

A Farewell Letter Written by Cilli Dzialowski of the Netherlands to Her Children

With the aid of a Dutch woman, Cilli Dzialowski of Holland sent this farewell letter to her four children, who resided in England during the war. Her son Hy survived in a hideout in Holland. The letter was transmitted to Yad Vashem by one of Cilli's daughters, Mrs. Jakobovitz, who now lives in Canada.

Enschede,
Holland
1 April 1943

Beloved, precious children,

In these final moments, before I join your dearest father, and will, like him, lose my freedom, there is an urgent compulsion within me to tell you the following.

You are in our thoughts by day and night; our love for you makes our life even under these present difficult circumstances worth living; we long for the moment when we shall once more be able to embrace you with outstretched arms – you, our most precious possessions – and we have faith in the future, that this supreme joy will be granted us.

'Beloved Sparrows' – I must call you this once more, as I used to do when you were still very young – should circumstances alter course for us and we, according to the will of the Almighty, not meet again, I beg each one of you with all my heart to lead honest and straightforward lives always, and to support one another whenever necessary. Your young and only sister will receive your utmost thoughtfulness and love. And Hy, your eldest brother, who has missed you no less than ourselves all these years and who has suffered greatly through agony and fear, must also be close to your hearts. Unfortunately, uprooted as we have been here in Holland, we were never able to give him the secure parental home atmosphere for which he longed so much. Many times the longing for you and the desire to be reunited with you

were so overpowering and strong in us, as well as in him that we feared we could bear it no longer.

I know what a treasure we have in you, my beloved ones, and that you are committed and firm and of strong character, that – *Baruch Hashem* – you are all blessed with that essence of personality which makes you liked by your fellow men and will surely find favour in the eyes of the Creator. This knowledge brings me consolation. Never deviate from the path of God-fearing behavior and always be guided by the example of your beloved father. Our constant thoughts of you have accompanied you so far on your road through life, and our blessings will never leave you!

This letter will reach you through the efforts of a fine Dutch lady who was always wonderful to us and constantly gave us courage for the future, which we accepted gratefully.

My Precious Children – I bless each of you from a distance with the traditional blessing, also in Daddy's name: 'May you be happy and successful in life; cling one to the other; and never stray even one step from the path, from the precepts of our *Torah*.'

I embrace and kiss you and now feel truly united with you,

Always yours,
Mummy

Source: Yehudit Kleinman and Reuven Dafni (Eds.), *Final Letters from the Yad Vashem Archives*, Weidenfeld and Nicolson, London 1991, pp. 96-97.