

## **A Kavanah (Intention) for Welcoming the Sabbath amidst mass detentions and myriad cruelties**

Rabbi Yose son of Judah taught: Two ministering angels, one good and one evil, accompany a person home on the Sabbath eve. If a lamp is burning, table set, and seating arranged, the good angel says, "May it be thus on the next Sabbath," and the evil angel unwillingly answers "amen." If not, the evil angel says, "May it be thus on the next Sabbath," and the good angel unwillingly answers "amen."

For too many Sabbaths, our national home has been devoid of safety, nourishment, and comfort for those seeking refuge and asylum, and for many others in our midst. Each week of these conditions reinforces toleration of the same next week, with our good angels, however unwillingly, answering "amen."

**Tonight, we gather for a turning point, calling forth new and better angels.**

In the spirit of "Lights for Liberty," in DC and beyond, we come together in homes, synagogues, and streets with a new prayer:

Holy One, wherever lamps are burning,  
tables set, and seating arranged on Sabbath Eve,  
nurture those gatherings;  
**inspire all who experience this sanctuary in time  
to renewed effort toward safety, nourishment, and comfort for all.**

Hear this, too, Holy One --  
wherever light is lacking,  
food sparse, and conditions rough this week,  
**accept no prayer** -- angel or human -- on our behalf **for a continuation of suffering.**  
Let no appearance of indifference, helplessness, or political confusion  
be understood as a plea in our name for the perpetuation of evil.

Holy One, we welcome the Sabbath  
in gratitude for its peace and blessing  
and we dedicate ourselves, and beg Your help,  
to extend that peace and blessing to those most in need.  
**Help us, as we work to end the horrors perpetuated in our name.**  
**May this week's lamps and tables and seating persist and multiply.** And we all say: **Amen**

-- V. Spatz (Talmud teaching paraphrased from B. Shabbat 119b); CC-Attribution-NonCommerical-ShareAlike 2019

Visit <http://www.lightsforliberty.org> for details of July 12 anti-Concentration Camp gatherings around the country.

Visit <https://jufj.org> for details about DC- and Baltimore-area Jewish justice efforts.

Visit <https://www.neveragainaction.com/> for national Jewish responses.