



# Special Seder Night Prayer

## in Light of Israel's Refugee Issue



In each and every generation we must see ourselves.

...and remember: "You shall not wrong a stranger or oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" (Exodus 22:20).

At this moment, as we prepare to tell the story of the Exodus from Egypt and the crossing of the sea, let us remember those who walked "through the great and terrible wilderness with its *seraph* serpents and scorpions, a parched land with no water in it " (Deuteronomy 8:15), who walked upon dry land and came to our borders to tell the story of their own Exodus from Egypt:

*We have traversed so many deserts and seas;  
We have walked so long, our strength now flees!  
How did we go so far astray?  
Can we not yet put our travails away?*

On this Night of Watching, as we recline at the table with our family and friends as free men and women, let us resolve to observe the commandment "let everyone in need come and eat" on each and every day of the year, and to open our hearts in joy to fulfill the words of the poem:

*If a guest lands from across the sea at our door left ajar,  
What can we offer to the guest who comes here from afar?  
Sit down with us in this, our home with its shutters open wide ,  
Sit down with us as part of our household, not as one to be left aside..*

May we be wise enough on this festival of freedom to fulfill the commandment:

*Everyone can freely enter, greet a brother, meet a friend,  
Warmth and light for all on offer, peace and blessing without end*

Our God in Heaven and Earth, grant our leaders the wisdom, counsel, and understanding to grant protection and find a fitting place for all those seeking refuge and asylum. May they act wisely towards the strangers in the land, and may the quality of lovingkindness and mercy prevail in their hearts over the quality of judgment.

Bestow peace on the land; remove slaughter, famine, and disease from those created in Your image; and may they all find "peaceful homes, in secure dwellings, in untroubled places of rest" (Isaiah 32:18).

So may it be Your will and let us say 'Amen'