

Jerusalem Dispatch: Israel This Week

From “Great Friend” to “Crazy” (06.19.26)

BRIAN SCHRAUGER

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Last Sunday... Hezbollah fires drones into Israel. Israel strikes back. Within hours, President Trump scolds Israel for defending itself. By nightfall, he tells Axios that Netanyahu has “no f***ing judgment.”

This same president has called Netanyahu “a great friend.” Now he calls him “crazy.”

This isn't politics as usual. This is what trust collapse looks like in real time, and it teaches us something about every relationship we hold.

Watch the speed of it. Sunday attack, Sunday rebuke, Sunday curse. Monday a defiant Netanyahu tells his nation, “The struggle is far from over.” By Tuesday, Trump is praising Lebanon and saying Israel overreacted. By Wednesday, at a G7 podium, he's defending Iran's right to missiles and calling anyone who disagrees stupid or bad.

At the scale of international politics, this feels shocking. But in everyday life, it is an all-too-familiar pattern.

One person acts on their own conviction. The other feels betrayed, unconsulted, disrespected. Anger erupts in public. Words land that can't be taken back. Everybody is watching.

A marriage falls apart. A friendship ends. A father and son go silent at the dinner table. One spouse makes a decision without consulting the other. A friend speaks for you without asking...