



זכור אל תשכח

REMEMBER
DO NOT FORGET. זכור אל תשכח
(Deuteronomy 9:7)

A CALL TO ACTION
for *Yom HaShoah V'HaGevurah*

A phrase that once seemed redundant has taken on new meaning: Sixty years after the Shoah, the Holocaust, we must “remember not to forget.” Forgetting – which once seemed impossible – has become a harsh piece of our reality. We must now remember to remember.

Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, helps us remember the six million of our people who were tortured and murdered by the Nazis. We must never forget that each death put an end to a life as vibrant and significant as our own.

The full name of this Remembrance Day, and the way it is marked in Israel, is *Yom HaShoah v'HaGevurah* – Holocaust and Heroism day. The two are mentioned as one. What heroism – *gevurah* – are we referring to?

Consider the choice of dates for this commemoration: How did the Jewish people choose a single date to memorialize a series of events that took place over so many years? Murder occurred daily; each day on the calendar might have been appropriate as a memorial day. A prolonged debate ended in 1951 when Israel’s parliament chose the 27th of the month of Nissan because of its connection to the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. Why?

Because from its inception, the day was intended to recognize both martyrdom (all those who died at the hands of the Nazis) and *gevurah* (all those who resisted the Nazis).

We must
now
remember
to
remember.



זכור תשנה
אל תשכח

Today we know *gevurah* came in many forms – from the organized, armed actions of the partisans and ghetto fighters to the individuals who smuggled and shared food, from those who quieted babies during raids to those who recited the *Sh'ma* as a final act of faith. Struggling to stay alive another day was in and of itself a form of *gevurah*. And today, survivors who consent to share their stories continue to exhibit *gevurah* for their willingness to serve as witnesses and to relive their suffering – so that we never forget.

This year, we encourage you to observe this day as *Yom HaShoah v'HaGevurah*, in memory of all those who experienced the Shoah, to honor their lives and their courage. We must recommit ourselves to remember not to forget.



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For study guides, videos,
photographs, and testimonies
about the partisans – one
particular type of *gevurah* –
go to: www.jewishpartisans.org

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A reading for Yom HaShoah V'HaGevurah

בְּנֵי אָדָם יִשְׁבִּי חֹשֶׁךְ וְצַלְמוֹת
וְהֵשֶׁם כְּגִבּוֹר עֲרִיץ עַל-כֵּן רֹדְפֵי יִכְשְׁלוּ וְלֹא יִכְלוּ
בְּשׁוּ מֵאֵד כִּי לֹא הִשְׁפִּילוּ כְּלִמַּת עוֹלָם לֹא תִשְׁכַּח:
אַתָּה גִבּוֹר לְעוֹלָם אֲדֹנָי וּבְנֵי אָדָם בְּצַל כְּנַפְיָךְ יִחְסִיּוּן

*Venei adam yoshvei choshech vetsalmavet
v'Adonai k'gibbor aritz al ken rodfahy yichashlu velo yuchalu
boshoo meod ki lo hiskilu klimat olam lo tishachayach.
Ata gibbor l'olam Adonai uvnei adam btzail k'nafecha yechesyun*

For human beings living in the darkness of the shadow of death Adonai is manifest through the presence of those who show courage, those whose acts of resistance undermine persecutors, and bring about their failure and eternal humiliation. Do not forget this. You are an eternal source of courage, Adonai, and as human beings we seek shelter in the span of your shadow.

(Inspired by verses from Psalms 36:8, 107:10, and Jeremiah 20:11)