

Avri Gilad dressed up as a pilot and hosted a news program. This is madness on a biblical level

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Rogel Alper (HaAretz) – March 4, 2026

Concerning the late night television show **Avri and Shirky**, 11:15 PM, Channel 12

Translated via Google Translate and then slightly edited.

Under the guise of wearing a costume for the holiday of Purim, Avri Gilad hosted the news program he shares with Yair Shirky dressed in an air force pilot's overalls, and at times wearing a ceremonial visor hat, which cast a shadow over his eyes, in a way that gave him the comic appearance of a cartoon general. He opened the broadcast with a flamboyant march and a commanding "Happy Purim!" greeting. During the program, an alarm sounded. When I returned home, I turned on the TV, hoping to get some useful information. I had already forgotten that Avri Gilad was dressed up as a pilot. Well, it turns out that when Avri Gilad is dressed up as a pilot after a missile attack, the already crazy reality becomes a little crazier. "I would die to be one of them, I can only dress up," he humbly explained his motives. What we have before us is seemingly pure homage, a childish gesture of admiration and nothing more, jealousy that creates an urge to resemble the object of admiration. Not something to write about in the newspaper.

But for us, it is about much more than that. Shirky said that reading the scroll under the "in those days, in this time" effect brought him to tears, as the biblical past is being recreated and the people of Israel are being united before our eyes as Queen Esther commanded. Gilad also sees himself as living in a reality that is the direct historical continuation of the biblical reality, in which, as is known, God plays the role of Donald Trump. Gilad, dressed as a pilot, claimed that a new chapter in the scroll of Esther was being written these days. "It's amazing that it comes after two thousand years," he said, "and it's literally the same thing, and a reversal, and a return of favor, and the whole thing gets summed up on an amazing historical scale," he concluded, with a look of deep satisfaction on his face.

Gilad sees himself as a link in a divine Jewish chain that is thousands of years old. He dressed up as a pilot to give this inner feeling a visual, symbolic aspect. The pilot's uniform is a ceremonial uniform. Gilad wore it as part of a ritual of public identification with the tribe. As if the pilots are God's messengers, but every Jew has a little spark of a pilot. A mystical connection. We are all pilots. We are all one body. Shirky thinks so too. He is simply more self-aware.

The costume says: War is a holiday. The heroic citizens of Israel are no less than the revered, larger-than-life biblical figures, the founders of civilization. They deserve a new chapter in the Bible. They deserve to be part of the Bible. They don't need to dress up as biblical heroes, because they themselves are biblical heroes. They are the real thing. And that is the deep message of Avri's costume. It says: I am a hero. And if I am a hero – you are all heroes. All Jews are heroes. It says: God moves history, the Bible moves it, not us. We went to war to fulfill the commandment of "returning favor" to Cyrus. This is completely crazy. The costume says: That's right, this is completely crazy. Everything is completely crazy. Reality disguised itself as the Bible.