

I conclude by quoting one of the 20th century leading Jewish scholars and theologians, who deeply involved himself in interreligious dialogue,

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel:

"What then is the purpose of interreligious cooperation? It is neither to flatter nor to refute one another, but to help one another; to share insight and learning, to cooperate in academic ventures on the highest scholarly level, and what is more important to search in the wilderness for wellsprings of devotion, for treasures of stillness, for the power of love and care for man. What is urgently needed are ways of helping one another in the terrible predicament of here and now by the courage to believe that the word of God endures for ever as well as here and now; to cooperate in trying to bring about a resurrection of sensitivity, a revival of conscience; to keep alive the divine sparks of our souls, to nurture openness to the spirit of the Psalms, reverence for the words of the prophets, and faithfulness to the Living God.

I offer a Jewish prayer of gratitude:

Praised are You, Yah our God, Sovereign of the universe, who gave us life, who has sustained us and who has helped us to reach this moment.

- Religion has been a vehicle for connection with the transcendent, with the Holy One and with angels.
- Religion has been a source of values: justice, righteousness, peace, truth, compassion, generosity.
- Religion has promoted human dignity and freedom.
- Religion has provided stability in a changing, often confusing world.