



Michah Harari with one of his exquisitely crafted harps

by Aharon Granevich-Granot

Nestled in the thick forests that surround the town of Ramat Raziel, in what seems to be the most remote place on earth, sat Michah Harari on his rounded, rattan chair, holding a harp and playing music that seemed to be coming straight from his soul. Deep, poignant notes filled the room as he picked out tunes on the ancient-looking instrument.

Michah and his wife have combined their livelihood with a passion for music and longing for the rebuilding of the Beis HaMikdash; they own and maintain a workshop entirely devoted to the creation of ancient-style musical instruments, primarily harps and lyres (*kinor David*). Indeed, a visit to their workshop is an experience for anyone interested in getting a glimpse into the halcyon days when the Beis HaMikdash

stood gloriously, and the songs and music of the Leviim could be heard resonating throughout. Lining the shelves like soldiers in formation are various types of ancient musical instruments. On a lower level, in an area that resembles an ancient carpentry shop, craftsmen work meticulously on cutting and pasting wood and other materials to craft the instruments.

Michah Harari, wearing his large, woolen yarmulke, looks like he, too, comes from another era. Michah's career crafting musical instruments began in the seventies, in America, when his wife saw a small harp and asked him to build one like it. It took him ten years to do so. They were both so enchanted with the results that they decided to make more harps, and in time, even opened a harp workshop. To ensure the quiet and serenity they needed for their delicate handiwork, the Hararis bought a hut in a forest in a remote

*Michah Harari's greatest ambition is that soon, when the Beis HaMikdash will be rebuilt, the Leviim will buy their musical instruments from him. After thoroughly perusing the sources and conducting extensive research, he has reconstructed musical instruments like those used in the Beis HaMikdash, crafting harps and violins that are shipped worldwide. Music straight from the heart ...*



## The Royal Harp-Maker

### A Visit to Michah Harari's Workshop

location, far from the hustle and bustle of the big city, where they planned to open their factory. And then winter came.

#### *Snowed In, Reaching Out*

Snow covered the area and they were stuck in the forest with no way out. Having no choice, they began to read all the books they had at home. At the time they knew nothing about Judaism. "Hashem was very distant from us," Michah admits. When they finished all the books at home they decided to peruse one that they had never picked up, the Tanach.

"We began reading the Neviim, about the return of Am Yisrael to its land, about the construction of the Beis HaMikdash, and all the wonderful things that came after that. We noticed that at least some of the promises, relating to the Jews returning to their land, had already been fulfilled.

"I decided that it was inconceivable that I belonged to the Jewish nation, and I could read about it in the Tanach but would not see the Land. Suddenly I felt a deep urge to make aliyah to Eretz Yisrael to see the Land of the promises with my own eyes.

"We arrived on Erev Rosh HaShanah, and I did not understand why there were cars and trucks on the road in the Biblical Land, instead of camels and donkeys...."

Friends introduced them to Reb Shlomo Carlebach, who invited them to *shiuur* that he delivered around the country. Michah came, observed, and was captivated. One *shiuur* followed another and he began finding some purpose in his life. Slowly, the Hararis undertook practical mitzvah observance. Initially they koshered their kitchen, eventually following with keeping Shabbos and the other mitzvos. As time went on, the Hararis became increasingly committed.

#### *The Lucky Interview*

After a year and a half in Israel, they established a harp workshop on the shores of the Kinneret, near Moshav Migdal. It was a struggle at first to find customers. Then they happened to meet a reporter from the *Jerusalem Post*, who wrote an article about them. Thus began a stream of journalists, including foreign ones, who came to visit the unique and charming workshop. As the word got out, clients began coming.

Though Michah's harps are works of art, the unique aspect that draws tourist and customers is the intensive research invested in their design and crafting. It all began when an unusual order came from Jerusalem's Machon HaMikdash, which had decided to reconstruct the *klei HaMikdash* and the

*Tears open gates. Music demolishes walls.*

— Rabbi Nachman of Breslov