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I have spent the good part of the last six months obsessed with the 20th Anniversary of the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin. I preached about him at the High Holidays, taught a month of Lunch and Learn on Rabin, made sure the anniversary was marked at the URJ

Biennial which coincided with the secular date of his death and spent many waking hours reading, watching, reflecting and writing on my hero and his life and legacy. While Israel marks the 20th anniversary of Rabin's assassination this year, there has been controversy because timed with the anniversary are the release of two documentaries on Rabin's killer, Yigal Amir. And in the past year, I have twice touched the gun that killed Rabin on visits to the national archives where it is kept with bullets specially designed to enter and maim someone's insides.

I am thinking beyond the sad events of that horrible day to what the man would want us to learn from his life as we mark his death in the midst of a very polarized Jewish world. I do not want to focus on the killer. I do not want to focus on the gun. I want to focus on what we can learn from the man with the perspective of this 20th anniversary. Rabbi David Hartman z"l, my teacher, used to say, "They trained me at Yeshiva University so that I would be able to answer people's [religious] questions, and I went to my first congregation in the Bronx teeming with excitement, armed with answers. I waited and waited, only to discover that no one had any questions. And then I realized that the task of the rabbi is to help people ask questions, not provide answers." What questions do we ask on this 20th anniversary of *Retzach Rabin* as it is known in Hebrew? And what do we do with those answers? I worry that as time passes, we will lose our connection to the man and his life and how it can inspire us. I worry that like on the 21st anniversary of JFK's passing, when there was no marking

of the event in Dealy Plaza in Dallas, for the first time since the shooting, we will forget to remember. But I have learned an important lesson in all this. That the pulpit is a powerful place to use so the Jewish world will not forget to remember. That rabbis, who spend all day and night thinking about Jewish things and the Jewish world, have the power to take the events that are significant to Jewish history and gently and thoughtfully point our fingers to that which is important, often with the result that our congregants turn their heads and look at something we have highlighted, something that is significant to the Jewish world and can be significant to them. Hanukkah this year begins right after the 30 days after the secular anniversary of his assassination date, as if a sheloshim has ended. I hope that with that Festival of Lights that comes during the darkest days of the year, we can use the light of Rabin's light and legacy to guide us to hope and peace. And to inspire the Jewish world to ask the question, "If not now, when?"