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Professor Elie Wiesel  
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Dear Professor Wiesel:

Please forgive me for taking a few minutes of your precious time.

I have read some of your writings, including your inimitable and moving Memoirs, and I have become one of your far-flung foreign admirers.

I am from Madras, India, and am here teaching and researching on India's and the world's population problems. I did not know anything about the Jews or Israel for I did not know a single Jewish person until I arrived in New York City as a graduate student at Columbia University in 1941. It was then that I discovered a new Jewish world, both in the International House where I had a room, and at Columbia and the city itself. India, because of her large Muslim minority population, has not taken any interest in the Jewish question or the Middle East problem. And though India recognized Israel in 1950, there was only an Israeli Consul at Bombay and no Indian representative at Jerusalem. But in 1992 India and Israel exchanged ambassadors and they have begun to learn about each other's problems.

But there is a wide gap in our knowledge of each other. Some Indians and many abroad (unless they are students of the Jewish diaspora) do not even know that we had three small Jewish communities in India. India, I am happy to say, had never indulged in anti-semitism. As you have travelled in India as a research scholar, I need not say much about this.

I have brought together diverse essays from American and Indian and Israeli scholars into a study entitled From India to Israel. I shall be very grateful if you can find it possible to write a brief paragraph or two for the book as a Foreword.

This is the first introduction to the Bene Israel, Cochin and Baghdadi Jews of India, who were in the country for a long time and who are now settled in Israel, fulfilling their long dream to go to Jerusalem.

I do realize how busy you are; judging from your literary and theological output your time, to quote Gandhi's words, "must be premortgaged."

I shall be deeply grateful for a line in reply. I have a set of proofs which I can send you. I would be happy to come to Boston should you desire to see me even for a few minutes.

With warm regards,

Sincerely yours, *S. Chandrasekhar*  
Professor S. Chandrasekhar