

ABSTRACT

‘THE MOST WONDERFUL STATE IN THIS FUCKED-UP WORLD’:
THE STATE OF ISRAEL IN KISHON’S NATIONALISTIC SATIRE

Gideon Nevo

Kishon’s creative effort – his life work – was mainly channelled to socio-economic, or in certain cases personal-familial, satires in which the vicissitudes of economic man in the maze of modern life were vividly and elegantly portrayed. On these lay his claim to fame both in Israel and abroad. At the same time though, a significant portion of his writing was dedicated to the interlocked issues of the relationship between Israel and its Arab neighbors and the relationship between Israel and the world. In this area he articulated and concretized a vociferous nationalistic ethos, the systematic parsing of which requires a series of articles. In this ethos, the state of Israel, separate from and superior to all other political entities, serves as a conceptual and axiological cornerstone. This article illuminates the crucial place the state of Israel occupies, and the pivotal function it plays, in the multi-layered edifice of Kishonian nationalistic satire, the reverberations of which can be palpably felt throughout the public sphere in contemporary Israel.