

O LORD, MASTER OF THE UNIVERSE, RULER OF THE DESTINY OF ALL MANKIND WHO HAS CREATED EACH OF US WITH THE CAPACITY TO LOVE AND WITH THE CAPACITY TO BE VICIOUS AND CRUEL, GRANT THAT AS WE GATHER HERE TONIGHT AT THIS HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION WE WILL NEVER NEVER FORGET MAN'S CAPACITY TO DO EVIL. GRANT, O LORD, THAT WE WILL ALWAYS BE MINDFUL OF THE FACT THAT IT WAS ONLY THE BEST, THE MOST EDUCATION, THE LEADERS OF GERMAN SOCIETY WHO WERE ELIGIBLE TO BECOME MEMBERS OF THE SS WHICH CARRIED OUT THE HOLOCAUST. O LORD, LET US ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT REASON, ART, SCIENCE, EDUCATION, ITSELF, IS ONLY A MEANS TO ACCOMPLISH GOALS, AND THAT IF WE DO NOT BELIEVE WHOLEHEARTEDLY IN THE EQUALITY OF ALL MANKIND, IN THE BELIEF THAT THOU ART THE FATHER OF ALL OF US AND, THEREFORE, ~~AS~~ A ~~RESULT~~, WE ARE ALL ENTITLED TO LIFE, DIGNITY, AND RESPECT THEN OUR VIOLENT IMPULSES WILL OVERCOME OUR CAPACITY TO LOVE AND BE COMPASSIONATE, AND WE WILL ALL BE SWEEP AWAY IN A SEA OF BLOOD. GRANT, O LORD, THAT WE WILL ALSO ALWAYS REALIZE THAT SOMETIMES IN *the* DEFENSE OF LIFE AND DIGNITY AND MORALITY WE MUST FIGHT EVEN IN A HOPELESS CAUSE TO OUR DEATH IN ORDER TO INSURE THAT EVIL WILL NOT BE ACCLAIMED GOOD AND NOT ONLY DESTROY BUT ALSO DEHUMANIZE MEN. GRANT, O LORD, THAT THE VISION OF OUR PROPHETS WILL SOON COME TO BE, THAT ALL MANKIND WILL LOOK UPON EACH OTHER AS BROTHERS AND THAT THEY WILL ALWAYS LET EACHOTHER LIVE IN PEACE AND HARMONY. GRANT, O LORD, THAT THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD WILL STOP NEEDING SCAPEGOATS TO BLAME FOR THEIR PROBLEMS, AND THAT THEY WILL REALIZE THAT THEIR INDIVIDUAL PROBLEMS CANNOT BE SOLVED BY HATING OTHERS. GRANT, ESPECIALLY, O LORD, THAT THE ARAB COUNTRIES WILL COME TO REALIZE THAT ISRAEL CAN BE A SOURCE OF BLESSING TO THEM AND THAT THEY WILL, THEREFORE, STOP THEIR FUTILE EFFORT TO DESTROY IT AND CAUSE ANOTHER HOLOCAUST. GRANT, O LORD, THAT RUSSIA WILL STOP USING HER JEWS AS A CONVENIENT WHIPPING BOY FOR ITS PROBLEMS AND INSTEAD BEGIN TO TRY TO SOLVE ITS PROBLEMS. *and release its Jews* GRANT, ALSO, O LORD, YOUR BLESSINGS UPON THOSE WHO ARE ALWAYS WAGING ~~THE~~ *Thy* STRUGGLE AGAINST BIGOTRY AND HATRED NO MATTER WHERE IT IS, MEN LIKE MICKEY LELAND WHO HAVE EXTENDED THEMSELVES TO HELP PERSECUTED PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD ACHIEVE FREEDOM AND DIGNITY. WE JEWS ARE ESPECIALLY THANKFUL FOR WHAT MICKEY HAS DONE FOR OUR PEOPLE. GRANT THAT NO OTHER HOLOCAUST WILL EVER OCCUR. GRANT, O LORD, THAT OUR MARTYRS WILL NOT HAVE DIED IN VAIN, BUT THAT THE LESSONS OF THE HOLOCAUST WILL BE SO INGRAINED UPON THE MINDS AND HEARTS OF MANKIND THAT MANKIND WILL NEVER ALLOW IT TO HAPPEN AGAIN TO ANY PEOPLE *anywhere* *In Africa, Asia, America or Europe and* TO THIS LET US SAY AMEN.

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They penetrate—
We orphans
We lament to the world:
Stones have become our playthings,
Stones have faces, father and mother faces
They wilt not like flowers, nor bite like beasts—
and burn not like tinder when tossed into the ovens—
We orphans we lament to the world:
World, why have you taken our soft mothers from us
and the fathers who say: My child, you are like me!
We orphans are like no one in this world anymore!
O world We accuse you!

The Resurrection—An Elegy for the Six Million

X The voices of the dead, the rescued, and the living have become a growing chorus in our time as Jews take up the task of remembering, of bearing witness before the world.

X One day they will assemble in the valley of bones—
Ashes sifted out of furnaces, vapors from Lunenberg,
Parchments from some friend's books, cakes of soap,
Half-formed embryos, screams still heard in nightmares.
God will breathe upon them. He will say: Be men.

But they will defy Him: We do not hear you.
Did you hear us? There is no resurrection
for us. In life it was a wondrous thing.
For each of us to be himself, to guide his
limbs to do his will. But the many are now
one. Our blood has flowed together, Our
ashes are inseparable, our marrow commingled,
Our voices poured together like water of the
sea. We shall not surrender this greater
self. We the Abrahams, Isaacs, Jacobs, Sarahs,
Leahs, Rachels are now forever Israel.

X Almighty God, raise up a man who will go peddling through the world. Let
him gather us up and go through the world selling us as trinkets. Let the ped-
dler sell us cheaply. Let him hawk his wares and say: "Who will buy my
souvenirs? Little children done in soap. A rare Germanic parchment of the
greatest Jew in Lodz." Men will buy us and display us and point to us with
pride: "A thousand Jews went into this and here is a rare piece that came all
the way from Crakow in a box car." A great statesman will place a candle at
his beside. It will burn but never be consumed. The tallow will drip with the

tears we shed. And it will glow with the souls of our children. They will put us in the bathrooms of the United Nations where diplomats will wash their hands with Polish Jews and German Jews and Russian Jews. Let the peddler sell the box of soap that was once buried with Kaddish and Psalms by our brothers

Some night the statesman will blow upon the candle
And it will not go out.

The souls of little children will flicker and flicker
But not expire.

Some day the diplomats will wash their hands and find them stained
with blood.

Some day the citizens of the German town
Will awake to find their houses reeking
Will all the vapors from all the concentration camps,
From Hell itself, and the stench will come from the Soap box.

Then they will all rise up, statesmen, diplomats, citizens and go hunting for
the peddler: You who disturb our rest and our ablutions, you who haunt us
with your souvenirs, you who prick our conscience, death upon you!

But the peddlers shall never cease from the earth
Until the candles die out and the soap melts away.

Alenu

Adoration

We must praise the Lord of all, the Maker of heaven and earth, who has set us apart from the other families of earth, giving us a destiny unique among the nations.

We therefore bow in awe and thanksgiving before the One who is Sovereign over all, the Holy One, blessed be He.

Questions and Answers?

Can We Believe in God?

God is one who formerly spoke and now is silent. Auschwitz was the time of divine silence. It is worthy not to explain it as the Death of God but to endure it as it is and move toward a new happening in which the word between heaven and earth will again be heard.

The Jew is singled out for special contradiction. He must face up to Warsaw and Auschwitz and refuse to despair of God and the world.

O LORD, MASTER OF THE UNIVERSE, RULER OF THE DESTINY OF ALL MANKIND, WHO HAS CREATED EACH OF US WITH THE CAPACITY TO LOVE AND TO BE COMPASSIONATE AND ALSO WITH THE CAPACITY TO BE VICIOUS AND CRUEL, GRANT THAT AS WE GATHER HERE TONIGHT AT THIS HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION WE WILL NEVER, NEVER FORGET MAN'S CAPACITY TO DO EVIL. GRANT, O LORD, THAT WE WILL ALWAYS BE MINDFUL OF THE FACT THAT NOT ONLY DO WE HAVE THE CAPACITY TO DO EVIL, BUT THAT WE ALSO HAVE THE CAPACITY TO MASK THAT EVIL BY CALLING IT GOOD OR NECESSARY TO SAVE OUR COUNTRY, TO SAVE THE WORLD, TO SAVE HUMANITY. GRANT, O LORD, THAT ALL OF US WILL ALWAYS REALIZE THAT IT WAS THE BEST AND MOST EDUCATED, THE LEADERS OF GERMAN SOCIETY WHO BECAME MEMBERS OF THE SS, THE ELITE UNITS WHICH CARRIED OUT THE HOLOCAUST. GRANT THAT WE WILL ALWAYS REALIZE THAT THESE EDUCATED BRIGHT PEOPLE FROM GOOD FAMILIES THOUGHT THEY WERE SAVING GERMANY BY KILLING JEWS. LET NONE OF US EVER FEEL THAT WE CAN MAKE A BETTER WORLD BY KILLING DEFENSELESS PEOPLE OR BY LETTING WOMEN AND CHILDREN DIE IN THE MOUNTAINS OF TURKEY OR IRAN. EVERY HUMAN BEING IS PRECIOUS IN G-D'S SIGHT. ALL OF US HAVE WITHIN US A PIECE OF G-D, A SOUL. EVERYBODY IS ENTITLED TO LIFE, RESPECT, AND A FEELING OF DIGNITY. O LORD, YOU HAVE GIVEN US OUR VIOLENT IMPULSES TO CONTEND WITH THE VIOLENCE IN NATURE. ONE ANIMAL LIVES BY EATING ANOTHER, AND YOU HAVE GIVEN US OUR VIOLENT IMPULSES SO WE CAN DEFEND OURSELVES AGAINST THOSE HUMAN BEINGS WHO CANNOT CONTAIN THEIR VIOLENT IMPULSES. O LORD, LET NONE OF US EVER USE OUR VIOLENT IMPULSES TO CREATE EVIL AND ESPECIALLY TO CREATE EVIL WHICH MASQUERADES AS GOOD. IT IS TRUE, O LORD, THAT WE ARE SUSCEPTIBLE TO ERR, THAT WE CAN SIN, BUT JUST AS YOU HAVE TOLD CAIN, OUR ANCESTOR, THAT ALTHOUGH SIN CROUCHES AT THE DOOR WE CAN CONTROL IT. WE CAN CONTROL OUR VIOLENT IMPULSES AND USE THEM ONLY FOR GOOD. HOWEVER, WE CANNOT DO THIS, O LORD, IF WE FOOL OURSELVES AND TRY TO TURN EVIL INTO GOOD. O LORD, IF WE EVER FIND OURSELVES KILLING INNOCENT HUMAN BEINGS OR LETTING INNOCENT HUMAN BEINGS DIE BECAUSE OF SO-CALLED HIGHER PRINCIPLES, THEN, G-D, WAKE US UP. LET NO FUTURE HOLOCAUSTS EVER OCCUR. GRANT ALSO, O LORD, THAT THE WORLD WILL STOP MAKING THE JEW THE SCAPEGOAT FOR ALL ITS

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THEREFORE, STOP THEIR FUTILE EFFORTS TO TRY TO DESTROY IT AND CAUSE ANOTHER HOLOCAUST.
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WILL BE SAVED. GRANT THAT OUR GOVERNMENT WILL NEVER SAY THAT AMERICA IS POWERLESS
TO DO MORE THAN JUST DROP A FEW BUNDLES OF FOOD AND BLANKETS AND WATER FROM A
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LINDA LAY, BY HER MANY DEEDS OF KINDNESS AND BY HER SPEAKING OUT AGAINST HATRED AND PREJUDICE, EXEMPLIFIES ALL THOSE WHO REALIZE THAT THE HUMAN SPIRIT MUST BE NURTURED AND TAUGHT TO CHOOSE GOOD OVER EVIL, PEACE OVER VIOLENCE, HUMANITY OVER CRUELTY. HER WONDERFUL EXAMPLE INSPIRES US ALL. SIEGI IZAKSON, A HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR, ALTHOUGH HE LIVED THROUGH THE WORST HORRORS IMAGINABLE, NEVER LET IT MAKE HIM A BITTER MAN. HE CONTINUED TO LOOK TO THE FUTURE. HE NEVER LET THOUGHTS OF REVENGE OVERCOME HIM, BUT, INSTEAD, HE REBUILT HIS LIFE AND DEDICATED HIMSELF TO MAKING SURE THAT EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW WHAT HAPPENED IN THE HOLOCAUST SO IT SHOULD NEVER BE REPEATED AGAIN. HE TRULY EXEMPLIFIES THE JEWISH IDEAL THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN LIFE IS HOPE AND JOY IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT WE CAN OVERCOME EVIL AND VIOLENCE AND MAKE A BETTER FUTURE. WE NEVER WILL LOSE FAITH IN MAN'S CAPACITY TO DO GOOD, EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE SEEN SO MUCH CRUELTY ABOUT

US. OR OUR FAITH THAT G-D WILL SEE TO IT THAT ULTIMATELY GOOD WILL TRIUMPH OVER EVIL AND JOY OVER SADNESS AND GRIEF. AS WE READ IN PSALM 30: "YOU HAVE CHANGED MY LAMENT INTO DANCING. YOU UNDOED MY SACK CLOTH AND GIRDED ME WITH GLADNESS SO THAT MY SOUL WILL SING UNTO YOU AND NEVER BE STILLED."

THIS AFTERNOON, IT IS APPROPRIATE ALSO TO RECALL THIS OPTIMISM BY REMINDING OURSELVES OF THE STORY THEY TELL ABOUT A 70 YEAR OLD MAN WHO LOST HIS WHOLE FAMILY IN THE HOLOCAUST. HE WAS LEFT ALONE IN POLAND. HE COULD HARDLY MAKE A LIVING. EVERY DAY HE WOULD GATHER STICKS OF WOOD AND AT NIGHT HE WOULD SELL THEM TO THE WOOD MERCHANT FOR A FEW PENNIES SO HE COULD HAVE SOMETHING TO EAT. ONE HOT JULY DAY, HE WAS GATHERING HIS STICKS WHEN JUST BEFORE HE WAS TO TAKE THEM TO THE WOOD MERCHANT, HIS BAG BROKE AND HE LIFTED UP HIS HAND TO G-D AND SAID, "O G-D, SEND ME THE ANGEL OF DEATH." IMMEDIATELY, THE ANGEL OF DEATH APPEARED BEFORE HIM AND SAID, "WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?" THE MAN REPLIED, "HELP

ME PICK UP THESE STICKS."

O LORD, LET NONE OF US EVERY GIVE IN TO THE ANGEL OF DEATH. LET NONE OF US EVER FEEL THAT VIOLENCE AND HATRED AND PREJUDICE ARE THE ANSWER TO OUR PROBLEMS. LET US REALIZE THAT IT IS ONLY BY WORKING TOGETHER, BY LIVING GOOD, DECENT, AND CARING LIVES CAN WE DEVELOP OUR HUMAN SPIRIT AND LEARN HOW TO GROW CLOSER TO EACH OTHER SO WE CAN GROW CLOSER TO THEE. MAY THE DAY SOON COME WHEN WE WILL ALL LIVE TOGETHER ON THIS EARTH AS BROTHERS IN HARMONY, WITHOUT WAR AND VIOLENCE SO WE CAN TRULY DEVELOP THE HUMAN SPIRIT TO ITS UTMOST. AMEN.