

AFTERWORD

With each of Rebecca's pictures I get more and more angry and the anger keeps blocking my words. Nothing comes out to justify the abomination of the wall, the brutality of it, the cruelty to a people who have had to endure a modern diaspora, a crushing occupation, a betrayal by many Arab countries. I'm talking about the Palestinians. Yes, I know the terrible history of all that the Jews have had to endure for centuries. They have had to bear up under so much of what is invidious about humanity. I think I am able to empathize in my own small way with the horrors of the Holocaust and the struggle for a Jewish state and the terror of the Intifada suicide bombings. But does any of this justify this wall? Does it justify the all-too-apparent land grab that it represents...or the false illusion of security it gives the Israelis?

For me the answer is "no". The wall is a symbol of failure. The failure of leaders. Of political process. Of religious dreams.

Who knows, perhaps these photographs of the wall's concrete brutality will awaken the outside world to the terrible calamity of the current situation and perhaps individuals will be forced to consider how they can help bring it to an end. Perhaps.

*The wall is in your face, folks. What does it stand for?
Can you let it continue to stand?*

-Terry Gilliam