

Nizar Hassan was born in 1960 and raised in the village of Mashhad, near Nazareth, where he has lived with his family. He studied anthropology at Haifa University and after graduating worked in TV. Starting in 1990, he turned to cinema. In 1994, he produced Independence, in which he pokes his Palestinian interlocutors about what they think of the bizarre Israeli notion of their "independence". They have stolen another people's homeland and call the act "independence"! Hassan dwells on that absurdity.

As the world's attention was captured by the news of Israel planning to "annex" yet a bit more of Palestine and add it to what they have already stolen, I received an email from Nizar Hassan, the pre-eminent Palestinian documentary filmmaker. He wrote to me about his latest film, My Grandfather's Path, and included a link to the director's cut. It was a blessing. They say choose your enemies carefully for you would end up like them. The same goes for those opposing Zionist settler colonialists. If you are too incensed and angered by their daily dose of claptrap, the vulgarity of their armed robbery of Palestine, you would soon become like them and forget yourself and what beautiful ideas, ideals,

you would soon become like them and forget yourself and what beautiful ideas, ideals, and aspirations once animated your highest dreams. Never fall into that trap. For decades, aspects of Palestinian and world cinema, art, poetry, fiction, and drama have done for me precisely that: saved me from that trap. They have constantly reminded me what all our politics are about – a moment of poetic salvation from it all.

Nizar Hassan's new documentary is one such work – in a moment of dejection over Israel's encroachment on Palestinian rights and the world's complicity, it has put Palestine in perspective. The film is mercifully long, beautifully paced and patient, a masterfully crafted work of art – a Palestinian's epic ode to his homeland. A shorter version of My Grandfather's Path has been broadcast on Al Jazeera Arabic in three parts, but it must be seen in its entirety, in one go. It is a pilgrimage that must not be interrupted

Nizar Hussain: highlighting issues of Palestine

Original words = 285

Precis words = 99

Nizar Hussain was a Palestinian film producer,
born in 1960, near Nazareth. He highlighted

the ~~issue~~ of ~~israeli~~ encroachment of

Palestine by Israeli in his film
'Independence', (They) ^{which they} called it a freedom.

The author received an email from Nizar
when Israel tried to take over more land

of Palestine. He envisaged in his new
film, 'My Grandfather's path', that the dreams
and aspirations go in vain when you are
occupied by such enemies. He advised

not to fall in their trap. As a medical
person, he thought of himself being saved
from this trap and truth is known to him.

His new documentary sadly depicted the
violation of Palestinian's rights by Israel.

'My grandfather's path' has been on-air
on Al-Jazeera TV in three parts which
must not be interfered.

Suggested titles:

- Pieces of art by Nizar Hussain
- Pieces of art: Highlighting
Palestinian issues.