

My Jerusalem

JERUSALEM IS THE HEART OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE

AND A DEEP SOURCE OF OUR PRIDE. ON THIS FESTIVE OCCASION, THOUSANDS OF MILES FROM HOME, HERE AND NOW, WE ONCE AGAIN ARE RAISING JERUSALEM ABOVE OUR HIGHEST JOY, JUST LIKE OUR FATHERS AND OUR FATHERS' FATHERS DID.

JERUSALEM has a thousand faces — and each one of us has his own Jerusalem.

MY JERUSALEM is Dr. Moshe Wallach of Germany, the doctor of the sick of Israel and Jerusalem, who built Sha'arei Zedek hospital and had his home in its courtyard so as to be close to his patients day and night. I was born in his hospital. I am a Jerusalemite.

MY JERUSALEM is the focus of the Jewish people's yearnings, the city of its visions, the cradle of its prayers. It is the dream of the return to Zion. It is the name millions murmur, even on their deathbeds. It is the place where eyes are raised and prayers uttered.

MY JERUSALEM is the jerrycan of water measured out to the besieged in 1948, the faces of its anxious citizens waiting quietly in line for bread, the sky whose blackness was torn by flares.

MY JERUSALEM is Bab-el-Wad — the road to the city — which cries out, "Remember our names forever." It is the ashen faces of dead comrades from the War of Independence, and the searing cold of the rusting armored cars among the pines on the side of the road.

MY JERUSALEM is the great mountain, the military cemetery on Mount Herzl, the city of silence whose earth holds the treasured thousands of those who went to bitter battle — and did not return.

MY JERUSALEM is the tears of the paratroopers at the Western Wall in 1967 and the flag which once more waved above the remnant of the Temple.

MY JERUSALEM is the changing colors of its walls, the smells of its markets and the faces of the members of every community and every faith, where all have freedom of thought and freedom of worship in the city where holiness envelops every stone, every word, every glance.

And MY JERUSALEM, which will bear great tidings to all faiths, to all nations: *For the Torah shall come forth from Zion and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem ... Peace be within thy walls and prosperity within thy palaces. (Isaiah 2:3)*

WE DIFFER IN OUR OPINIONS, left and right. We disagree on the means and the objective. In Israel we all agree on one issue: the wholeness of Jerusalem, the continuation of its existence as capital of the State of Israel. There are not two Jerusalems. There is only one Jerusalem. For us, Jerusalem is not subject to compromise and there is no peace without Jerusalem.

JERUSALEM, which was destroyed eight times, where for years we had no access to the remnants of our Temple, was ours, is ours, and will be ours — forever.

THIS IS THE TIME to welcome and say thank you for the resolution that uplifts the heart of every Israeli and every Jew, to relocate the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, the beating heart of the Jewish people. We have always regarded Jerusalem as united, as Israel's capital, and under its sovereignty. We always knew it and we always acted on this basis. We welcome every new partner in this effort and we welcome every new embassy in Jerusalem. We extend a particular welcome to our great friend, the United States of America.

WE ARE MOVED by the action taken by Congress. We are moved by the spirit it expresses. We are moved by the overwhelming majority. We are moved by the fact there were no "Republicans" or "Democrats" when it came to this vote.

I WILL CARRY THIS DISPLAY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE'S FRIENDSHIP and support back to Israel, back to my home and my office in Jerusalem. My Jerusalem becomes yours as well.

"HERE TEARS DO NOT WEAKEN EYES," wrote the Jerusalem poet Yehuda Amichai. "They only polish and shine the hardness of faces like stone."

JERUSALEM IS THAT STONE.

From distant Washington, *SHALOM TO YOU, JERUSALEM.*

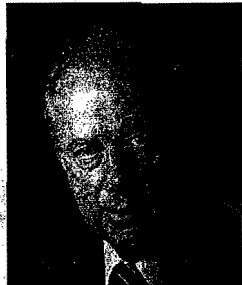


PHOTO: AL GILBERT/CA

YITZHAK RABIN
Z"l

PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL
1974-1977, 1992-1995

MILITARY LEADER,
STATESMAN, DIPLOMAT
WHO DEVOTED AND GAVE HIS
LIFE FOR HIS COUNTRY

JOIN IN THE CELEBRATION OF JERUSALEM 3015



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