Living on Jewish Time: Today is Tisha B'Av, (9th of Av) a day set aside millennia ago (586 BCE - some say 1300 BCE) to mourn the calamities and tragedies that befell the Jewish people. For most it's also the 7th of October for the 311 time) While each calamity of the 9th of Av had external actors our sages teach that in-fighting among Jews (sinat hinam/ baseless hatred) precipitated each event, a lesson we are implored to learn each year with our prayers and fasting today. A lesson we failed to learn before Oct 7 and have struggled to learn since.

Alongside the divisions then and NOW (before 10/7 and before the destruction of the Temple in 586 bce) was a profound feeling of hopelessness, that the whole endeavor, to be a free people our own land was slipping away. Yes from the forces surrounding the nation to attack it but also from our own sinat hinam/ baseless hatred.

Maybe that hatred is not baseless, I have written and preached that Smotrich, Ben Gvir, Levin and Bibi are doing irreparable and intentional harm to the Jewish people and the Jewish State by ignoring the pleas of the people they lead and pursuing extremist agendas. I'm not talking about majority or minority rule, yes they have the votes but they don't have a consensus.

THAT SAID - others could argue that the left or the opposition or the Peaceniks are doing the same kind of harm. Neither are baseless claims.

IT'S NOT THE BASELESSNESS IT'S THE HATRED THAT IS DESTROYING THE HOPE OF 2,000 YEARS. (Hatikvah…)

Iran and its proxies may attack at any moment and Israel and its Western Allies will unify and defend the land and its people and G-d (IDF and US Carrier Groups) willing Israel will survive.

But all the guns and missiles in the world cannot defeat the hatred that is destroying the hopefulness of the Jewish people.