



“BEING A JEW IS SHOWING GRATITUDE”

BY RABBI DOVID COHN

The Mishna in Ovos [3:2] tells us to pray for the welfare of the Kingdom, both Jewish and non- Jewish [Rashi], because if people did not fear it, there would be total anarchy in the world. In accordance with this Mishna, we say a prayer for the welfare of Her Majesty the Queen and the Royal Family every Shabbos and Yom Tov before Mussaf. Rabbenu Yona says that from here we can learn that one should pray for the welfare of the whole world and empathise with the pain of others, and that this is the way righteous people behave. Rabbenu Yona continues to say that it is incorrect to Daven merely for one's own personal needs. Rather one should Daven for all of mankind that they should live in tranquillity. When there is Law and Order in the country, each individual benefits.

An additional reason to recite the Prayer for the Queen and the Royal Family, and particularly in the week of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, is out of gratitude to the Monarchy and the British Nation from whose hospitality we benefit,

My grandfather, Dayan Grunfeld ztl, spoke in 1952 at the Memorial Service for the late King George VI. He paid tribute to the late King for opening the shores of the country to an endless stream of Jewish refugees and extended his sympathy to the Jewish population in the East End who suffered greatly from the air-raids during the Second World War. Dayan Grunfeld ended his address by blessing the new Queen Elizabeth that Hashem should give her strength and wisdom to emulate the example of her illustrious father.

Now, sixty years on, we can attest to the Queens continued kindness and concern towards the Jewish population amongst all her citizens in the country.

We must show our gratitude for the “Malchus Shel Chessed”, not only in our Tefillos, but also through endeavouring to make a Kiddush Hashem by conducting ourselves in an honest and law abiding manner in all our dealings at all times.

Droscha given by Rabbi Cohn in his Shul, the North Hendon Adath Yisroel Synagogue, on Shabbos Parshas Noso, at the start of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

EXTRACT FROM THE BIOGRAPHY ON DAYAN GRUNFELD BY DR ANNE COHN

(the mother of Rabbi Cohn and the daughter of Dayan Grunfeld)

“In 1952 when King George VI died, the Dayan, mainly because of his loyal monarchical sentiments and eloquent English diction, was asked to give the Royal Eulogy at Westminster Abbey. As he was a Cohen, he could not enter the Abbey where many famed personalities are buried. He was granted permission to deliver his masterpiece in memory of the deceased father of the present Queen Elizabeth in the Palace of Westminster instead. His description of the nobility of the late monarch as compared with the ideal of the duties and responsibilities of Kingship as envisaged in the Torah remains a most unique piece of historical oratory to this day”.