



BETHLEHEM BRUSH-OFF BUST-UP

Usually when you hear about 'Troubles in the Holy Land' or people of faith fighting over the Holy Land then the first thought that enters one's mind is the troubles due to Israel's occupation of Palestinian land or fighting between Jews and Muslims. So it was somewhat a refreshing change or at least something different when groups of Christians were fighting in Bethlehem or Bayt al-Lahm which is its actual name.

The Battle of the Brushes took place at the Church of Nativity during the annual clean-up. This place is revered amongst the Traditional Christians and is believed to be the birth place of Jesus Christ (Isa ibn Maryam). Three denominations of Christians share this space; Roman Catholics, Greek Orthodox and Greek Armenians – the fighting took place between the Armenian and Greek clergy.

The Church was being cleaned in preparation for the Orthodox Christmas celebration in early January when one group viewed the other had come into their area. A broom-brawl ensued until the Palestinian police arrive and separated the fighting individuals. Nobody was to be reported to be hurt and in fact this is a common annual event at this time of the year. Similar events have been witnessed at the Church of Sepulchre in Jerusalem (al-Quds), which is built upon the site where according to the Christian view Jesus was crucified. According to Islam he was taken alive to God and will return near the End of Days – which incidentally is referred to as the Second Coming of Christ according to Christian views.

Those who missed the event can see it from this link.

<http://bcove.me/oq8v3u77>

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