

Invocation
 Holocaust Memorial Committee of Long Island
 Kristallnacht Commemoration
 10/31/04

"And God created the human in God's image, in the image of God God crated him, male and female God created them. And [God] blessed them, and God said to them, 'be fruitful and multiply, fill the land and conquer it, and have dominion . . .'" (Gen. 1:27-28).

Lord our God, you placed us on this earth and gave us dominion over it, so that we may become your partners in creation. You endowed us with your image and likeness so that we might accomplish this goal. And so that we may be in your likeness, you gave us the power of thought and reasoning. These faculties were to be our greatest tool for bettering your world.

Today, we remember the beginning of the darkest period of human history, where all your greatest gifts to us were abused for purposes of destruction. Our intelligence was used to find the most efficient ways to destroy our brethren. Our reasoning was used to arbitrarily judge one people more worthy than others. Our sense of dominion was turned into a maniacal plan to control our world. But even in our darkest of hours, you allowed a glimmer of your light to shine, in the hearts of those holiest of people - those righteous non-jews, who chose to use their God given abilities, and who risked their lives, in order to make every effort to protect their brethren.

אל מלא רחמים שוכן במרומים (*El malei rachamim shocein bameromim*) *Lord who is full of mercy, who dwells on high*, find fitting rest for our ancestors and loved ones who perished in those times, and for those righteous people who risked their lives in order to protect them.

איהינו ואיהי אבותינו מלוך על כל העולם כולו בכבודך *Our God, and God of our ancestors, reign upon all of your earth with your glory* (High Holiday liturgy). Let your spirit of love and kindness prevail on earth as it does in heaven. Teach us to use our Godly image for good. So that we may use our intellect not for destruction of life, but instead to find ways to sustain life. Teach us to use our dominion on Earth in order to fulfill the words of your commandment "Do not stand idly by the blood of your neighbor" (Lev. 19:6), so that we never again stand by as other peoples of this Earth are persecuted. Guide us along your path, so that we may establish everlasting peace and prosperity upon your earth.

May the words of my mouth, and the meditations of my heart find favor before you, Lord, my rock and my redeemer (Psalms 19:15). ברוך אתה די שומע תפילה *Blessed are you Lord, who hears prayer. Amen.*