

The Freedom to Be Me | A Fifth Question for the Seder



Why on this night do we commit ourselves to engagement with Israel?

On all other nights it is enough that we rejoice in her triumphs or agonize over the threats to her existence. Why on this night must we resolve to take action?

Because we care deeply both about Israel's survival and about the kind of society she need become...
a society in which the hope of being a free people in our own land, the hope of Hatikvah, might be fully realized.
a society worthy of the longings expressed in the Seder's final words of prayer: "Next year in Jerusalem."

That prayer has been answered. Now we must act to ensure that Jerusalem rebuilt will be

- a Jerusalem in which all Jews will experience freedom – freedom to pray and celebrate in accordance with their own understanding of our tradition.
- a Jerusalem in which Conservative / Masorti rabbis will be able to officiate at weddings and our converts be permitted to marry.
- a Jerusalem where women will not have to fear arrest for donning a tallit or reading from the Torah at the Western Wall.
- a Jerusalem in which Conservative / Masorti synagogues and institutions will enjoy the same support that our Orthodox neighbors already take for granted.
- a Jerusalem in which the dignity and freedoms of others are safeguarded, for we must always remember that not too long ago, and in some places today, we were strangers in a strange land.

*This **can** be **our** Israel, the Israel powerfully promoted by MERCAZ, Conservative/Masorti Jews for an inclusive Israel. MERCAZ advances the values of pluralism, democracy, egalitarianism, social justice, environmentalism and the pursuit of peace. MERCAZ is Conservative / Masorti Judaism's voice at the World Zionist Congress, the international parliament of the Jewish people, which will be convening **this** year in Jerusalem. Tonight let us resolve to strengthen that voice, our voice. Once the Seders are over and done, join MERCAZ- Canada at <http://masorti-mercaz.ca/signup>.*

As we are proud of everything that Israel has already achieved, we can ensure that we will continue to be proud of all it is yet to become. It's our Judaism, our Israel, our future.

MERCAZ-Canada- Your voice in Israel. Make it heard!