



## **The Visionaries of the Nation**

The illustration is set in the shuk at the end of the day, where the unsold fruit lies near the garbage. Three of Israel's founding leaders are searching among the scattered leftover Jaffa oranges.

Jaffa oranges are a symbol of a vision not only of a flourishing and prosperous Land of Israel, but also of the proud new Israeli who works the land. The three former prime ministers in the illustration—David Ben-Gurion, Golda Meir, and Menachem Begin—were the leaders who shaped the vision and blueprint for how our country was supposed to look today.

Their actions as prime ministers are also at the center of many of today's tensions. The Yom Kippur War unfolded on Golda's watch; Begin was the one to make peace with Egypt; and Ben-Gurion agreed that ultra-Orthodox men would not be conscripted into military service in the early years of the state.

All these milestones are controversial in today's Israel. Some of the values they represent are being reevaluated, like the meaning of peace and the price we pay for it. These three leaders—now much older—are forced to sort out these values and clear away the “rotten,” leaving only those that are still relevant to be carried into the coming years or (God willing) forever.