

GLOBAL NEWS



ISRAEL – PALESTINE: NO WAR HERE THANKS TO A TAXI DRIVER!

With so much heartbreaking violence taking place in the Middle East, it's nice to occasionally get the odd piece of good news. A London driver phoned Global News and passed along the following story.

Abdullah Sukrain and his wife are Palestinians who live in Jerusalem where Abdullah helps to run a shop at the Arabic market in the old city. They have a 9-year-old son, Zarrar. They earned their livelihood in Israel, but had described themselves as Palestinians whose desire was to live within their own state of Palestine. They added that their desire was to live in peaceful co-existence with Israel, but as a neighbouring state and not as part of it. Until recently, they dealt with Israelis at the market, but had none as friends and had been brought up not to trust them. That was until the morning of Tuesday June 19 when Zarrar, whilst playing with some friends close to the Jaffa Gate, started coughing and then choking.

His father was called and ran quickly to see his son in a terrible state. Zarrar was turning blue and Abdullah did the first thing that came to mind. He went to a taxi driver who had just set down his passenger and admitted he had little money as he'd not yet made any sales from the market shop. His son needed to get to the hospital and he promised the driver the pick of his stall if he would take him.

The driver, Ishmael Levy – who spoke Hebrew, Arabic and English – got out and lifted the boy into the back seat. Abdullah sat besides his son. At the hospital, Ishmael and Abdullah carried the boy in. Within a short time, the doctor came out and told a relieved Abdullah that his son had swallowed a nut and it had lodged in the back of his throat and he would be ok to go home after a check-up. Soon the three of them got back into Ishmael's white taxi and returned to where he had picked them up. Abdullah was naturally very grateful, although somewhat embarrassed at having no money. But he kept to his word and offered Ishmael the pick of his shop/stall. Ishmael refused to accept anything saying that you could not put a price on the life of a young boy.

Abdullah could only thank the driver. He then went back to his worried wife at the stall and told her of that morning's happening and how a Jewish-Israeli taxi driver might well have saved their son's life. Abdullah told his story to a Palestinian newspaper. His view on wanting to live in a separate Palestinian state was unaltered, but no longer was his belief not to trust Israelis.

Translated from Arabic, Abdullah told the paper: "Ishmael has shown us that there are good and bad everywhere and that we should never cast a blanket around a country and say they are all the same. Without that Israeli taxi driver, my son could well have died. Does that not show that Allah wants us to live in peace, not as Israelis or Palestinians, but as human beings?"

That is one taxi driver whose actions could possibly make a difference and from Taxi Globe, well done Ishmael...

IF IT HAS YOUR NAME ON THE CAB – IT'S YOUR FAULT!

An interesting court case was recently brought up before a Winnipeg judge involving a driver working for a radio taxi company. We wonder what would have happened had it occurred in London? The driver had dropped and destroyed a customer's personal property while loading it into the boot of his taxi. The resolution was reached in minutes as the case came before the judge.

The plaintiff (customer) was trying to recover the cost of replacing the costly appliance. The defendant (driver) claimed he was not responsible because he was operating as ABC Taxi Co and that they should be liable. Co-defendant ABC Taxi Co argued that the driver was a self-employed independent contractor and therefore solely responsible for any damage he had caused. The judge asked the Plaintiff: "What telephone number did you call to get a taxi?" "ABC Taxi's," came the reply. "What company name was on the door of the taxicab that arrived in response to your call?" asked the judge. "ABC Taxi's," came the reply once again.

The Judge then deliberated for a few seconds and responded: "I find that when the Plaintiff entered the taxi, she entered into a contract with ABC Taxi Co. ABC Taxi Co is therefore responsible and will reimburse the Plaintiff for the cost of the appliance and all legal and court costs."

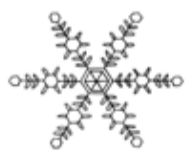
As we said earlier, what would Dial-a-Cab, ComCab or Radio Taxis do...?

IRISH CABBIE WITH A GUILTY CONSCIENCE?

A strange story from Belfast. Sean O'Brady set down American businessman Joseph Ereira at his hotel. Minutes later, just after pulling away he noticed a wallet on his back seat. He opened it, saw an American business card and knew it belonged to his last passenger. As he was about to close the wallet, a wad of money fell out and as he bent down to pick it up, his own takings fell out of his pocket and got mixed up with the money from the wallet. Not knowing how much he had taken, he took a guess, put the rest into the wallet and returned it to the hotel.

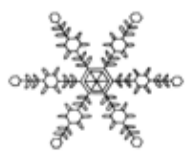
Wondering how he would trace the owner, he suddenly spotted him in reception looking rather upset. He parked the cab, went in and asked if he was Mr Ereira as it read on the card? When he nodded, Sean returned the wallet to the delighted businessman. Joseph Ereira insisted on giving the driver a tip for his honesty, took his money out, counted the money he had put aside for his hotel bill and then looked shocked. "I've heard that anything can happen in Ireland," he said, "but to lose your wallet and get it back is in itself a miracle, but to get it returned with more than you left in it is just amazing!"

Sean explained about the mix-up of money and got not just his biggest tip of the year, but dinner at the hotel as well. A nice end to Global News for this issue...



Taxi Air Conditioning

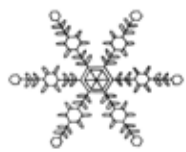
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