

Original Prayer by Erica Brown, the Pittsburgh Jewish Federation.

Altered from the original prayer by Tom Sudow, the Federation of Jewish Men's Club

To be recited at the Seder before "In every generation they seek to destroy us... Bkhol dor va-dor omdim aleinu l'chalotenu"]

Take an extra piece of Matzah. Hold it up and break off a very small part of the upper right corner. Hold the large piece in one hand and the small piece in the other.

Read:

This small piece of Matzah represents the entirety of the Jewish people. Less than 3% of the world's population. Antisemitism is a growing threat against Jews on social media and in communities across the country. We must commit ourselves, along with our neighbors to do more. We must stand on guard and continue to educate our broader community to bring understanding about the Jewish community and the hurtfulness of antisemitism. We are a small part of the world's community and deserve to be able to live our lives in dignity and without fear.

To be read responsively:

In every generation, they seek to destroy us, but they have not destroyed us. This holy night is a "leil shimurim" – the night of God's watchfulness – "one of vigil for all Israelites throughout the ages" [Exodus 12:42]. O Lord, watch over us this night and all other nights.

Shield us from the forces of hate and evil that continue to hurt and imperil us without reason. Offer us the psalmist's enduring protection under your heavenly guise, "Behold, the Protector of Israel will neither sleep nor slumber" [Psalms 121:4].

On this Seder night, we remember our holy brothers and sisters who died in the name of baseless hatred in the United States, in Europe Israel and all across the globe. We stand with those who have experienced acts of anti-Semitism. We hug those who today are afraid. May we heighten our acts of kindness to honor their sacred memory and to support those who have experienced acts of hatred. "May only goodness and kindness pursue me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever" [Psalm 23:6)

Give us the strength to stay faithful to tradition and uphold the prophet's vision to be a "shomer emunim" [Isaiah 26:2], a guard of the covenant even in our darkest days. Give us the honesty to name and eradicate the hate in our hearts so that we may be worthy of this Passover night of greater love. And let us watch over each other with love and without judgment.

Let love and justice flow like a mighty stream. Let peace fill the earth as the waters fill the sea. And let us say: Amen.