

Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks z"l

Yemin Orde, the Village Way Educational Initiatives, the Mechinas and our partners in Israel and abroad, mourn the passing of Lord Rabbi Jonathan Sacks.

Rabbi Sacks was a spiritual inspiration across the Jewish world, and beyond. His heritage will live on, embodying the best of Jewish values and wisdom.

We feel privileged indeed that our paths have crossed, and that this spiritual giant has given his blessing to our work and aspirations.

May His Soul be Bound in the Bundle of Life תהי נשמתו צרורה בצרור החיים

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Rabbi Sacks, excerpts from his Keynote Speech at the Inauguration of the Yemin Orde Mechina Leadership Academy, Hatzor.

"This Mechina. Why? Because of three absolutely fundamental Jewish values:

Number 1: Kdushat HaYachid. The holiness of the individual.

It is not difficult to sense G-d in His vast universe of a hundred billion galaxies of a hundred billion stars. But to look into the face of another human being and see in that face the trace of G-d, B'Tzalmo U'Dmuto, and to respond to that person as Nefesh Achat K'Olam Maleh – to make one person as important as the entire universe. That holy work.



Second: Jews understood what very few other civilizations in history did, that if you want to change the world – don't do it by force, by numbers, by power; do it by education. The Mesopotamians built Ziggurat. The Egyptians built pyramids. The Greeks built the Parthenon. The Romans built the Colosseum. Jews built schools. And that is how we change the world. And that is why Am Israel Chai – the Jewish People still live, young and strong.

And finally, while other cultures, nations, civilizations, often lived haunted and traumatized by their past, Jews, despite having a *very* traumatic past, always turned their face to the future. We are the only civilization whose golden age - Yemmot HaMashiach – is in the future.

And therefore, we place our greatest emphasis on the guardians and shapers of that future – our young people.



And that what this Mechina does. It takes young people, and lifts them. None higher than Dr. Chaim Peri. And those who lift others, are themselves lifted high.

Friends, I therefore give you the simple Bracha that Mosheh Rabeinu gave to the builders of his Mishkan: May come true for you, the builders of this Mechina,

יהי רצון שתשרה שכינה במעשה ידיכם

May G-d's presence live in all you do."