



“דעותנו”, במה לשיח חינוכי רעיוני  
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## Yom Hazikaron in Israel

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**Yom Hazikaron** is known as the Memorial Day for the Fallen Soldiers of Israel and Victims of Terrorism. I dare say that this, without a doubt, is one of the saddest memorial days in Israel. No matter the social, religious or political status of each citizen, on this day the Israeli society binds in a warm hug and a prolonged cry, making us feel as if we were the brothers, parents and families of each one of the fallen, even without having met them personally.

Sirens that, for one minute, paralyze the world, the streets, the roads, every passerby regardless of his destination. This minute of “eternal” silence allows us to remember those who fell in defense of our state, our homeland. No matter where it finds us, it grants us the possibility to pay tribute, remember and commit to act to ensure that these lives were not lost in vain.

During my military service in the IDF, I proudly participated in memorial ceremonies of Yom Hazikaron. I got to attend ceremonies for people that I did not know, whose names I had never heard before. Even so, surprisingly, during the few minutes of my presence in the ceremony, I felt them as if they were my family, my friends, my brothers. Looking to the sides, I realized that I was not the only one; this was the collective sensation. All the tears united into one cry because we were all a part of one big family.

Yom Hazikaron is the day when I feel the most Israeli. This day reminds me that despite all the differences and the difficulties, we are one people, and that, in times of adversity, difficulties and pain, we have the ability to put all of that aside to be strong and united for one another. I feel that this day, despite its emotional burden, is necessary for us at times; then, at the end of the day, we can realize who we truly are and what we are worth.

AM ISRAEL CHAI