

## Leonard Cohen in Israel 1973 War



I love Leonard Cohen as many of you.  
But I never knew that he came to Israel in 1973 and played his songs for Israeli soldiers fighting the Yom Kippur war.  
Right there in the desert Leonard wrote his famous "Lover" song with these words:

*And may the spirit of this song May it rise up pure and free  
May it be a shield for you A shield against the enemy.*

.....

*I went down to the desert To help my brothers fight  
I know that they weren't wrong I know that they weren't right  
But bones must stand up straight and walk And blood must  
move around  
And men go making ugly lines Around the holy ground.*

....

Soon after the war he wrote the song "Who by fire" connecting his experience of war with Yom Kippur prayer.

*And who by fire, who by water, who in the sunshine, who in the night time,  
Who by high ordeal, who by common trial, who in your merry month of May,  
Who by very slow decay, and who shall I say is calling?*

.....

My cousin fought in the Yom Kippur war. He never wanted to talk about that time.

I have learned this story while listening to the "Honestly" podcast by Bari Weiss with Matt Friedman, award-winning journalist and author. Read more and listen here:

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/honestly-with-bari-weiss/id1570872415>