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Dayenu: Supporting the Long Journey from Disaster to Recovery

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As we gather around the *seder* table, we recount our journey from slavery to freedom. We recognize that our people's liberation was not achieved in the single moment of the Exodus, but that it happened gradually over 40 years in the desert and continues to unfold for each of us personally today.

As we sing *Dayenu*, we recall our redemption from Egypt, the splitting of the sea, the care with which God sustained us in the wilderness, and ultimately, the giving of the Torah and our arrival in the land of Israel. And although we express gratitude for each moment—*it would have been enough*—we know that, in fact, *all* were necessary. Had the journey ended with the leaving of Egypt, we would not be free people today.

This message resonates with us as we witness the cataclysmic disasters and wars that cause contemporary upheaval and exodus around the world. Let us stand with people in places like Haiti as they depart their own Egypts; as they contend with obstacles as formidable as the raging sea; and as they find the strength to persevere through the myriad challenges that lie ahead.

Let us draw from the example of *Dayenu* and reach out our hands to support these communities through every step to recovery:

If the world responds only to the cries of the wounded, but does not stay to help them heal...

It will not be enough.

If we empower our brothers and sisters to rise out of the rubble, but desert them when it's time to rebuild...

It will not be enough.

If our generosity supports the needs of today, but forsakes the needs of tomorrow...

It will not be enough.

However, if we sustain our support until stability, peace and independence have been attained...

Dayenu! Then it will be enough.

Tonight we sing, "Next year in Jerusalem," signaling that our own journey has not yet concluded. Just as we look to the future, so too do those around the world who are living in the shadow of disaster and oppression. May the ongoing nature of our own story remind us of the continuing need to help others in their struggle to attain true freedom.