



Yitzhak Rabin Z”L Memorial Day

“...הוי מתלמידיו של אהרן, אוהב שלום ורודף שלום, אוהב את הבריות
ומקרבן לתורה.”

(אבות א' י"ב)

“Be of the disciples of Aaron - A lover of peace and a pursuer of peace; one
who loves humans and draws them close to the Torah.”

(Avot 1:12)

“Dear Friends,

As Israel makes the transition from war to peace, a question arises regarding its relationship with the Jewish people in the Diaspora. For many, the mobilization of support for Israel in its struggle for survival formed the key element in our relationship. There are those who ask whether now that the threat to our existence is being reduced considerably, a vacuum may be created in the place of that support. Progress towards peace has been made, and long and difficult peace negotiations still await. We should be preparing now for the day in which new issues will occupy our hearts and minds because our support for Israel and our identification with Israel is based on more than the external threats to Israel. It is for that day that is approaching that we should be thinking of a new agenda. I propose that we create this new agenda together. A new agenda for the Jewish people in the Diaspora and for the State of Israel. We are one, whether we are in Montreal, or in Jerusalem, Miami, Chicago, Ramat-Gan or Netanya. We are one people, separated only by our addresses. What will the items on this new agenda of ours be?”

*Address by Prime Minister Rabin to the General Assembly of the council of the
Jewish Federation, Montreal 18 November 1993*



What is the main essence that should shape Rabin's Memorial Day?
Is it the element of memory, or the element of *Ta'anit* (fasting and mourning)?
As opposed to Holocaust Memorial Day and Yom Hazikaron (Memorial Day for Fallen Soldiers) where memory is the main element, Rabin's Memorial Day should be more similar to Yom Kippur, or to Tisha B'av, where *Ta'anit* is the main element. Whereas a day of memory revives the painful past that is impossible to suppress, the day of *Ta'anit's* main focus is in the future. In the *Ta'anit*, the day's meaning cannot be separated from the painful historical memory of the past, yet its true essence lays in *Cheshbon Nefesh* (repentance and introspection) of those living in present time, in order to ensure their common future.

Therefore, on Rabin's Memorial Day we must not simply remember a great leader, man, and visionary for peace, but we must also look into our society and determine how we can implement the values of democracy and pluralism.

Rabbi Gilad Kariv, IMPJ President and CEO

A Special *Yizkor* for PM Yitzhak Rabin z"l

Written in 1995 by Rabbi Yehoram Mazor Av Beit Din, Maram, Israel

May God remember the soul of Yitzhak, the son of Rosa and Nehemiah Rabin, a leader and general; a statesman and a dreamer who made dreams come true, who was taken by the bullets of an assassin from among our own people.

May we remember the camaraderie that typified his character; the image of the soldier and commander, the prince of the armies of Israel.

May we remember the warrior who longed for the day when he would be able to beat his sword into a ploughshare, to sit under his vine and fig tree without fear, and to enjoy the fruits of national revival and peace.

May we remember the leader and statesman who devoted his life to the Jewish people and its state, and who was murdered while in their service.

May the people of Israel remember the Prime Minister of Israel, General Yitzhak Rabin, may his blessing be for a memory, and may it guard the memory of his assassination. May Israel find the wisdom to mourn for interrupted vision and action. May the memory of the man serve as an emblem and model, and his assassination as a lesson for the generations to come.