

Jews

O LORD, MASTER OF THE UNIVERSE, CREATOR OF ALL NATIONS, WHO HAS SINGLED OUT ISRAEL TO CARRY OUT THY SPECIAL TASKS ON THIS PLANET, GRANT THAT THY PEOPLE ISRAEL WHEREVER THEY MAY BE WILL BE GRANTED THE HONOR, FREEDOM, AND DIGNITY TO ENNABLE THEM TO DO THY WILL AND CARRY OUT TWESE TASKS. GRANT THAT NO MORE OF THEM WILL BE SINGLED OUT FOR PERSECUTION LIKE THE JEWS OF IRAQ, POLAND, AND RUSSIA. GRANT, ALSO, O LORD OF ALL NATIONS, THAT THE STATE OF ISRAEL WILL CONTINUE TO ENJOY THY PROTECTION AND FLOURISH AND GROW STRONG. GRANT THAT ISRAEL WILL ALWAYS BE ABLE TO STAND RESOLUTE BEFORE THOSE WORLD POWERS WHO, FOR THEIR OWN ADVANTAGE, WOULD LIKE TO SEE HER DESTROYED. GRANT, O LORD, THAT ISRAEL WILL SOON ENJOY PEACE AND THAT SHE WILL CONTINUE TO BE A BEACON OF HOPE AND LIGHT FOR ALL NATIONS. MAY WE ALL PARTICIPATE IN THIS GREAT WORK. AMEN.

Jews

O LORD, MASTER OF THE UNIVERSE, WHO HAS CREATED JOY AND GLADNESS, GRANT THAT AS WE APPROACH THE HOLIDAY OF CHANUKAH ALL OF US WILL BE PRIVILEGED TO UNDERSTAND THAT WE EXIST HERE TODAY AS JEWS AND HAVE THIS WARM, WONDERFUL HOLIDAY OF CHANUKAH ONLY BECAUSE THERE WERE JEWS IN EARLIER GENERATIONS WHO WERE WILLING TO PUT THEIR JEWISHNESS ABOVE EVERYTHING ELSE AND WHO WERE WILLING TO SACRIFICE ALL THEIR FORTUNE, TIME, AND VERY LIVES TO SEE TO IT THAT JUDAISM WOULD CONTINUE. THEY DIDN'T HAVE TO, BUT THEY KNEW JUDAISM'S IMPORTANCE FOR THE WHOLE WORLD. O LORD, LET THEIR ZEAL AND DEVOTION BE AN EXAMPLE FOR ALL OF US. AND LET US, O LORD, NEVER FORGET ESPECIALLY WHEN WE LIGHT THE CHANUKAH CANDLES THAT JUDAISM AND JEWISHNESS CAN AND WILL EXIST TODAY ONLY IF EACH OF US IS WILLING TO SACRIFICE HER TIME, MONEY, AND EFFORT TO SEE TO IT THAT IT DOES. LET ALL OF US BE WORTHY OF THIS TRUST. AMEN.





*Jews, different*

O LORD, MASTER OF THE UNIVERSE, WHO HAS CREATED EACH OF US ALIKE AND EACH OF US DIFFERENT, WHO HAS INSTILLED IN EACH OF OUR NATURES COMMON DESIRES AND COMMON ASPIRATIONS, YET HAS ENDOWED EACH ONE OF US WITH THE CAPACITY AND HOPE TO MAKE OUR OWN DISTINCT MARK, GRANT THAT AS WE GATHER HERE TONIGHT TO HEAR A DISCUSSION WHICH DEALS WITH JEWS FROM DIFFERENT AND DISTINCTIVE TRADITIONS, NONE OF US WILL EVER FALL INTO THE TRAP OF THINKING THAT WE OR MEMBERS OF OUR OWN PARTICULAR GROUP ARE INNATELY SUPERIOR BECAUSE OF CERTAIN DISTINCTIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OR CULTURAL ATTAINMENTS WHICH WE HAVE. GRANT THAT WE WILL ALWAYS RECOGNIZE THE COMMON BOND WHICH BINDS ALL JEWS, OUR COMMON TRADITIONS, AND THAT WE WILL NEVER CONFUSE EXTERNAL DIFFERENCES WITH SHARED BASIC PRINCIPLES. GRANT, O LORD, THAT EACH OF US IN OUR OWN DRIVE FOR DESTINCTIVENESS AND ORIGINALITY WILL NEVER LOSE SIGHT OF THE SIMILARITY OF OUR OWN NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS AND THAT EACH OF US WILL ALWAYS BE A SOURCE OF HELP AND SOLACE TO EACH OTHER. MAY NONE OF US EVER LOOK DOWN OUR NOSES AT EACH OTHER. AND MAYBE THROUGH OUR WORK IN HADASSAH BE DRAWN CLOSER TO EACH OTHER WITHOUT LOSING OUR INDIVIDUALITY AND THUS BE DRAWN CLOSER TO THEE.