

July 1996

Asl

Israeli Dances

To Amotz (husband of Melechah):

Thank you so much for your nice letter. I have wanted to write a long reply, but have been very involved here in Asher. Not that the subject you wrote about is unimportant, because it is actually very, very important. I have been so grieved about the whole situation of dancing. It even makes me cry sometimes. I was thankful that you have a burden about it. Many people in the Body are suffering with lack of vision for dancing. I think it is because we as priests with gifts in that area have not been leading them in the Way. The *Israeli* dances that we know do not give people what they need. They are shallow at best... Everything we do needs to be full of purpose. *WE NEED TO WRITE OUR OWN MUSIC AND DANCES!* But not junky, quickly-made-up ones...

You are right that the dances we do *MUST BE DONE AT THE RIGHT SPEED*. I hate it so much when the speed is accelerated to make the people lose their dignity when they dance, or cause most of the average people to drop out.

We went through the dances in a meeting several years ago and threw out the ones that were inappropriate for our people. That included ones with stupid words and motions that were immodest. We no longer do couples dances because of the fleshly thing which it provoked in the unmarried couples. We have learned by our mistakes (I wish it did not have to be like that).

It is better that if we do an Israeli dance that it is just like it was choreographed by the author. If you actually learned the *right* way to do it, then we should do it that way... except if the *right* way may be inappropriate for us to do. Then we may need to throw the whole dance out. That is hard because some of the dances we do are sentimental for us, but the truth is the truth... I realize that I have had a part in making some dances different (like Hora Aggadati) to make them more fun for the children or more personal (like the one we changed because the Chamites do it so nicely). I told them in Boston that if we do *customize* a dance, we need to be aware that we are deviating from the standard and remember the *real* way the dance was written so that if we go elsewhere we will be able to join in with our brothers who do it right. We do not want to quench people or make them like *dance performers*. Let them express the joy they have in their salvation. But at the same time uphold a standard.

Try to include dances we write ourselves in the dance gatherings...

Thank you so much for your care and that you gave up your life to help establish a dwelling place for a people who desire His kingdom to come. Shalom, ha-emeq