



In early February, Al Ard folklore ensemble performed in the United Arab Emirates, on the invitation of the Social Society in Al Sharjah

sidered evil. To punish him does not require any evidence... All this put together motivates the Palestinian to resist, but it also leads to revenge, tension and frustration. The Palestinian remains the innocent accused person. The third dimension, perhaps the least complex, is the political one, The Palestinians do not fight seeking sympathy or death in battle. They are fighting for their legitimate right to an independent state. The Palestinians are a people with an identity, language, culture and history, elements which make them a people entitled to have their own state where they can exercise their national rights.

In the Palestinian reality, there is a set of paradoxes. Zionists as well as Zionized Arabs deny the Palestinian people their right to an independent political entity. Zionists resort to the easiest way. They claim that the Palestinians do not exist, that 'Israel' is a gift from God and nobody has the right to go against his will. Americanized Arabs, on the other hand, say that Palestine is an Arab affair. When the Palestinians fight, the Arabs stop them because, fighting independently, they betray Arab unity. What an irony of history! A national cause is being betrayed in the name of sublime pan-Arab unity! This paradox does not apply to Palestinian culture which, contrary to political struggle, compels recognition, although the two are united in significance and objectives. Zionists do accept Palestinian culture as an Arab culture belonging to the pre-Zionist state period. The Arab regimes also accept it, as long as it does not threaten the Zionist-Arab reactionary ambitions to convert the Middle East into a politically homogeneous region under US control.



Reactionary recognition of the Palestinian culture does not, in fact, offer anything. This culture hardly needs such recognition. Through the pages of the Palestinian culture, one reads the entire patriotic experience with all its moral, emotional as well as political aspects. It remains the culture of the persecuted who fight against despotic forces, and create a democratic culture to counter all cultures of despotism. Thus, this culture has emerged as an act of resistance. The patriotic culture in the occupied territories is a political-cultural act which confirms Palestinian national identity, and contributes to the struggle against occupation. It is a culture that is born and developed on the background of the colonized who refuse colonization, who join their present with their past, and keep