God's Throne Is Covered with Hostage Stickers

An Excerpt from the Upcoming Oral History of the Oct 7th Hostage Sticker Campaign

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At a vigil for the six murdured hostages a woman shared with me: "I dreamt I was moving through the heavens one layer to the next and saw all the prayers of the Jews delivered upward."



- In Enchanted Jewish ages, some special few return from heavenly journeys. They are called Yordei Merkavahdescenders of the Chariot. They speak of angels,
 - and of God's throne.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO



COLLECTIVE

In ancient Babylon, Ezekiel saw the chariot. In later centuries, Kabbalists and Hasidim rose in dreams, returned with messages. Now, this woman had dreamed it, too.







In our catastropheridden

post-October 7th era, it makes sense to me that someone so close to the faces of the hostages would dream of the divine palace.







After all, The Midrash says: When the Jewish people put on tefillinso does God. It makes sense that this woman saw God's throne. The heavens reflect life as we live it.



Our activist circle makes stickers.

We put them up, religiously. Thousands. Their faces and stories are stuck to us.



When we learned that six hostages had been murdered including Hersh we were destroyed. We had put up his face a hundred times over. It wasn't enough to save him.

We Remember

Hersch Goldberg Polin May his Memory be a Revolution

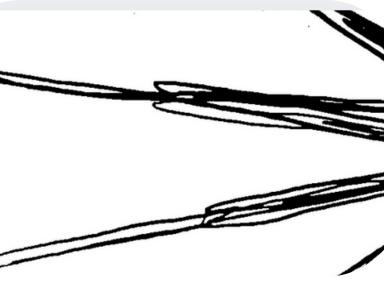
We sat in Central Park, a few of us, four women, two men, two dogs. Floating candles. Flashlights. **Telling stories** of the six murdered hostages. Trying to mourn. Trying to understand.

We said Kel Maleh Rachamim. We laid down stickers of their faces in a line on the picnic table. ַרְחַמִים שׁוֹכֵן בַּמְרוֹמִים, הַמְצֵא מְנוּחָה נְכוֹנָה עַל כַּנְפֵי הַשְׁכִינָה בְּמַעֲלוֹת קְדוֹשִׁים וּטְהוֹרִים כְּזוֹהַר הָרָקִיעַ מַזְהִירִים אֶת נִשְׁמַת אורי כך אלחכך

אל מַלֵא

שֶׁהְלַךְ לְעוֹלְמוֹ בְּגַן עֵדֶן תְּהֵא מְנוּחָתוֹ. אָנָּא בַּעַל הָרַחֲמִים יַסְתִּירֵהוּ בְּסֵתֶר כְּנָפְיו לְעוֹלְמִים, וְיִצְרוֹר בִּצְרוֹר הַחַיִּים אֶת נִשְׁמְתוֹ. יְיָ הוּא נַחֲלָתוֹ, וְיָנוּחַ עַל מִשְׁכָּבוֹ בְּשָׁלוֹם. וְנֹאמַר אָמֵן

Afterward, we let the dogs run. One woman, responsible for half the stickers on the Upper West Side, turned to me: "I had a dream. You'd have thought I was crazy."

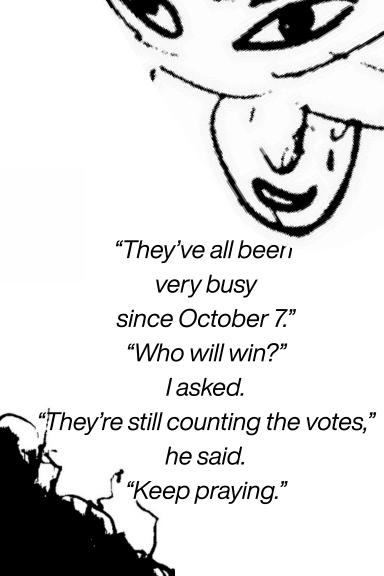


"I moved through the heavens. I saw bundles of light prayers—wrapped like gifts. They floated upward through the darkness."

"There were also dark prayers. But angels reached out, snatched them, ripped them up, and threw them back into the dark."



"I asked an angel: Where are the babies killed in the Shoah? Shouldn't they protect us?" "They do," the angel said. They plead every day."





Then one angel told me: "Don't worry. God's Throne is covered with

Hostage Posters."



AND I SAW IT— **GOD'S THRONE. RED. WHITE.** BLACK. COVERED IN PAIN. COVERED IN STICKERS. COVERED IN US.

I thanked her for her story and I've been haunted ever since by the image of the Throne covered in stickers.

As the two years since October 7th nears, we mourn. We put up stickers, we act with our hands and hearts. They enter our dreams. And still, We keep going.

neA iletteN Image by ELisha Fine An essay by 1 Ê.