

Honorable President of the United States,
Your Majesty, King Hussein,
Honored Guests,

Shalom,

They say that the ancient custom of shaking hands developed out of the need to prove that neither person was holding a weapon. The first public handshake between the King and myself, a minute or two ago, symbolizes much more than that; two peoples will no longer take up arms against one another.

Honorable Mr. President, Your Majesty the King.

What is actually transpiring here? Hundreds of millions of people around the world shake hands many times each day. It is perhaps the most routine action, done almost automatically, without thinking and it is actually the greeting of "Peace" that unites almost all of the peoples of the world.

And here the handshake, and the excitement, and dozens of photographers, and live broadcasts to all corners of the globe. I share this excitement and know that at this moment in Jerusalem and Amman, perhaps all over the Middle East, a new era is dawning.

What do I wish you, Your Majesty? That there will be another day of excitement, and another. And that finally no one will photograph our handshake and no one will get excited by it and that it will have become part of the routine of our lives, a custom among all people, the behaviour of every human being.

And meanwhile, Your Majesty, the entire State of Israel is shaking your hand.

Thank you.