



The  
Survivor  
Mitzvah  
Project

## *The Loneliness of Surviving*

Survivors whose families were murdered by the Nazis have been forced to go through life alone, without one person they once loved or who once loved them. They live in a constant state of mourning; for those they lost, and for their own lives – for what “should have been.”

Marat Benyaminovich is 85 years old. His beloved wife of 60 years, Sonia, passed away just months ago. He survived the Holocaust as a child, but his large, loving family was brutally killed by Nazi death squads. Marat and his mother were the only two who survived.



**Marat Benyaminovich**

He wrote this poem about what it feels like to be completely alone:

**I have been left in loneliness.  
Depression ties me down with chains of steel.  
I don't know where to go to find a cozy shelter.  
I don't complain, it is just my fate.**

**The silence of old age is brutal.  
Twilight's eternal gloom is an impenetrable wall.  
No hope for even one ray of sun to shine through.**

**I start crying - the cry echoes within me.  
I look out the window.  
The blood moon hangs in the clouds. A copper disk.  
A star shines near the moon.  
Its glow is cold. It freezes my soul.**

**I light a candle. The flame hops like a devil on a frying-pan.**

**I have been left in loneliness.  
The silence of old age is brutal.  
All that is wonderful under the skies is beyond my reach.**

Your generous help has changed Marat's life for the better.

He now receives the care he needs.

And knowing there are complete strangers a world away who care about him has brought him back to life.

Here is his New Year's wish for you:

*"From the bottom of my heart, I wish all the people who help me a Happy Jewish New Year! My wish for you and everyone is that you stay optimistic, healthy, and overcome all the misfortunes the world is now experiencing. Thank you so much for finding the time and opportunity to help others during such difficult times. Thanks to you, a caregiver helps me 5 times a week. She cooks and cleans the house. The rest of the time I am alone. But you have become like my closest and nearest family members. As always, I send this with love and appreciation to you for everything you do."- Marat*

Your donations bring financial aid for food, medicine heat, shelter, and other lifesaving emergencies.

But it is the familial connection he shares with all of you that lets Marat Benyaminovich and other Survivors of the Holocaust know they are no longer alone.

For the survivors in our care, we are their family, a family of strangers.

Please give generously during these difficult times. Let them know we care.

Please make checks payable to "The Survivor Mitzvah Project"

### **The Survivor Mitzvah Project**

2658 Griffith Park Blvd. #299

Los Angeles, CA 90039

**100% of all donations go directly into the hands of Holocaust Survivors in need.**

**\*\$150 supports a survivor for one month • \$1800 supports a survivor for one year.**

**Donations in any amount save lives.**

*The Survivor Mitzvah Project is a 501c3 non-profit public charity.*

*All donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.*

[www.survivormitzvah.org](http://www.survivormitzvah.org)