

# Humanistic Mezuzah Scroll

## Why Might Secular Jews Hang a Mezuzah?

Placing a Jewish symbol on your doorpost need not be considered only a religious ritual. Secular and Humanistic Jews may hang mezuzot as a cultural expression, a show of pride, perhaps even a statement of minority identity.

## Why These Words?

While some may feel the only way to maintain continuity is by not changing the traditional text even if they don't believe the actual words, Secular Humanistic Jews "say what we mean and mean what we say," thus the humanistic liturgy offered here — but if you prefer something different, we encourage you to write your own!

Jewish meaning is achievable through rituals like this one, even for those of us free from religious doctrine.

The text on the scroll is as follows:

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל נִטּוֹל אֶת חֶלְקֵנוּ בְּתִקּוּן עוֹלָם  
בְּרוּךְ כְּבוֹד הָאָדָם לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד

*Sh'ma Yisra'el nitol et chelkeinu b'tikkun olam.  
Baruch k'vod ha-adam l'olam va-ed.*

Hear O Israel, let us take up our share in repairing the world.  
Blessed is the dignity of humanity, forever and ever.

*Rabbi Jeffrey Falick of The Birmingham Temple  
Congregation for Humanistic Judaism (Farmington Hills, MI)*

Therefore, we shall strive to love all of life  
With all our heart, with all our wisdom,  
And with all our strength.  
These words we inscribe in our innermost heart.  
We shall aspire to practice them day and night.  
We shall teach them diligently to our children  
Through our words and deeds.  
To connect them to our history,  
We shall tell them of ancient days,  
Of doorpost signs, phylacteries:  
Our forbearers' ways for remembering, treasuring  
Torah's words.

*Adapted from Kol Shalom Community for Humanistic Judaism (Portland, OR)*

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Shalom – Peace – שלום

Learn more about Secular Humanistic  
Judaism at [www.SHJ.org](http://www.SHJ.org)

Sh'ma reinterpreted by Rabbi Jeffrey Falick of The Birmingham Temple  
Congregation for Humanistic Judaism (Farmington Hills, MI). V'havta  
based on a version by Kol Shalom Community for Humanistic Judaism  
(Portland, OR).