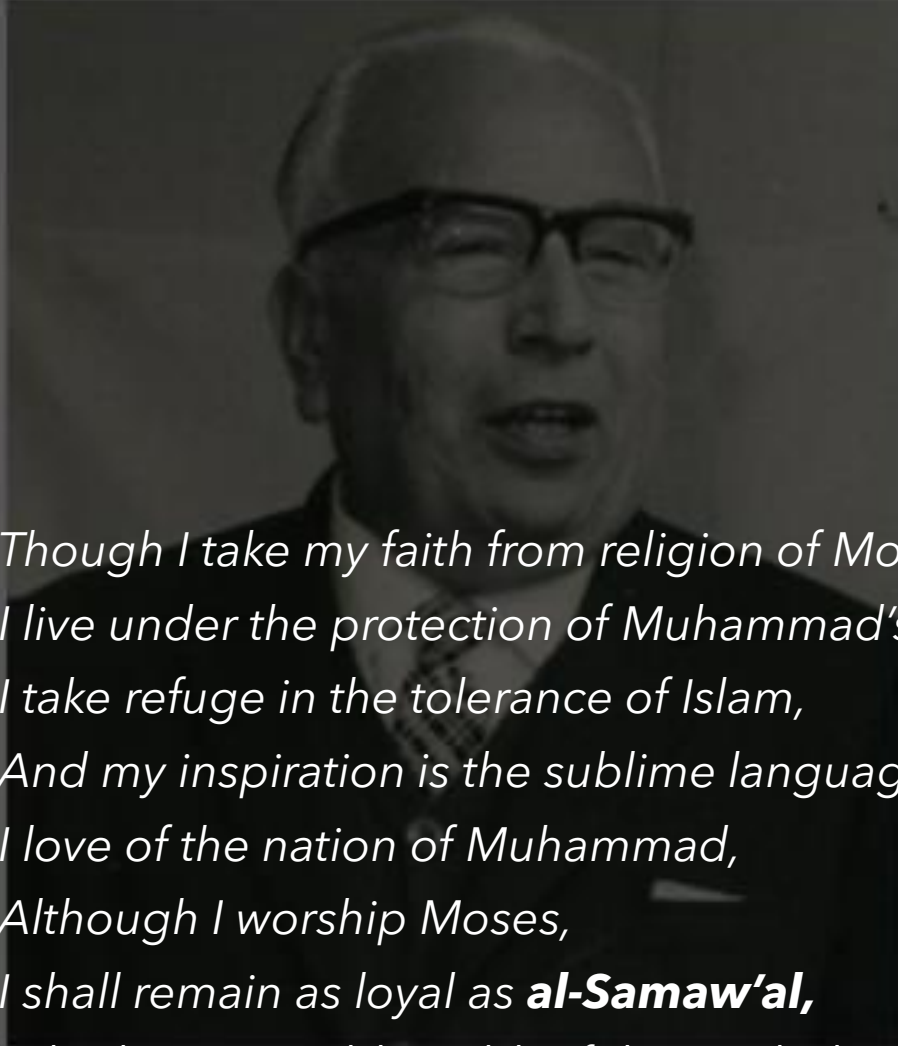
Different Point of View

- Restriction on Iraqi Jews in all aspects of life was unfair
- Exodus was a result of government miss handling Iraqi Jews affairs
- Government of Iraq was not transparent to general public
- Exodus was a result of ill-treatment of Iraqi Jews (removed them from government positions)
- Government applied strict rules of their movement
- At end both ordinary Iraqi (what ever their affiliations) were the "victims"
- Ordinary Iraqi were kept in the dark
- Law number one 1950 is the crux of problem that led to Iraqi Jews emigration

Let's agree on one thing, that the looser were the ordinary Iraqi despite our nonconformity & allegiance.



Anwar Shā'ūl



- *Though I take my faith from religion of Moses,*
- *I live under the protection of Muhammad's religion,*
- *I take refuge in the tolerance of Islam,*
- *And my inspiration is the sublime language of the Qur'an,*
- *I love of the nation of Muhammad,*
- *Although I worship Moses,*
- *I shall remain as loyal as **al-Samaw'al,***
- *Whether miserable or blissful in my beloved Baghdad,*

Native name

أنور شاؤول

إن كنتُ من موسى قبستُ عقيدتي

فأنا المقيم بظل دين محمد

وسماحة الإسلام كانت موئلي

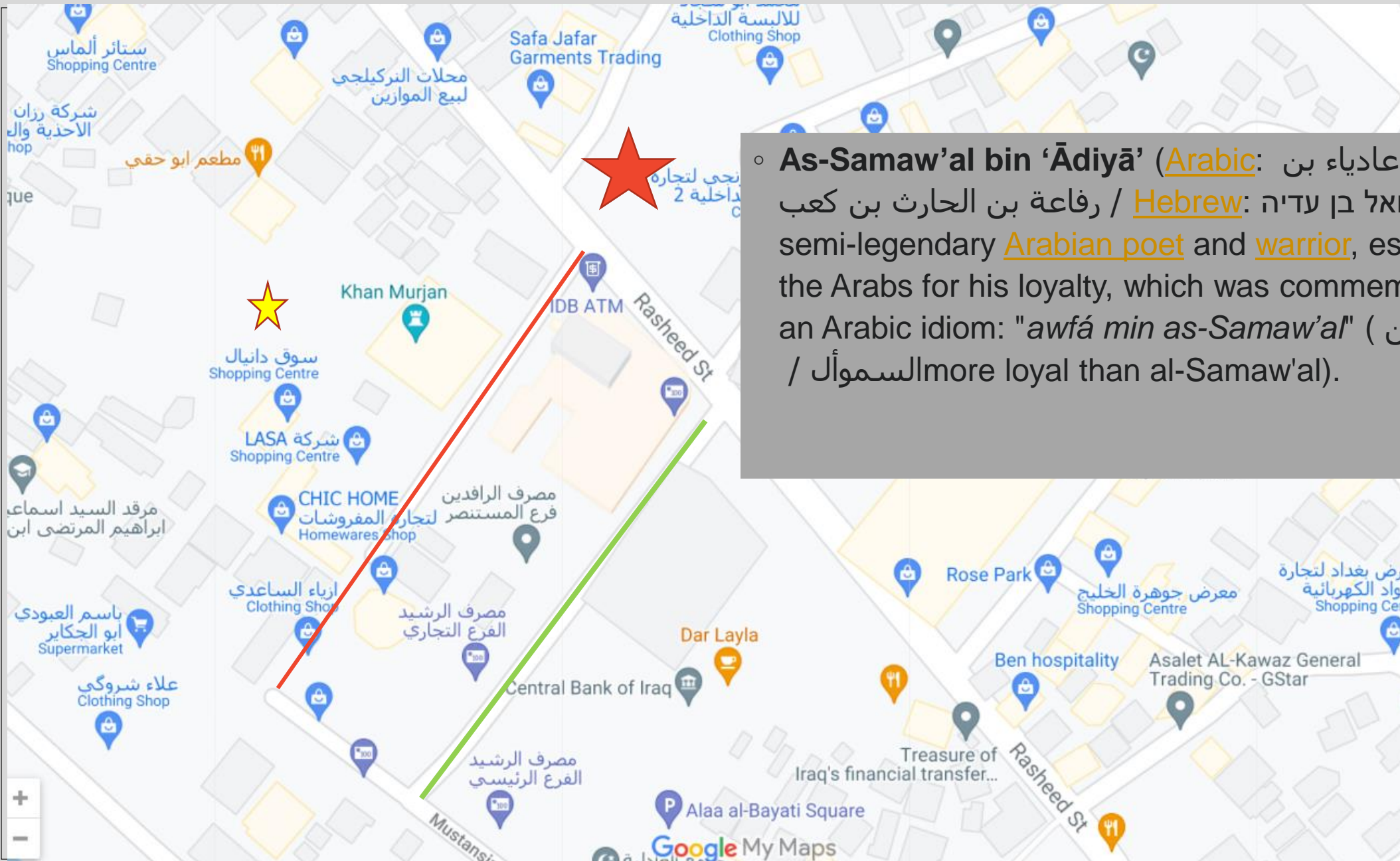
وبلاغة القرآن كانت موردي

ما نال من حبي لأمة أحمد

كوني على دين الكليم تعبدي

سأظل ذيّك السموأل في الوفا

أسعدتُ في بغداد أم لم أسعدِ



- **As-Samaw'al bin 'Ādiyā'** (Arabic: السموأل بن عادياء بن كعب رفاعة بن الحارث بن كعب / Hebrew: שמואל בן עדיה) (is a semi-legendary Arabian poet and warrior, esteemed by the Arabs for his loyalty, which was commemorated by an Arabic idiom: "*awfá min as-Samaw'al*" (أوفى من / more loyal than al-Samaw'al).

History Repeating Itself!!!!!!!

Iraqi Jews Exgods (Estimated 115,000 - 120,000)

1950-1951

Iraqi Persian descendent (estimated 60,000-100,000)

1979-1980

1970-1971

Iraqi Fayli Kurd (estimated 30,000 - 40,000)



END OF PART ONE