

# YOM YERUSHALAYIM

*Batnua*



1

## DEFINITION AND CONTEXT

For over three thousand years Yerushalayim had been the spiritual center of the Jewish people. Yerushalayim, the “City of David”, was the birthplace of the First and Second Temple, and since its destruction, the source of hope that kept us strong for two thousand years of Galut. In 1948, it was declared the capital of the Jewish State for the third time in our history. However, after the War of Independence, part of the city was under Jordanian control, surrounded by walls that made it impossible for the Jews to reach their holy sites. On the 28th of Iyar 5727, the city was reconquered by Chayalei Tzahal. Since then, on this day we celebrate “Yom Yerushalayim”: the day in which the Jewish people were finally reunited with their eternal and beloved capital.



## DID YOU KNOW?

- The Semel of the Canaim comprises a circle in which there is a fleur-de-lis. Inside the fleur-de-lis, there is a corner of a rampart seen in perspective and above it appears a wall which confronts the contrarities, illuminated by the flame of conviction, enthusiasm and idealism.



In his article “Yom Yerushalayim and the Canaim of an Idea”, Sergio Edelstein presents a free interpretation of the Semel of shichvat Canaim. In his article, Jerusalem appears “as a symbol of Jewish survival, as the spiritual legacy of the universal message of Judaism, as the wall that symbolizes the defense of the supreme values that Judaism offered humanity. The flames which emerge from the corner of the rampart, as a symbol of Jewish wisdom, of its messages and legacy. A symbol of our duty as madrichim to educate in light of this millenary legacy. The wall that protects us and maintains us as a people.”

## • COEXISTENCE AND THE FREEDOM OF RELIGION

Yerushalayim is a holy city for the three main monotheistic religions of the world: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. This element has been a source of dispute, wars and destruction throughout the history of this city. However, since the reunification of Jerusalem in 1967, every person, regardless of his or her religious beliefs, has full access to the holy sites. We hope that the values of coexistence, mutual respect, freedom and solidarity that support this decision extend to different areas and fields of public life in the city so that the name “City of Peace” will become a reality and not only a great hope.

# YOM YERUSHALAYIM

Batnua



## THE HOLIDAY'S VALUES

RESPONSIBILITY  
TRUTH  
FREEDOM  
CONTINUITY  
TOLERANCE  
CRITICAL AND INDEPENDENT THINKING  
DIGNITY  
PEACE  
DIALOGUE  
COEXISTENCE  
LEADERSHIP  
SANCTITY OF LIFE



## SYMBOLS AND CUSTOMS OF THE CHAG

### • A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words...

Speaking of symbols, this photo taken in 1967 by the photographer, David Rubinger, has become one of the most famous and emotional images in the history of Medinat Israel. This photo depicts the profound emotion of the three Chayalei Tzahal after arriving and recapturing the Kotel HaMaaravi (The Western Wall).



This is how the paratrooper Eli Landau described these moments:

"Suddenly I heard a scream: 'I see the Kotel HaMaaravi!' It came from the first soldier who saw the wall. We all ran after him and saw it; it was there! We touched its stones, grasped them and began to cry! During the three days of the battle for the old city of Jerusalem, I do not remember seeing soldiers crying, even at the loss of their beloved comrades in the unit. Now, these young men with unshaven faces and eyes reddened by the weariness of interminable battles embrace and kiss each other and sob loudly: Yerushalayim is in our hands!"

### • A day in which the Ethiopian Jewish community memorialize those who died on their way to Israel

The decision to commemorate precisely on this day the more than four thousand people who lost their lives in the attempt of making Aliyah aims to illustrate the close relationship between Jerusalem and the Ethiopian Jewish community: a source of strength, energy and hope that encouraged them to begin their journey, trying to reconnect with their millenary spiritual center. The example of this community in regard to the profound bond and love for Israel, its fulfillment of Practical Zionism and its constant effort to be a significant part of the Israeli society are elements worthy of admiration.

### • Flag March

Thousands of young people from all over the country gather in Yerushalayim to hold the Flag March. This march generally begins in the big parks of the city, while the participants sing and dance until arriving at the Western Wall.



# YOM YERUSHALAYIM

Batnua



## HOLIDAY RELATED QUOTES

*"Yerushalayim is beyond all our controversies because it is the capital of the nation. It is the historic Jewish city; it is the capital of the Hebrew spirit; it is the capital of the eternity of Israel. It must serve as an example for every country and every nation because Yerushalayim does not belong solely to this country but to all the Jewish people."* David Ben Gurion, the first Prime Minister of Israel.

*"Jerusalem was never an easy city, a prey between the extremes of politics and religion. Not for nothing, it is called the city of God; this is a city which tried to belittle its inhabitants. My job now is to transform it into a city of human dimensions, a city that exists for its inhabitants, for all its inhabitants."* Teddy Kollek, the mayor of Jerusalem from 1965 to 1993.



## CHAG RELATED ARTICLES

### Caio Szymonowicz, Rosh Chinuj Netzach Israel B'Brazil

Achieving the independence of our state was very difficult... in 1948 various groups fought for the city separately. The Etzel, Lehi, Palmach and the Haganah were forced to leave the old city of Jerusalem, each group through a different gate. In 1967, the situation was entirely different: Tzahal, Israel Defense Forces, entered the old city of Jerusalem together, through only one gate. Tzahal did not only represent the persistence and willpower of the Jewish people but also their union. In the year 73 CE we were exiled from our land; in 1967 we returned to our capital, to Jerusalem, the city which represents the union of our people.

### "Oh Yerushalayim" – Uri Kostzer, Mazkirut Olamit Hanoar Hatzioni

Yerushalayim is the symbol of Am Israel, there is no doubt. But what exactly do we celebrate in Yom Yerushalayim? Some will claim we celebrate the reunification and sovereignty of Jerusalem after the Six Day War. But what else does this "reunification" mean? ... Yom Yerushalayim is a day of mixed feelings between what Jerusalem represents for our people and the current situation in 2018; between the ecstasy of the victory after the war and the heavy inheritance it left us. ... We must also delve into what it is today and what we aspire for it to be.

As chaverim of Hanoar Hatzioni, we must discuss the challenges that Jerusalem faces, in particular, and those of Medinat Israel, in general.

### "Yom Yerushalayim and the Canaism of an Idea" – Sergio Edelstein

A free and personal interpretation makes me relate the significance of the shichva of Canaim to the significance that Yerushalayim has for the Jewish people in the modern era. For many Jews, the creation of the State of Israel has the same historical importance as the creation of a new Temple. The liberation of the Western Wall and the reunification of Yerushalayim aim to fortify this feeling. ... This must lead us to develop critical thinking regarding these significances. We must ask ourselves the right questions, both regarding Yerushalayim, our education, our contents and what the city represents. And most importantly, we must learn in order to know how to provide the answers, whatever they may be, answers which derive from our worldview, from our set of values.



## ZMAN LE PEILUT

### HOW DO YOU CELEBRATE YOM YERUSHALAYIM IN YOUR KEN?

Take a picture and share it with the rest of the chaverim of Hanoar Hatzioni across the world

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR THE COMPLETE  
VERSIONS OF THE ARTICLE:

[www.hholamit.org.il](http://www.hholamit.org.il)

