

Shafiq Morton

**SURFING
BEHIND
THE WALL**

My Palestinian Journey

Contents

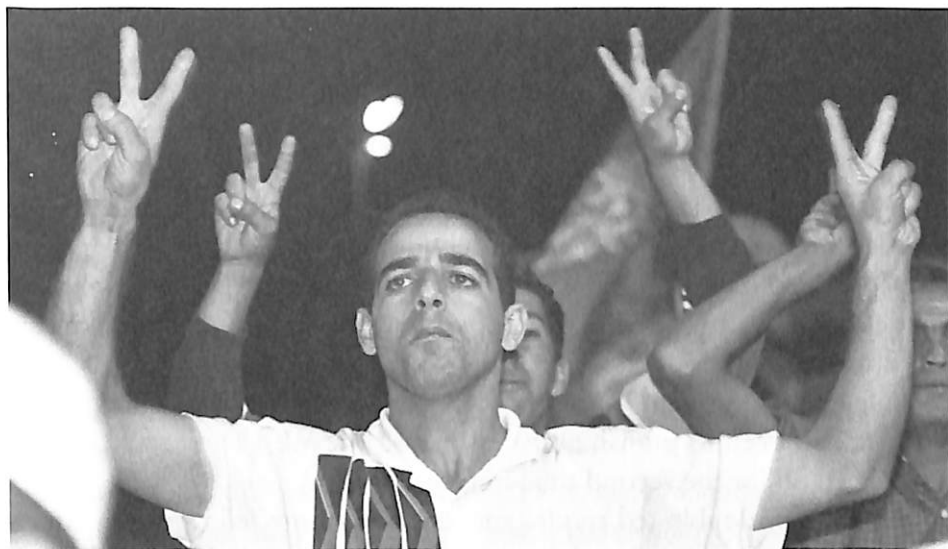
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	10
<i>Kaaf Foundation</i>	11
<i>Jews Don't Play Golf</i>	13
<i>Behind the Wall</i>	20
<i>From a Distance</i>	27
<i>The First Day</i>	31
<i>Ijzim & Abu Mazen</i>	42
<i>The Road to Tantura</i>	53
<i>Strange White Men</i>	60
<i>The Gentile Project</i>	69
<i>Teddy's Folly</i>	77
<i>The Negev Arabs</i>	85
<i>Megiddo & Jenin</i>	93
<i>The Life & Times of Shaikh 'Izz ud-Din</i>	101
<i>From Baha Ullah to Shaikh Ibriq</i>	108
<i>Jaffa & Surfers for Peace</i>	114
<i>Mount Carmel & Khidr</i>	124
<i>Who is Saladin?</i>	
<i>Part One: the Formative Years</i>	135
<i>Who is Saladin?</i>	
<i>Part 2: the Road to Hittin</i>	145
<i>Who is Saladin?</i>	
<i>Part 3: Hittin & the Conquest of Jerusalem</i>	156
<i>Saladin Postscript</i>	162

<i>'Ain Hawd & Abul Haija</i>	164
<i>Hebron</i>	171
<i>Goldstein & the Patriarchs</i>	176
<i>Abraham's Highway</i>	181
<i>Beer Sheba</i>	190
<i>Farewell to Umm ul-Fahm</i>	196
<i>Entering Jerusalem</i>	201
<i>Lighting the Lamps of Al-Aqsa</i>	205
<i>Marwani & the Old Al-Aqsa</i>	212
<i>Dome of the Rock</i>	218
<i>The Stations of the Cross</i>	224
<i>The Holy Sepulchre</i>	229
<i>Joha's Nail</i>	234
<i>The Ark of the Covenant</i>	241
<i>Shaikh Abd ul-'Aziz Bukhari</i>	247
<i>Bethlehem</i>	255
<i>Nabi Musa</i>	261
<i>Peace</i>	269
<i>Seeking the Fire</i>	276
<i>Jericho & the Dead Sea</i>	283
<i>Gaza</i>	291
<i>For the Sake of the Children</i>	297
<i>Apocalypse When</i>	303
<i>Endnotes</i>	311

List of illustrations

<i>Youths at Umm ul-Fahm Mahrajan</i>	13
<i>The Apartheid Wall, Jerusalem</i>	20
<i>The Mahrajan stage</i>	27
<i>Old men at Al-Aqsa</i>	31
<i>Abu Mazen's house, Ijzim</i>	42
<i>Old Palestinian resistance fighter, Nahr al-Barid, Beirut</i>	53
<i>School teacher with his grand-father's key to house in Safuriyyah village</i>	60
<i>Graphic (courtesy of www.ifamericansknew.org)</i>	69
<i>Tantura Beach, site of the Tantura Massacre</i>	77
<i>Shaikh al-Hajjaj</i>	85
<i>Graffiti on Bethlehem wall</i>	93
<i>The Bedouin Shik in the Negev</i>	101
<i>The grave of Shaikh 'Izz ud-Din al-Qassam</i>	108
<i>Ottoman drinking fountain, Jaffa</i>	114
<i>Palestinian property and tax documents, 1948</i>	122
<i>Muslim knight, Islamic Museum, Doha</i>	135
<i>12th century Muslim helmet, Islamic Museum, Doha</i>	145
<i>Statue of Saladin, Karak</i>	156
<i>Entrance to 'Ain Hawd, now an Israeli village</i>	164
<i>Israeli settlers, Hebron</i>	171
<i>Entering Hebron mosque</i>	176
<i>Negev Highway en route to Dead Sea</i>	181
<i>Beer Sheba mosque</i>	190

<i>Farewell to Umm ul-Fahm, left-to-right:</i>	
<i>Faris, Maulana Igshan Hendricks and Shaikh Ra'id Salah</i>	196
<i>Dome of the Rock before sunrise</i>	201
<i>Prayer niche Al-Aqsa mosque</i>	203
<i>The Marwani mosque, underneath Al-Aqsa</i>	212
<i>Rock from which Prophet Muhammad ascended into heavens</i>	218
<i>Polish Chapel, Via Dolorosa</i>	224
<i>Entrance to tomb of Jesus, Church of the Holy Sepulchre</i>	227
<i>The former Maghribi Quarter of Jerusalem, now the Western Wall plaza</i>	234
<i>Everyday life in Jerusalem's Muslim Quarter</i>	241
<i>Shaikh 'Abd ul-'Aziz Bukhari</i>	247
<i>Bethlehem, West Bank, after an Israeli aid during intifadah</i>	255
<i>Outside Nabi Musa</i>	261
<i>Peace at Nabi Musa</i>	269
<i>Tomb of Moses</i>	276
<i>Bathing in the Dead Sea</i>	281
<i>Gaza fishing boats</i>	291
<i>Gaza children, 2006 elections</i>	297
<i>Tree at Lud near Tel Aviv where Jesus will slay the Dajjal</i>	303



CHAPTER 1 

Jews Don't Play Golf

OUR SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS flight from Johannesburg landed at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport on a hot summer night. As we descended the gangway, young men from the shadows swooped upon the disembarking passengers.

This was a reception committee with a difference. These young men were Israeli security. Immediately, passengers were waylaid: "Where are you from, sir? Who packed your bags, madam? Who is meeting you?"

For those not detained after their first few steps on Israeli soil, there was still immigrations. A young lady in blue paged through my passport several times, and then sharply asked me:

"Sir, why do you want to visit Israel?"

After listening to my reply, my inquisitor conferred with a colleague and then stamped my entry visa. She folded it into my passport.

As I went through the gate, a khaki-clad woman blocked my path.

"Sir, why do you want to visit Israel?"



Surfing behind the Wall, *My Palestinian Journey* is a distinctive, personal account of historical Palestine. Ancient legend, tales of the prophets and contemporary issues all come together in a storyline braced with colour, humour and compassion.

Shafiq Morton is an award-winning Cape Town photojournalist and author of the acclaimed *Notebooks from Makkah & Madinah*, a historical travelogue of the Holy Pilgrimage.

He has covered the anti-apartheid struggle, the release of Nelson Mandela and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission as well as conflict, famine and flood in places such as Lebanon, Niger, Libya, Pakistan, Palestine and Somalia.

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