



“I am a Jew”  
by Edmond Fleg (1927)

“I am a Jew because my faith demands of me no abdication of the mind.

I am a Jew because my faith requires of me all the devotion of my heart.

I am a Jew because in every place where suffering weeps, I weep.

I am a Jew because at every time when despair cries out, I hope.

I am a Jew because the word of the people Israel is the oldest and the newest.

I am a Jew because the promise of Israel is the universal promise.

I am a Jew because, for Israel, the world is not completed; we are completing it.

I am a Jew because, for Israel, humanity is not created; we are creating it.

I am a Jew because Israel places humanity and its unity, above the nations and above Israel itself.

I am a Jew because in every age when the cry of despair is heard, the Jew hopes.”

Edmond Fleg, who lived between 1874-1963, was a Jewish French writer, thinker, and playwright. During WWI, he joined the French Foreign Legion, to fight for his adopted country. He was later honored for his military service. From 1904 to 1920, he was a successful playwright. His work was influenced by the Dreyfus Affair, in particular, and by world events that captured the attention of a Jewish world in transition, and by the tragic deaths of both his sons, who were killed fighting for France in WWII. After a life of devotion to his adopted country and the distress he observed in the Jewish world, he sought and found meaning in what was always true about him as a Jewish man.