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Chanukah, 5710

[In those days, In these days]

[Chanukah & Jerusalem]

Dec. 1949

ghost writer for Yosh

Suggested Titles

"ירושלים" לא ~~...~~, ירושלים
כי ירושלים ירושלים אחד

(not 2 – an old & a new – but one Jerusalem, forever indivisible)

As this article goes to press, a committee of the UN. has decided in favor of the internationalization of Jerusalem, and the newspapers inform us that it is probable that the assembly will ~~also~~ ~~now~~ also vote for internationalizing Jerusalem. Somehow, ~~as~~ our faces are not drawn and our spirits are not ~~deadened~~ fallen as they were during those hectic days, 2 yrs. ago, when the UN was debating the issue of the existence of a State of Israel. ~~It~~ This is either because we have become accustomed ~~to~~ to the daily occurence of miracles or, ~~more~~ just as likely, that we have learnt from our Arab friends that it is no miracle to be able to successfully defy UN decisions.

One can never tire of reading, writing or speaking about Jerusalem. The very name of the Holy city awakens within us a ~~dramatic response~~ profound response, a romantic nostalgia for the ancient and eternal capital city of Israel. And how much more ~~so~~ is this true today, when history, which has a dramatic flare for irony and coincidence, has caused the height of the discussion on Jerusalem to take place ~~as~~ during the ~~the~~ season of Chanukah, the commemoration of the Maccabees' successful return to the Holy city & the Temple. This ~~will~~ thought well, this Chanukah, give new meaning to the words of the liturgist:

ולמען ירושלים עיר קדשך בפיוט ובזמרה נודה

and we will now ~~sing,~~ "and to Thy ~~people~~ nation Israel thank the almighty for redeeming Jerusalem for Israel not only many centuries ago on this same calendar day, but ~~little~~ literally "בימים ההם", as ~~Your~~ He is ~~are~~ doing this very day.

~~God~~ If there are among us any who are מקטני אמונה, ~~whose faith~~ who are weak in their faith that the Almighty will return ~~Jerusalem~~ the Holy city to its rightful owners, let them ~~read~~ study the Haftorah read on "שבת חנוכה" (~~taken from~~ Zechariah, 2:16 "ונחל ה' את יהודה חלקו על אדמת הקדש וּבָחַר עוד בירושלים". "G-d will again choose Jerusalem"! How appropriate to Chanukah ~~1949~~ 5710! ~~If our friends~~ And, therefore, those amongst us who are not yet accustomed to daily miracles and also have not been ~~taught~~ clear students of ~~our~~ Arab ~~(neighbors) relations w. UN~~ diplomacy, let them at least take courage from the words of the Prophet. If we return to the principles for which Jerusalem has been sanctified, Jerusalem will be "sanctified unto us" ~~forever~~, her principal inhabitants, ~~forever~~.

In conclusion, let me ~~remind~~ call to your attention to the fact that the Hebrew word for Jerusalem is spelled, in the text quoted above, as in most of the Bible, "ירושלים", and not "ירושלימים". The name for Jerusalem does not contain the letter "yud" and hence not the plural ending "im". One is inclined to believe that ~~this~~ is a reminder to us that there are no ~~two~~ Jerusalems, an Old and a New. Rather, as we Traditional Jews have always believed, there is only ~~one~~ Jerusalem, one and forever indivisible.