

# Israeli lawmakers erupt when told David was gay

By MICHAEL PARKS  
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JERUSALEM — Debate in the Israeli parliament, rarely decorous these days, turned into bedlam yesterday when a liberal member, arguing for equal rights for gays and lesbians in the army, suggested that ancient Israel's greatest king, David, was homosexual — and quoted the Bible to try to prove it.

Mourning the death of Jonathan in a disastrous battle with the Philistines, David calls him "most dear to me" and says, "Your love for me was wonderful, surpassing the love of women."

But even as Yael Dayan began quoting from David's famous lament in the Second Book of Samuel, Shaul Yahalom of the National Religious Party shouted at her and other liberals: "All of you are sick! All of you should be hospitalized!"

The ensuing tumult surpassed even the angry denunciations of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin that have become the regular fare at the Knesset, the Israeli parliament. Religious members from all parties called on Rabin and the Knesset speaker to punish Dayan.

Rabbi Moshe Maiya, deputy minister of education from the Shas Party, called Dayan "a foul and dirty creature!"

"Who brought her forth?" he asked. "How does she come to sit in our midst? She must take her filth and go."

Shas — the religious party that joined the Labor government, bringing it six vital votes in the Knesset and helping cover its right flank politically — last night was threatening to quit the Cabinet.

"We will blow up this leftist coalition," Rabbi Yosef Arzan, a Shas leader, declared. "What is being asked of this Knesset today? To remove completely all semblance of this sin (homosexuality) and to (falsify) the Torah of Israel!"

Dayan, 53, daughter of the late Gen. Moshe Dayan, had called in the debate for an end to discrimination against homosexuals in the Israeli armed forces.

But she immediately encountered fierce opposition from religious members of the Knesset who regard homosexuality as gravely sinful.

Almost unable to speak because of his anger, Arzan accused Dayan of blasphemy in suggesting that the love between David and Jonathan, idealized for centuries as pure and selfless, was actually homosexual.

Dayan was defended by Eli Goldschmidt, who told her shouting critics: "The Bible wrote the truth. You people are not capable of coping with human reality."

*FBI -  
The Harvard guy  
may know  
Army?*