

An Upside-Down World: Esther and Antisemitism



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A PURIM PRAYER: "ANCIENT CONCERNS, MODERN ERA"

Rabbi/Cantor Idan Irelander

אֱ-לֹהֵינוּ וְאֱ-לֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְאֱמוּנָתֵנוּ

Our God and God of our ancestors,
In a world turned upside down, where lies fuel hatred,
We turn to You, seeking wisdom and strength.
As Haman's falsehoods threatened our ancestors,
So too do modern-day falsehoods endanger us now.
Help others see through the fog of misinformation,
That spreads like wildfire, corrupting hearts and minds.
Adonai, strengthen us against those who dehumanize us,
Who seek to strip us of our identity and history.
Like Mordechai, may we stand proud in truth.
Like Esther, may we speak with courage and grace,
Using our words to heal, not harm—
To build bridges, and remove barriers.
Teach us to foster harmony, even in a tumultuous world,
And to challenge the lies that seek to mislead and divide us.
On this Purim, let us remember the dangers of hatred
And the power of unity and resilience.
May we work to create a world in which we can all live in
peace,
Where courage and understanding overcome fear and hate.
Guide us, O God, to be instruments of Your justice,
To honor the legacy of Esther and Mordechai,
And to strive for a brighter tomorrow for all humankind.
And let us say:
Amen.