

2021 PRÉCIS — ZAEEMA KHUSHBAKHT

Nizar Nassan's Documentary: An Ode to Palestinian Homeland

Nizar Nassan, the renowned Palestinian documentary filmmaker was born in 1960 and brought up in the village of Mashhad. After graduating from Haifa university with a degree in anthropology, he started working in TV and then later, in cinema. In 1999, he produced the film, Independence, in which he highlighted the absurdness of the Israeli concept of "independence." With the circulation of the news of Israel's plan of further occupation of Palestine, the author received an email from Nizar Nassan about his latest film, My Grandfather's Path. It is said that having an anti-Zionist ideology, and being too infuriated by their armed occupation can cost one their dreams and aspirations. The author himself has been saved from this trap with the help of Palestinian art, cinema, poetry and fiction. Nizar Nassan's new documentary has placed Palestine in the spotlight, and highlighted Israel and the world's collusion. It's a remarkable work of art, providing an ode to the Palestinian homeland. A shorter version of this film has also been aired on Al Jazeera Arabic but the whole film must be seen to understand its true essence.

original word = 400
 précis word count = 120

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Greek Oracles: The Voices of the Gods

The distress felt by humans during uncertain circumstances and their triviality in the massive universe instilled in them the necessity to speak to the godly powers. Being aware of the wishes of the gods always provided guidance to humans. In ancient times, these wishes were interpreted through oracles by the soothsayers. The soothsayers were able to interpret and deduce meanings from the signs sent by the gods. Interpreting dreams and chiromancy was also well-known at that time. In some cases, the gods did not communicate with the people through signs but appointed a prophet as an intermediate. The prophet or the prophetess acted as a messenger between the gods and the people. Ancient Greek oracles were only based on these practices of predicting the future. Each oracle was based in a sacred place and was assigned to receive messages from one or more gods.

Original word count =
320

Precis word count = 136