

To the Editor:

Many Jewish leaders today reflect a ghetto mentality that exposes the sorry state of Israel and Jewish affairs. They're starved for this world's affection, afraid to be different, and too willing to sacrifice our unique identity. History condemns such *kapos* of compromise who would rather sell out than take an unpopular stand!

Whereas it's not politically correct, goes against our democratic grain, and could result in a backlash - Hanukkah represents those who are willing to risk the wrath of others to insure the triumph of good over evil, of light over darkness, and right over wrong.

In this particular case, the light of what's good and right was the brilliant example of those faithful Jews who held their head high - sick and tired of being beaten down - and publicly chose to reject alien ideas and destroy imposed idols.

The Maccabees weren't overly concerned with a suicidal fear of world opinion, but mightily expressed their faith in God. They didn't flirt with foreign affairs or engage in self-destructive interfaith orgies. They kept the faith and *cleansed the Temple Mount* of its spiritual filth.

World Jewry continues to celebrate Hanukkah to this day, but in the spirit of hypocrisy! It's easier to simply eat traditional foods than to repeat heroic feats. Nevertheless, Israel must remove the "beautiful abominations" that occupy our most holy site. We must clear the way for a House of Prayer for all nations. Presently we're more like the cowering Hellenists who assimilated than the courageous Maccabees!

The Temple Mount is not "in our hands" because it's not in our hearts and minds. However, there are a growing number in Israel who want to see Jerusalem *restored* as our spiritual center, and our lives rededicated to Biblical ideals, not humanist ideas. Pray for Jerusalem's peace and the rekindling of Israel's light!

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