

## **Holy Candle Too**

by [Israel Zoberman](#) in the [February 2023](#) issue

My great-grandmother, Rebbetzin Dena  
Of Zamosc, Poland,  
Direct descendant of Sephardic Jews,  
Inquisition survivors,  
Freely offered the town's poor on Fridays  
Candles from her family's factory  
To brighten their gloomy lot:  
"Dear Jews, let us kindle Shabbat lights  
That joy may dwell in the entire world."

In the Belzec death camp  
She had only the candle of her life to give,  
Extinguished by those  
Imprisoned in a hellish pit  
Of demonic hate forged  
In the darkness of the human heart.

Will a saving gift of love, even  
one candle's enduring light,  
ever penetrate?