

A MEMORIAL AND CONCLUDING SERVICE

FOR THE YOM KIPPUR

Adapted from traditional sources

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Experimental

Institute of Creative Judaism

The master and the servant, the rich and the poor, the strong and the feeble, the wise and the simple, all are equal in death. The grave levels all distinctions and makes the whole world kin.

Reader

We are sojourners on earth and our days vanish like shadows. Yet the speedy flight of life, and the fact of the grave should not dismay us, but should teach us wisdom, wisdom to endow our fleeting days with abiding value. With the Psalmist we say, "So teach us to number our days that we may get us a heart of wisdom."

(Music)

Reader and Congregation

These things do we remember: Through all the years ignorance like a monster has devoured our martyrs as in one long day of blood. Rulers have arisen through the endless years, oppressive, savage in their senseless power, filled with a sick thought: To make an end of the house of Israel.

Reader

O Lord of life, our times are in Thy hands. One generation cometh into the world to be blessed with days of peace and safety, another endures the cruelties of persecution and war. Sorrowful and dangerous have been the days of our lives. We have lived through years of tyranny and destruction, and are well-schooled in sorrow and grief. We have seen the just defeated, the innocent driven into exile, and the righteous brought to a merciless martyrdom.

Reader and Congregation

At this hour of memorial, we recall with reverence all men who have perished through the cruelty of war and oppression. Not punished for any individual guilt, but without discrimination, the aged and the young, the learned and the humble have been driven in multitudes along the road of pain and pitiless death. For no sin of theirs have they perished, but to satisfy the lust and greed of madness. They lie at rest in nameless graves in distant jungles and lonely fields. Yet they shall not be forgotten. We give them place beside the cherished memories of our own beloved. If we but learn the lesson of their lives, their deaths shall not have been in vain.

(Music)

(Silent Devotion)

Reader

We remember with sorrow those whom death has taken from our midst.

(Congregation rises)

Kaddish

(Congregation is seated)

(Music)

Reader

The day is fading; the voice of Yom Kippur will soon be silent. From this house of Israel we are about to return to our homes, to seek peace in the communion of our family life. May the love