

“We are called an eternal people because Jewish culture teaches us to look back to the past, to remember the main events of our history so as to know how to act in the present, and how to prepare for the future. If you do not know whence you have come, you cannot know and understand where you are going.”

-Yitzhak Shamir (1915-2012; Israeli Prime Minister 1983-1984, 1986-1992)

“My Heart Is in the East”
Yehuda Halevi

לְבִי בְּמִזְרַח וְאַנְכִי בְּסוֹף מַעֲרָב
אֵיךְ אֶטְעֶמָה אֶת אֲשֶׁר אֶכֶל וְאֵיךְ יַעֲרֹב
אֵיכָה אֲשַׁלֵּם נְדָרַי וְאַסְרֵי, בְּעוֹד
צִיּוֹן בְּחֶבֶל אֲדוֹם וְאֲנִי בְּכַבֵּל עֲרָב.

My heart is in the East, and I am at the end of the West;
How can I taste what I eat and how could it be pleasing to me?
How shall I render my vows and my bonds, while yet
Zion lies beneath the fetter of Edom, and I am in the chains of Arabia?

-Yehuda Halevi, Spanish Jewish physician, poet, and philosopher, c. 1075-1141