



# Otte Wallisch

## Young Version:

Hey guys, who here has heard about the declaration of independence?

What? You haven't?

It's my greatest work of art!

Ok, before I tell you all about it, I will be polite and introduce myself.



My name is Otte Wallisch and I moved to Israel almost ninety years ago on a rickety, old ship that held an awful lot of people. We left Europe and came to Israel in the dark, so that the British, who ruled in Israel at the time, wouldn't see us. Wow, it was really scary.

In any case, after I found a nice apartment in a city called Herzliya, I carried on working in the field that I learned and loved most of all – graphics and art. The truth is, at the beginning I thought I'd work in farming, because in those days whoever was Zionist worked as a farmer, but I couldn't give up my drawing.

Even by the time I was in fourth grade, in the country that I grew up in, Austria, I really liked drawing and my parents sent me to a drawing class. I was a great artist!

In Israel I opened a graphic arts business and started becoming famous. Then, one day, they phoned me from the office of the leader of Israel, David Ben-Gurion. They told me that they were about to announce the founding of the state of Israel and that they wanted me to design the scroll that everyone is going to sign. It was a very exciting moment that I will never forget. Well, if we're going to be honest, it kind of happened by mistake because the person who was meant to write the scroll made a mistake and spilled ink on the scroll, so they got in touch with me instead. But, who cares? In the end I was the one to write the scroll.

I took my pen in hand and was so excited that my hands were shaking. Can you imagine? The state of Israel is being created, and I, Otte Wallisch, the kid from Austria, am given the honor of writing the declaration of independence? There is nothing more exciting than this moment. How I wished my parents could have seen this moment- they would be so proud of me.

Later, I also had the honor of designing many things for the young country of Israel. Stamps, notes, and many posters that were sent all over the world.

You know what? I was also one of those who tried designing the flag for the new country. There was a competition between different designers. Unfortunately, my flag was not chosen. Never mind, the main thing is that I took part. I was a real Zionist.

Guys, I want to tell you that it was a huge honor for me, the small kid who immigrated to Israel, to connect between Jews around the world, through doing what I love the most- drawing. I succeeded in creating posters, symbols and drawings that were sent all over the world and connected between Jews living in different countries. Everyone loves and understands drawings, and it was through my drawings that Jews were connected and felt closer to one another.