

"The Lord shall reign forever, Your God, O Zion, from generation to generation, Hallelujah" Psalms 146:10

The phrase “ L’dor v’dor” can be found in sacred texts, prayers, blessings, songs and even spiritual art. Its meaning, however, always remains the same: “generation to generation”. But what does “generation to generation” mean?

The phrase is at times used in a secular sense, such as in the name of a business. There are synagogues named L’dor v’dor as well as Hebrew school lessons, reminiscences and memoirs, projects, blogs and clothing. But spiritually what does l’dor v’dor mean and where does it come from? And how does it relate to Atid – future?

Sacred texts have many references to l’dor v’dor. One of the places this phrase is found is in one of our most central prayers, the Amidah:(תפילת העמידה, "The Standing Prayer"). L’dor v’dor is found in the third section of the Amidah, which is the Kedushah, which mean “holiness”. This section of the Amidah speaks to the holiness and glory of G-d. L’dor v’dor is in the last verse of the section:

יְמֻלְךָ ה' לְעוֹלָם. אֱלֹהֵינוּ צִיּוֹן לְדוֹר וָדוֹר. הַלְלוּיָהּ.

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This is a powerful verse because it declares that God will reign forever. In addition, we are commanded to look to the future – atid (אָתִיד) – by passing this declaration “from generation to generation”. Jews have been doing this for over five thousand years.

Today, we personally are the link between the past generations and the future generations, as our foremothers were in are their generations. They kept the flame of the Jewish religion and traditions alive for us, so we too must become educated in both the Jewish religion and traditions in order to pass the flame to our children, the next generation.

- 1) L’dor v’dor is how we work towards the future. How else can we work for the future?
- 2) What does l’dor v’dor and atid mean to you spiritually? Personally?
- 3) How can you apply l’dor v’dor and atid to Sisterhood projects?

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