

# USHPIZIN INCANTATIONS

A SUKKOT SUPPLEMENT



**Ushpizin** is the custom of inviting in guests into your Sukkah. It is an Aramaic word and is interpreted widely to include known and unknown honored guests ranging from invoking ancestral forebearers and calling in **ger**. In Hebrew people have defined **ger** as stranger, other, foreigner, immigrant, sojourner, and refugee.

## FOR THOSE SEEKING REFUGE

### RECITE:

All who are uprooted and forced into exile- You are welcome.

All who seek justice and liberation and home- You are welcome.

Let us remember those seeking refuge from the war in Syria.

And let us name the Palestinian refugee camps in Syria --making people seek safety twice over.

Please say the name of the camps and note the establishment date and population census although now inaccurate because of displacement by war:

- Sbeineh (1948, 22,600)
- Khan Eshieh (1949, 20,000)
- Neirab (1948, 20,500)
- Homs (1948, 22,000)
- Jaramana camp (1948, 18,658)
- Deraa camp (1950, 10,000)
- Hama camp (1950, 8,000)
- Khan Dannun (1950, 10,000)
- Qabr Essie (1967, 23,700)
- Latakia Camp (1955-6, 10,000)
- Yarmouk (1957, 148,500)
- Ein Al-Tal (Handarat), (1962, 6,000)

## FOR THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE

It is also customary to invite in esteemed ancestors as **ushpizin/ ushpizot**. Each day has been designated to honor specific biblical ancestors.

Take this moment to call in and name which ancestors you are inviting in as honored guests. We are naming those who came before you whose life and life's work inspires you to keep agitating for justice. They can be anyone who you admire and want to honor: teachers, writers, activists, scholars, family members, etc. Who else are you inviting in?

## IN THE SPIRIT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

Some kabbalists interpret each day of welcoming guests with a different sefirah, a different value found in the Zohar. Last year, a community of JVP members reinterpreted these Sfirot:

**FIRST DAY:** Chesed—Compassion

We welcome honored guests in the spirit of compassion and loving-kindness.

**SECOND DAY:** Gevurah—Solidarity

We welcome honored guests in the name of solidarity with Palestinians and all refugees everywhere. (Not all Palestinians are refugees—we need to honor those who are sumud/steadfastly holding on to their traditional lands).

**THIRD DAY:** Tiferet—Intersectionality

We welcome honored guests in the pursuit of understanding how various oppressions and struggles are linked.

**FOURTH DAY:** Netzach—Endurance

We welcome honored guests who embody endurance and steadfastness and join you for the long haul.

**FIFTH DAY:** Hod—Gratitude

We welcome honored guests in the spirit of gratitude for who you are and what you bring.

**SIXTH DAY:** Yesod—Justice

We welcome honored guests in the name of the pursuit of Justice. Tsedek, Tsedek, Tirdof! Justice, Justice, We shall pursue!

**SEVENTH DAY:** Shechinah—Community

We welcome honored guests in the action of creating, building, growing and sustaining community based on liberation for everyone.