The Masorti Movement, represented by Noam, Marom, Mercaz and Masorti AMLAT want in this new anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem, that the spirit of our prophets again radiate desire for Peace and Justice.

“Jerusalem was never an easy city... a prisoner between the extremes of politics and religion. Not in vain, it is called G-d’s city, since it is a city that tries to diminish the men that live in it. My function is to transform it now into a city of human dimensions, a city that exists for its inhabitants, for all its inhabitants.” (Teddy Kolleck, mayor of the city of Jerusalem between 1965 and 1993)

This 28th of Iyyar we celebrate Yom Yerushalayim, in which we commemorate the reunification of Jerusalem in 1967. Nineteen years after the War of Independence (1948), Jerusalem was divided by walls and there was no opportunity to come close to the Holy Sites. The 26th of Iyyar of 5727 (1967) the Six Day War started between Israel and the Arab States of Jordan, Syria, Egypt.

The 28th of Iyyar of that year, a unit of paratroopers of the Israeli army reached, after harsh battles, to the Western Wall. In a close quarters fight, the Old City of Jerusalem was liberated, having been in Arab hands since 1948 under Jordanian control.

The Rabbi of the Israeli Army, Shelomo Goren, together with his soldiers blew the shofar as a historical sign of liberation.

The joy of returning to the streets of Jerusalem, this magical city with its allies, its buildings and its ruins carry such a rich history, which even in its smallness, it is big and full of life.

A city that at the same time shows us a different face: that of a prosperous modern metropolis, with its avenues, buildings, skyscrapers, hotels, malls, not unlike any other city in the world.

Jerusalem, a Holy City, revered for its holy places not only by us the Jews, but also by peoples of different creeds; a city where Jews live together with Christians, Muslims, Armenians, Druze, etc. In whose streets, secular and religious mix, influencing each other in their day-to-day conduct.

It is a mosaic of cultures and nationalities that flow from many countries and stories; of people whose identities and traditions remain discrete instead of fusing in a melting pot; of neighborhoods that reflect the customs and the lifestyles of their residents, who live and work together in a strange coexistence.

Jerusalem, a city where its stones are alive and speak to us; where its aromas make us travel back in time and around the world to countries where Jewish communities might have existed or continue to exist but who all come together there. Jerusalem: a land of judges and prophets, kings and priests, preachers, teachers and rabbis.

A longed for city, a city of dreams and longings, hope, integrity, fulfillment and peace. A city of Torah: “Because from Zion shall come forth Toah and the Word of G-d from Jerusalem.”

Jerusalem, the center of Jewish spiritual life, the place that held the most sacred place of our people: “The Great Temple” “Beit Hammikdash”. For which we have poured millions of tears, and to which we direct our prayers from all corners of the world.

As it is written in the book of Psalms: “By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion. If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning. Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth, if I remember thee not; if I set not Jerusalem above my chiefest joy.” (Psalm 137.1, 5-6).

Today Jerusalem is part of our State of Israel. May G-d allow that in this day “Yom Yerushalayim”, its light, its Torah shine forth and transform itself into this City of Peace, where people from every creed can live together in harmony, and that Peace may finally reach our Land of Israel and the entire world.

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