

Yom Hazikaron Memorial Service



ההסתדרות הציונית העולמית
המחלקה לפעילות בתפוצות
World Zionist Organization
Department for Diaspora Activities





The decision to commemorate Yom Hazikaron, Remembrance Day, immediately before Yom Haatzmaut, Independence Day, is based on the view that those who died fighting for the establishment and existence of the State of Israel have given their lives so that we may live. This notion can be found in Bialik's poem *Should You Wish to Know* and forms an expression of utmost appreciation of all those who sacrificed their lives to defend the People and State of Israel, as well as the strong and painful link between life and death. For in dying, fallen IDF soldiers have given us life – the ability to continue living in Israel. They have died so that we may live, and therefore we must stop each year and remember the dead with great pain, just one day before we festively celebrate our independence.

Another interpretation of this notion is that in dying, the fallen soldiers urge us to move on, live and rejoice, rather than dwelling on the memories and pain of losing them.





Atara Abramson, Zipora Jacobowitz and Rachel Hiller survived Auschwitz. Rachel Mins came to Israel after surviving the Kaunas ghetto. Esther Keufmann and Chaya Wassertil boarded illegal immigrant ships. These six women were the last descendants of their families, the only ones to survive the Nazi atrocities. All six were killed on the self-same day, May 13th 1948, after Jordanian legionaries bombed the building in which they were hiding in Kfar Etzion, which had been placed under siege. Their death put an end to the memory of the families from which they had come. The names of 144 fighters, men and women, are etched here – all of them died in battle and were the last descendants of their families.

The monument before us was built in memory of the immigrant Holocaust survivors who had no surviving family members, came to Israel from the Nazi death camps, served in the IDF and were killed during the War of Independence. The monument was inaugurated on April 22nd, 2004 near the "connecting path" and has 144 names of fallen soldiers etched on it, all of whom have been declared the last descendants of families that perished during the Holocaust. The monument was designed by Micha Ullman and is comprised of two parts: a horizontal slab of stone bearing the fallen soldiers' names, and a stone house placed upside down and empty, that is sunk into the ground.



"A monument in memory of the last descendants who fell while defending Israel during the wars. The home they had there – and is no longer. The home they could have built here – and will never be. They were the last descendants of their homes – and are no more."



Give us the Strength / Tirza, Kinneret Publishing

Give us the strength once more to bear the silver platter –
the cream of our sons' crop – in our trembling arms.

Give us the strength to rejoice and cry to the end.

Give us the strength to contain the tremendous, intoxicating joy
and a thousand sorrows within a single heart.

Give us the strength to look mourning widows in the eye,
to silently face their endless grief.

To forget give us the strength,
to forget revenge and blood.

Give us the strength to return from the tanks
to holidays and everyday.

To sow tomorrow's wheat
in the battlefields of yesterday.





The Young Dead Soldiers Do Not Speak /Archibald MacLeish

The young dead soldiers do not speak.

Nevertheless, they are heard in the still houses:
who has not heard them?

They have a silence that speaks for them at night
and when the clock counts.

They say: We were young. We have died.
Remember us.

They say: We have done what we could
but until it is finished it is not done.

They say: We have given our lives but until it is finished
no one can know what our lives gave.

They say: Our deaths are not ours: they are yours,
they will mean what you make them.

They say: Whether our lives and our deaths were for
peace and a new hope or for nothing we cannot say,
it is you who must say this.

We leave you our deaths. Give them their meaning.

Give them an end to the war and a true peace:
give them a victory that ends the war and a peace afterwards:
give them their meaning.
We were young, they say. We have died; remember us.



"Human"

Winning is not enough, you need to know how to remain human. The most encouraging thing for me was that when we came out of this nightmare and survived, we did not tarnish the image of God in which we were born. (Kobi)

From: six sons – in memory of the soldiers who fell during the Yom Kippur War, Na'an

Out of a letter to the families of fallen soldiers, Yitzhak Rabin, 1994:

"I believe that peace is possible, that the time has come to put an end to wars. I believe that we should give it a chance, especially now, when we have the strength to smite every enemy, should we be proven wrong. Perhaps I am mistaken, perhaps not, but I am convinced that more than anyone else, it is the soldiers, those who saw the horrors with their own eyes and bear the scars of war, along with the families who have paid the terrible price, it is they who cling to the dream of peace and want it more than others, but certainly not at all cost.

For your sons and daughters, for your, for our husbands, fathers, brothers and sisters, peace, if and when it comes, will have come too late. But we owe it to our children, to the next generations. We owe it to you, who have been inflicted with such tragedy, to try.

In the Book of Jeremiah God says "prevent your voice from weeping, and your eyes from shedding tears; for your work shall be rewarded." Weeping? Tears? We shall never stop crying over those who have died, but maybe, just maybe, peace shall be your reward."



YIZKOR

May the people of Israel remember its sons and daughters, loyal and brave, the soldiers of the Israel Defense Forces, its underground fighters and combatants in Israel's wars and all the members of The Intelligence Community and Police and Security forces who gave their lives in the struggle for the redemption of State of Israel, and all those who were murdered here in Israel and beyond its borders by the hands of murderers from terrorist organizations.

May all Israel remember and be blessed by their offspring and mourn the loss of the beauty of youth, the heroic acts, the sanctity of their willingness and deep devotion of those lost in these fierce battles.

May we cherish in our hearts the memory of these heroes of Israel's victorious battles, forever and ever.





El Malei Rahamim

O God full of mercy, who dwells on high,
grant proper rest on the wings of the Divine Presence
in the lofty levels of the holy and the pure ones,
who shine like the glow of the firmament
for the souls of the martyrs of the underground fighters
and soldiers of the Israel Defense Forces,
who gave up their lives for the conquest of the land.
May the Master of Mercy shelter them in the shelter of His wings for eternity;
and may He bind their souls in the bond of life.
Hashem is their heritage, and may they repose in peace on their resting place.
Now let us respond: Amen.

Kaddish

Glorified and sanctified be God's great name
throughout the world which He has created according to His will.
May He establish His kingdom in your lifetime and during your days,
and within the life of the entire House of Israel, speedily and soon; and say, Amen.

May His great name be blessed forever and to all eternity.

Blessed and praised, glorified and exalted, extolled and honored,
adored and lauded be the name of the Holy One, blessed be He,
beyond all the blessings and hymns, praises and consolations
that are ever spoken in the world; and say, Amen.

May there be abundant peace from heaven, and life, for us
and for all Israel; and say, Amen.

He who creates peace in His celestial heights, may He create peace for us and for all Israel; and say, Amen.



Prayer for the State of Israel

Our Father in Heaven, rock and redeemer of Israel, bless the State of Israel, the first manifestation of the approach of our redemption. Shield it with Your lovingkindness, envelop it in Your peace, and bestow Your light and truth upon its leaders, ministers, and advisors, and grace them with Your good counsel.

Strengthen the hands of those who defend our holy land, grant them deliverance, O God, and adorn them in a mantle of victory. Ordain peace in the land and grant its inhabitants eternal happiness. And remember all our brethren, the House of Israel, in the lands in which they have been scattered, and lead them, swiftly and uprightly, to Your city Zion and to Jerusalem, the abode of Your Name, as is written in the Torah of Your servant Moses: "Even if your outcasts are at the ends of the world, from there the Lord your God will gather you, from there He will fetch you.

הַתְּקוּוּהָ

כָּל עוֹד בְּלִבְבֵּנוּ
נִפְשׁ יִהְיֶה הוֹמָיָה
וּלְפָאֲתֵינוּ מְזֻרָחַת, קְדִימָה
עֵין לְצִיּוֹן צוֹפִיָּה -

עוֹד לֹא אֲבָרָה תְּקוּנָתֵנוּ
הַתְּקוּהָ בֵּת שְׁנוֹת אֲלֵפִים
לְהִיּוֹת עִם חֲפְשֵׁי בְּאֲרָצֵנוּ
אֲרָץ צִיּוֹן וִירוּשָׁלַיִם.