

Service for Erev Rosh Hashanah

וּבְשׁוֹפָר גָּדוֹל יִתְקַע, וְקוֹל דְּמִמָּה דַקָּה יִשְׁמַע.
“Sound the great shofar and listen to the still small voice of conscience.”

In the twilight of the vanishing year we turn to You, as our parents have done before us in their generation. We come into Your presence together with all other holy congregations of Your people, for You purify Israel from year to year. Cleanse us from our sins and renew our being. As the sound of the shofar echoes within us, may it awaken our longing for goodness and for new life in our souls.

Give us courage to be honest with ourselves. Give us the strength to end old quarrels. Make us brave enough to approach You without excuses and humble enough to receive forgiveness. The new moon of Tishri appears in the sky, the sign of our renewal.

With gratitude we bless Your name, O God, for bringing us to such a time.

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With the sinking of the sun, nature’s gift of light and warmth disappears. At the same time, we light our (Shabbat and) Yom Tov candles, offering spiritual enlightenment and emotional warmth to a world grown cold and dark. May these candles shed their light and warmth upon us and the whole family of Israel.

May the New Year be for us a year of Torah and mitzvot; of simcha and shalom; of mishpacha and kehillah, family and community. May it be a Shanah Tovah.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ
לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל [שַׁבָּת וְשֶׁל] יוֹם טוֹב.

Ba-ruch A-tah Adonai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech Ha-o-lam a-she-ri ki-d'sha-nu
b'mitz-vo-tav v'tzi-va-nu l'had-lik neir shel (Shabbat v'shel) Yom Tov.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of space and time, Who sanctifies us through mitzvot, and commands us to kindle lights for (Shabbat and) our Holy Day.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
שֶׁהָיִינוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעַנוּ לְזֶמַן הַזֶּה.

Ba-ruch A-tah Adonai, E-lo-hei-nu, Me-lech ha-o-lam,
sheh-he-che-yanu, v'-ki-y'-ma-nu, v'-hi-gi-a-nu laz-man ha-zeh.

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, Guide of the universe, for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this season.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְרִי הַגֶּפֶן. בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ
מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר בָּחַר בָּנוּ מִכָּל עַם וְרוֹמַמְנוּ מִכָּל לְשׁוֹן, וְקִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו. וְתַתֵּן לָנוּ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ בְּאַהֲבָה אֶת יוֹם (הַשַּׁבָּת הַזֶּה וְאֶת יוֹם)
הַזְכָּרוֹן הַזֶּה, יוֹם תְּרוּעָה, מִקְרָא קֹדֶשׁ, זְכוֹר לִיצִיאַת מִצְרָיִם: כִּי בָנוּ בְּחַרְתָּ,
וְאוֹתָנוּ קִדְּשָׁתָּ מִכָּל הָעַמִּים, וְדָבַרְךָ אֱמֶת וְקִיָּם לְעַד. בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי מֶלֶךְ
עַל כָּל הָאָרֶץ, מִקְדָּשׁ (הַשַּׁבָּת וְ) יִשְׂרָאֵל וְיוֹם הַזְכָּרוֹן.

Ba-ruch A-tah Adonai, E-lo-hei-nu, Me-lech ha-o-lam, bo-rei p'ri
ha-ga-fen. Ba-ruch A-tah Adonai, E-lo-hei-nu, Me-lech ha-olam,
a-sheer ba-char ba-nu mi-kol am, v'rom'ma-nu mi-kol la-shon,
v'ki-d'sha-nu b'mitz-vo-tav. Va-ti-tein la-nu Adonai, E-lo-hei-nu
b'a-ha-va et yom (ha-Shabbat ha-zeh v'et Yom) ha-Zi-ka-ron ha-zeh,
Yom T'ru-ah, mik-ra ko-desh, zai-cher li-tzi-at Mitz-ra-yim. Ki va-nu
va-char-ta v'o-ta-nu ki-dash-ta mi kol ha'a-mim. U'd'var-cha e-met
v'ka-yam la'ad. Ba-ruch A-tah Adonai, Me-lech al kol ha'a-retz,
m'ka-deish (ha-Shabbat v') Yisraeil v'Yom ha-Zi-ka-ron.

On this Rosh Hashanah, which is a reminder of creation, we thank You, God, for the world which You have created. You have filled Your world with beauty for our eyes; with music and laughter for our ears; with soft things for us to touch; with fragrances for us to smell; with fine foods to sustain us and to bring us delight.

As we enjoy the many blessings which You have so bountifully granted, may we, too, bring goodness into the lives of others. As we recall Your blessings, may we be moved to thank You always, as we do now, for the fruit of the vine which You have created, and for (Shabbat and) this Yom Tov, which You have sanctified.

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There is a world of difference between a holiday and a holy day.
On holidays we run away from duties.

On holy days we face up to them.

On holidays we seek to let ourselves go.

On holy days we try to bring ourselves under control.

On holidays we take a break from making a living.

On holy days we work on making a good life.

On holidays we try to empty our minds.

On holy days we attempt to replenish our spirits.

On holidays we reach out for things we want.

On holy days we reach up for things we need.

Holidays bring a change of scene.

Holy days bring a change of heart.

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God, our soul's companion, our heart's precious Friend, we turn to You. We need to close out the noise, to rise above the noise that interrupts and separates, the noise that isolates. We need to hear You again.

In the silence of our innermost beings, in the fragments of our yearned-for wholeness, we hear whispers of Your presence - echoes of the past when You were with our ancestors. We yearn to hear You now; to find healing in the promise of Your love, to be soothed in Your wholeness, to become whole again.

Please listen to our call. Help us find the words; help us find the strength within. Teach us to shape our mouths, our voices, and our hearts, so that we can direct our spirits and find You in prayer; in words only our hearts can speak, in songs only our souls can sing; lifting our eyes and hearts to You.

If you're lost, you feel afraid, and you don't know what to say, then listen, listen to our God. Is there a question on your mind? Is the answer hard to find? Then listen, listen to our God.

Listen with all your heart and soul, and with all your might; write them and learn them and teach them well. Every morning and night; close your eyes and listen.

Quiet yourself; there's nothing to say, stop all the chatter that gets in the way, and listen, listen to our God.

When the wind and the thunder finally disappear, there's still a voice that you can hear, if you listen, listen to our God.

You can hear it from the top of the highest hill, or from the valley below. It can come from the edge of the universe; it can come from within your soul. Close your eyes and listen.

שמע ישראל: יהוה אלהינו, יהוה אחד!

Sh'ma Yisrael: Adonai E-lo-hei-nu, Adonai e-chad!

Hear, O Israel: the Eternal One is our God, the Eternal God alone!

ברוך שם כבוד מלכותו לעולם ועד!

Ba-ruch shem k'-vod mal'chu-to l'o-lam va-ed!

Praised be God's Sovereignty through all time.

ואהבת את יי אלהיך, בכל לבבך ובכל נפשך, ובכל מאדך. והיו הדברים האלה, אשר אנכי מצוך היום, על לבבך. ושונתם לבניך, ודברת בם בשבתך בביתך, ובלכתך בדרך ובשכבך, ובקומך. וקשרתם לאות על ירך, והיו לטטפת בין עיניך. וכתבתם על מזוזות ביתך ובשעריך: למען תזכרו ועשיתם את-כל מצותי, והייתם קדשים לאלהיכם. אני יי אלהיכם, אשר הוצאתי אתכם מארץ מצרים, להיות לכם לאלהים. אני יי אלהיכם

V'a-hav-ta eit Adonai E-lo-he-cha, b'chol l'va-v'cha u-v'chol naf-sh'cha,
u-v'chol m'o-de-cha. V'ha-yu ha-d'va-rim ha-ei-leh, a-sher A-no-chi
m'tza-v'cha ha-yom, al l'va-ve-cha. V'shi-nan-tam l'-va-ne-cha, v'di-bar-ta
bam b'shiv-t'cha b'vei-te-cha, uv-lech-t'cha va-de-rech, u-v'shoch-b'cha
uv-ku-me-cha. Uk-shar-tam l'ot al ya-de-cha, v'ha-yu l'to-ta-fot bein
ei-ne-cha. Uch-tav-tam, al m'zu-zot bei-te-cha u-vish-a-re-cha. L'ma-an
tiz-k'ru, va-a-si-tem et kol mitz-vo-tai vi-h'yi-tem K'do-shim lei-lo-hei-chem.
A-ni Adonai E-lo-hei-chem, a-sher ho-tzei-ti et-chem mei-e-retz Mitz-ra-yim
li-h'yot la-chem lei-lo-him. A-ni Adonai E-lo-hei-chem.

And you shall love the Eternal your God
with every desire of your heart;
with everything precious in your life;
with every sad and joyous measure you receive.
Let these words of the Shema
which I am commanding you this moment
envelop your heart.
Teach them tirelessly to your children; to everyone you touch.
Use them in your speech,
whether you sit inside your house, or walk publicly upon the way.
Say them at night before you sleep and when you arise.
Bind them in a sign upon your arm,
and let them be noticeable between your eyes.
Write them in a mezuzah on the doorpost of your house and on your gates.
Then you will remember and do all of My commandments.
You will set yourselves apart.
I am Adonai, your God,
who brought you out of bondage to be your God.
I am Adonai, your God.

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To everything there is a season,
and there is an appointed time for every purpose under heaven.

Now is the time for turning.

It takes an act of will for us to make a turn.

*It means breaking with old habits.
It means admitting that we have been wrong.
And this never is easy.*

It means losing face. It means starting all over again.
And this always is painful.

It means saying: "I am sorry." It means admitting that we have the ability to change, and this is always embarrassing.

These things are terribly hard to do; but unless we turn,
we will be trapped forever in yesterday's ways.

Adonai, help us turn –

From callousness to sensitivity,
from hostility to love.

*From pettiness to purpose,
from envy to contentment.*

From carelessness to discipline,
from fear to faith.

*Turn us around, Adonai, and bring us back toward You.
Revive our lives, as at the beginning.*

Turn us toward each other, and turn us to You.

הַשִּׁבְנוּ יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְנִשְׁוֵבָה, חֲדֵשׁ יָמֵינוּ כְּקֵדָם.

Ha-shi-vei-nu, Adonai, ei-leh-cha v'na-shu-va. Cha-deish ya-mei-nu k'ke-dem.

Turn us back to You, Adonai, and we will return. Renew our days, as before.

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At the shores of the Red Sea, Miriam took up her timbrel and sang her song; a song of praise to God. With confidence and love, she led our ancestors away from their fear and hesitation until all hands were joined; all voices raised in hymn and thanksgiving. May her example lead us too, and may her song soon grow to truly be ours.

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וְשָׁמְרוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת הַשַּׁבָּת, לַעֲשׂוֹת אֶת הַשַּׁבָּת לְדֹרֹתָם בְּרִית עוֹלָם.
בֵּינִי וּבֵין בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אוֹת הִיא לְעוֹלָם.
כִּי שֵׁשֶׁת יָמִים עָשָׂה יְיָ אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ,
וּבַיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי שָׁבַת וַיִּנָּפֵשׁ.

V'sha-m'ru V'nei Yis-ra-eil et ha-Sha-bat, la-a-sot et ha-Sha-bat
l'do-ro-tam b'rit o-lam.
Bei-ni u-vein B'nei Yis-ra-eil ot hi l'o-lam.
Ki shei-shet ya-mim a-sa Adonai et ha-sha-ma-yim v'et ha-a-retz,
u'va-yom ha-sh'vi-i sha-vat va-yi-na-fash.

The people of Israel shall keep the Sabbath in every generation as a covenant for all time. It is a sign forever between Me and the people of Israel. For in six days the Eternal God made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day the Creator rested.

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יִתְגַּדַּל וַיִּתְקַדַּשׁ שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא. בְּעֵלְמָא דִּי בְרָא כְרַעוּתְהוּ, וַיִּמְלִיף
מַלְכוּתְהוּ בְּחַיִּיכוּן וּבְיוֹמֵיכוּן וּבְחַיִּי דְכָל בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל. בְּעֵגְלָא וּבְזִמְנָן קָרִיב
וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן: יְהֵא שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא מְבָרַךְ לְעָלְמָא וְלְעָלְמֵי עָלְמֵי: יִתְבָּרַךְ
וַיִּשְׁתַּבַּח, וַיִּתְפָּאֵר וַיִּתְרוֹמַם וַיִּתְנַשֵּׂא וַיִּתְהַדָּר וַיִּתְעַלֶּה וַיִּתְהַלָּל שְׁמֵהּ
דְקַדְשָׁא בְרִיךְ הוּא. לְעֵלְא מִן כָּל בְּרַכְתָּא וְשִׁירְתָּא, תְּשַׁבַּחְתָּא וְנַחֲמְתָּא,
דְאָמְרִין בְּעֵלְמָא, וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

Yit-ga-dal yit-ka-dash sh'mei ra-ba. B'al-ma di-v'ra chi-ru-tei,
v'yam-lich mal-chu-tei b'chai-yei-chon u'v'yo-mei-chon u'v'chai-yei
d'chol Beit Yisraeil, ba-a-ga-la u-viz-man ka-riv, v'im'ru: A-mein. Y'hei
sh'mei ra-ba m'va-rach l'a-lam ul'al-mei al-ma-ya. Yit-ba-rach
v'yish-ta-bach, v'yit-pa-ar v'yit-ro-mam v'yit-na-sei, v'yit-ha-dar
v'yit-a-leh v'yit-ha-lal, sh'mei d'ku-d'sha, b'rich Hu. L'ei-la min kol
bir-cha-ta v'shi-ra-ta, tush-b'cha-ta v'ne-che-ma-ta, da-a-mi-ran
b'al-ma, v'im'ru: A-mein.

If our values have become confused,

let us clarify them.

If our purposes have become blurred,

let us sharpen them.

If our horizons have become contracted,

let us widen them.

If our hearts have been chilled by indifference,

let us warm them.

אָבִינוּ מַלְכֵנוּ, שְׁמַע קוֹלֵנוּ.

Avinu Malkeinu, hear our plea.

אָבִינוּ מַלְכֵנוּ, חָטְאנוּ לְפָנֶיךָ.

Avinu Malkeinu, we have sinned before You.

אָבִינוּ מַלְכֵנוּ, חַמוּל עָלֵינוּ וְעַל עוֹלָלֵנוּ וְטַפָּנוּ.

Avinu Malkeinu, have mercy upon us and our children.

אָבִינוּ מַלְכֵנוּ, כִּלְיָה דָּבָר וְחָרָב וְרָעַב מֵעָלֵינוּ.

Avinu Malkeinu, help us to diminish pestilence, war and famine.

אָבִינוּ מַלְכֵנוּ, כִּלְיָה כָּל צָר וּמְשֻׁטָּיִן מֵעָלֵינוּ.

Avinu Malkeinu, inspire us to cause all hate and oppression to vanish from the earth.

אָבִינוּ מַלְכֵנוּ, כְּתִבֵנוּ בְּסֵפֶר חַיִּים טוֹבִים.

Avinu Malkeinu, enter us into the Book of Life.

אָבִינוּ מִלְכֵנוּ, חֲדִישׁ עָלֵינוּ שָׁנָה טוֹבָה.

Avinu Malkeinu, renew our faith in the future that we may make the coming year truly a Shanah Tovah, a year of goodness.

אָבִינוּ מִלְכֵנוּ, חַנּוּנוּ וְעֲנֵנוּ, כִּי אֵין בָּנוּ מַעֲשִׂים,
עֲשֵׂה עִמָּנוּ צְדָקָה וְחֶסֶד וְהוֹשִׁיעֵנוּ.

Avinu Malkeinu, have compassion on us, for we are not perfect. Deal with us in both justice and mercy so we may be renewed.

A-vi-nu Mal-kei-nu, cha-nei-nu, va'a-nei-nu,
ki ein ba-nu ma'a-sim.
A-sei i-ma-nu tz'da-ka va-che-sed v'ho-shi-ei-nu.

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It is up to us to hallow creation, to respond to life with the fullness of our lives. It is up to us to meet the world, to embrace the whole even as we wrestle with its parts. It is up to us to repair the world, and to bind our lives to truth. Therefore we bend the knee and shake off the stiffness that keeps us from the subtle graces of life and the supple gestures of love. With reverence and thanksgiving we accept our destiny and set for ourselves the task of redemption.

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Let us adore the ever-living God, and render praise unto the One who spread out the heavens and established the earth, Whose glory is revealed in the heavens above, and Whose greatness is manifest throughout the world. You are our God; there is none else.

עָלֵינוּ לְשַׁבַּח לְאֲדוֹן הַכֹּל, לְתַת גְּדֻלָּה לְיוֹצֵר בְּרֵאשִׁית, שְׁלֵא עֲשָׂנוּ כְּגוֹיֵי
הָאָרְצוֹת, וְלֵא שְׁמֵנוּ כְּמִשְׁפָּחוֹת הָאֲדָמָה, שְׁלֵא שָׁם חָלַקְנוּ כָּהֵם, וְגָרְלָנוּ
כְּכֹל הַמּוֹנֵם. וְאַנְחָנוּ כּוֹרְעִים וּמִשְׁתַּחֲוִים וּמוֹדִים, לְפָנֵי מְלֶךְ, מְלֶכֶי
הַמַּלְכִּים, הַקָּדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא.

יִתְגַּדֵּל וַיִּתְקַדַּשׁ שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא.
בְּעֵלְמָא דִּי-בְרָא כְרַעוּתָהּ, וַיִּמְלִיךְ מַלְכוּתָהּ
בְּחַיִּיכוֹן וּבְיוֹמֵיכוֹן וּבְחַיֵּי דְכָל-בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל,
בְּעֵגְלָא וּבְזִמְן קָרִיב, וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

יְהֵא שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא מְבָרַךְ לְעָלְמָא וּלְעֵלְמֵי עֵלְמָא.
יְתְבָרַךְ וַיִּשְׁתַּבַּח, וַיִּתְפָּאֵר וַיִּתְרוֹמֵם וַיִּתְנַשֵּׂא,
וַיִּתְהַדָּר וַיִּתְעַלֶּה וַיִּתְהַלַּל שְׁמֵהּ דְקוּדְשָׁא, בְּרִיךְ הוּא.

לְעֵלְמָא מִן כָּל-בְּרַכְתָּא וְשִׁירְתָּא.
תְּשַׁבְּחָתָא וְנַחֲמָתָא דְאֲמִירָן בְּעֵלְמָא, וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

יְהֵא שְׁלָמָא רַבָּא מִן-שְׁמֵיהּ וְחַיִּים
עֲלֵינוּ וְעַל-כָּל-יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

עֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמִרוֹמָיו, הוּא יַעֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם
עֲלֵינוּ וְעַל-כָּל-יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

Yit-ga-dal v'yit-ka-dash sh'mei ra-ba.
B'al-ma di-v'ra chir-u-tei, v'yam-lich mal-chu-tei
b'cha-yei-chon u'v'yo-mei-chon u'v'cha-yei d'chol beit Yisraeil,
ba'a-ga-la u'viz-man ka-riv, v'im-ru: Amen.

Y'hei sh'mei ra-ba m'va-rach l'a-lam ul'al-mei al'ma-ya.

Yit'ba-rach v'yish-tabach v'yit-pa-ar, v'yit-ro-mam, v'yit-na-sei,
v'yit-ha-dar v'yit-a-leh, v'yit-ha-lal sh'mei d'Ku-d'sha, b'rich Hu.
L'ei-la min kol bir-cha-ta v'shi-ra-ta,
tush-b'cha-ta v'ne-che-ma-ta
da'a-mi-ran b'al-ma, v'im-ru: Amen.

Y'hei sh'lama raba min sh'ma-ya v'cha-yim
a-lei-nu v'al kol Yisraeil, v'im'ru: Amen.

O-seh sha-lom bim-ro-mav, hu ya'a-seh sha-lom
a-lei-nu v'al kol Yisraeil, v'im-ru: Amen.

And those whose early promise has dimmed.

Sh'ma koleinu – listen to their prayers and inspire us to respond to their cries.

שְׁמַע קוֹלֵנוּ, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, חוּס וְרַחֵם עָלֵינוּ, וְקַבֵּל בְּרַחֲמִים וּבְרַצוֹן אֶת
תְּפִלָּתֵנוּ. הַשִּׁיבֵנוּ יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְנִשְׁוֵבָה. חַדֵּשׁ יָמֵינוּ כְּקֶדֶם.

Sh'ma ko-le-inu, Adonai E-lo-hei-nu, chus v'ra-cheim a-lei-nu, v'ka-beil
b'ra-cha-mim u'v'ra-tzon et t'fi-la-tei-nu. Ha-shi-vei-nu, Adonai,
ei-le-cha, v'na-shu-va. Cha-deish ya-mei-nu k'ke-dem.

* * *

Avinu Malkeinu, who makes all things new and yet abides forever the same, we are fashioned as frail creatures of time, yet with a hunger for eternity in our hearts. At the gateway to a New Year we have come full circle ready to begin again.

If our lives have become shallow,

let us deepen them.

If our principles have become shabby,

let us repair them.

If our ideals have become tarnished,

let us restore them.

If our hopes have become faded,

let us revive them.

If our loyalties have grown dim,

let us brighten them.

מִי שְׂפִירָךְ אֲבוֹתֵינוּ מְקוֹר הַבְּרָכָה לְאֲמוֹתֵינוּ

Mi she-bei-rach a-vo-tei-nu, m'kor ha-b'ra-cha l'imo-tei-nu

May the Source of strength who blessed the ones before us, help us find the courage to make our lives a blessing. And let us say: Amen.

מִי שְׂפִירָךְ אֲמוֹתֵינוּ מְקוֹר הַבְּרָכָה לְאֲבוֹתֵינוּ

Mi she-bei-rach i-mo-tei-nu, m'kor ha-b'ra-cha la-a-vo-tei-nu

Bless those in need of healing with *r'fu-a sh'lei-ma*: the renewal of body, the renewal of spirit. And let us say: Amen.

* * *

Sh'ma Koleinu, listen to our prayers, Adonai.

But if we want you to listen to our prayers, we must be willing to listen to the prayers of others.

To those who pray vainly for attention.

And those who shrink with fear at another's touch.

Those whose outward ugliness may hide a soul of beauty.

And those whose faces we forget from one encounter to the next.

To those who wait in pain only for death.

And those who wait for news which never comes.

O Mentor of Israel, have mercy and compassion for those whose minds are clouded or weak.

And those who bear the burden of broken bodies.

For those whose ambition exceeds their skill.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי , אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר בְּדַבְּרוֹ מַעְרִיב עַרְבִים, בְּחֻכְמָה
פּוֹתֵחַ שְׁעָרִים, וּבִתְבוּנָה מְשַׁנֶּה עֵתִים, וּמְחַלֵּף אֶת הַזְּמַנִּים וּמְסַדֵּר אֶת
הַפּוֹכְבִים, בְּמִשְׁמְרוֹתֵיהֶם בְּרִקְיעַ כְּרִצּוֹנוֹ. בּוֹרֵא יוֹם וַלַּיְלָה, גּוֹלֵל אוֹר מִפְּנֵי
חֹשֶׁךְ, וְחֹשֶׁךְ מִפְּנֵי אוֹר. וּמַעְבִּיר יוֹם וּמְבִיא לַיְלָה, וּמְבַדִּיל בֵּין יוֹם וּבֵין
לַיְלָה יי צְבָאוֹת שְׁמוֹ. אֵל חַי וְקַיִם, תָּמִיד יִמְלֹךְ עָלֵינוּ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד. בְּרוּךְ
אַתָּה יי, הַמַּעְרִיב עַרְבִים.

Ba-ruch A-tah Adonai, E-lo-hei-nu, Me-lech ha-o-lam, a-sher bid'varo
ma-a-riv a-ra-vim. B'choch-ma po-tei-ach sh'a-rim, u-vit'vu-na m'sha-neh
i-tim, u-ma-cha-lif et haz'ma-nim, u-m'sa-deir et ha-ko-cha-vim
b'mish-m'ro-tei-hem ba-ra-ki-a kir-tzo-no. Bo-rei yom va-lai-la, go-leil or
mi-p'nei cho-shech, v'cho-shech mi-p'nei or, u-ma-a-vir yom u-mei-vi
lai-la, u-mav-dil bein yom u-vein lai-la, Adonai tz'va-ot sh'mo. Eil
chai v'ka-yam, ta-mid yim-loch a-lei-nu, l'o-lam va'ed. Ba-ruch A-ta
Adonai, ha-ma-a-riv a-ra-vim.

We bless You, God, for evening after day, and for dawn after night. We praise You for changing times and passing seasons.

We lift our eyes and see the glory of the universe - creation in all its shapes, colors and forms.

Each sunset is a sign for us; each summer's passing, a reminder; each year's end, a milestone.

We thank You for seasons in life, for simchas and celebrations. We are grateful for painful lessons learned and the hard times which lead to growth.

We lift our hearts and feel the pulse of life surrounding us: the beat of other hearts; the tempo of the days, the nights, and the seasons; the rhythms of the universe.

* * *

The words of U'netaneh Tokef resonate deeply in our souls because they reassure us that through repentance, prayer and righteous deeds of love, our lives can attain their highest potential.

* * *

On Rosh Hashanah, it is written; on Yom Kippur it is sealed:
who shall live and who shall die.

Who shall be pierced by envy, and who shall be torn by resentment;

Who shall be tormented by the fire of ambition, and whose hopes shall be quenched by the waters of failure;

Who shall hunger for approval, and who shall be stuffed with selfishness;

Who shall be content with his lot, and who shall wander in search of satisfaction;

Who shall be poor in her own eyes, and who shall be rich in mitzvot;

Who shall be serene, and who shall be distraught;

Who shall stand out as a Jew, and who shall fade away and assimilate;

Who shall study Torah, and who shall be tight-fisted;

Who shall be interdependent with others, and who shall be independent and alone;

Who shall be truly alive, and who shall merely exist;

But Rosh Hashanah has just begun, and the pages of the Book of Life have yet to be inscribed. Therefore we can still change the decree, for we are a people that does not resign itself to fate.

Through teshuva - repentance, through tefillah - prayer, and through tzedakah - righteous giving, we can annul the decrees. We can re-open the future. We can reclaim our lives. We can change the future by changing ourselves.

We are flesh and blood. Our origin is in the dust, and our end is to be dust. But we have been created in the Divine image.

Implanted within us is the ability to pray, the urge to do right, and the power to repent.

וַיִּתְּנָהּ תִּלְקַף קִדְשֵׁת הַיּוֹם, כִּי הוּא נוֹרָא וְאִיּוֹם. וְבוֹ תִּנְשָׂא מִלְּכוּתְךָ, וַיִּכּוֹן
בְּחֶסֶד כְּסֵאֶךָ, וַתִּשָׁב עָלָיו בְּאַמֶּת. אַמֶּת כִּי אֵתָהּ הוּא דִין וּמוֹכֵיחַ, וַיִּוֹדַע
וְעַד, וְכוֹתֵב וְחוֹתֵם, וְסוֹפֵר וּמוֹנֵה, וַתִּזְכּוֹר כָּל הַנְּשָׁפָחוֹת. וַתִּפְתַּח אֶת סֵפֶר
הַזְּכוּרוֹת, וּמֵאֱלֹו יִקְרָא, וְחוֹתֵם יָד כָּל אָדָם בּוֹ.

* * *

בְּרֵאשׁ הַשָּׁנָה יִכְתְּבוּן, וּבַיּוֹם צוֹם כְּפוּר יִחְתְּמוּן,

B'Rosh Ha-sha-na yi-ka-tei-vun, u'v'Yom Tzom Ki-pur
yei-cha-tei-mun.

On Rosh Hashanah it is written, and on Yom Kippur it is sealed.

כַּמָּה יַעֲבִרוּן, וְכַמָּה יִבְרָאוּן. מִי יִחְיֶה, וּמִי יָמוּת. מִי בְקִצּוֹ, וּמִי לֹא בְקִצּוֹ.
מִי בְּאֵשׁ, וּמִי בַּמַּיִם. מִי בְּחָרֵב, וּמִי בַּחַיָּה. מִי בְּרָעַב, וּמִי בְּצָמָא. מִי
בְּרָעַשׁ, וּמִי בַּמְּגִפָּה. מִי בַּחֲנִיקָה, וּמִי בְּסִקִּילָה. מִי יָנוּחַ, וּמִי יָנוּעַ. מִי יִשְׁקֵט,
וּמִי יִטָּרֵף. מִי יִשְׁלוֹ, וּמִי יִתִּיֶסֶר. מִי יַעֲנֶה, וּמִי יַעֲשֶׂר. מִי יִשְׁפֹּל, וּמִי יָרוּם.

וַתִּשׁוּבָה וַתִּפְלָה וַצְדָקָה מַעֲבִירִין אֶת רֵעַ הַגְּזֵרָה.

U't'shu-va u't-fi-la u'tz'da-ka ma'a-vi-rin et ro-a ha-g'zei-ra.

But repentance, prayer, and tzedakah help us survive the dark times in life.

* * *

Among our many appetites there is a craving after God.

Among our many attributes there is a talent for worshipping God.

Jews who wandered in deserts beneath the stars knew their hearts were hungry for God.

Jews who studied in candle-lit ghetto rooms thirsted longingly after God.

אֱלֹהֵי, נְצוֹר לְשׁוֹנֵי מִרְעַ. וּשְׁפָתַי מִדְּבַר מִרְמָה: וְלִמְקַלְלֵי נַפְשִׁי תִדְּם, וְנַפְשִׁי
כְּעֶפֶר לְכֹל תִּהְיֶה. פֶּתַח לִבִּי בְּתוֹרָתְךָ. יִהְיֶה לְרִצּוֹן אִמְרֵי פִי וְהִגִּיזוֹן לִבִּי
לְפָנֶיךָ, יְיָ צוּרִי וְגֹאֲלִי.

Elohai, n'tzor l'sho-ni mei-rah u's'fa-tai m'da-beir mir-ma. U-lim-ka-l'lai
naf-shi ti-dom v'naf-shi keh-a-far la-kol ti-h'yeh. Yi-h'yu l'ra-tzon im-rei
fi v'heg-yon li-bi l'fa-ne-cha, Adonai, tzu-ri, v'go-a-li.

Elohai, keep my tongue from evil and my lips from deceit. Help me to be silent in the
face of those who scorn me, and humble in the presence of all. Open my heart to Your
Torah. May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable to
You, Adonai, my Rock, and my Redeemer.

עֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמִרוֹמָיו, הוּא יַעֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ,
וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאֲמֵרוּ: אָמֵן.

O-seh sha-lom bim-ro-mav, hu ya'a-seh sha-lom a-lei-nu v'al kol
Yisraeil v'im-ru: Amen.

May the one who brings peace to the heavens bring peace upon us, the house of Israel,
and all the world, and let us say: Amen.

* * *

Avinu Malkeinu, though we may not always be worthy, give us yet another opportunity.
Help us create a world of fairness, of kindness, of peace.

Avinu Malkeinu

Bless our families with peace;

May we teach ourselves to appreciate the treasure of our lives;

May we always find contentment with one another;

May we save ourselves from dissension and jealousy;

May we shield ourselves from pettiness and rivalry;

May selfish pride not divide us;

May pride in one another unite us;

May we continually renew our love for one another;

*May we, the people of Israel, and all people everywhere, be granted health and
fulfillment, justice, prosperity, love and peace in the New Year.*

אָבִינוּ מַלְכֵנוּ, שְׁמַע קוֹלֵנוּ.

Avinu Malkeinu, hear our plea.

אָבִינוּ מַלְכֵנוּ, חָטְאנוּ לְפָנֶיךָ.

Avinu Malkeinu, we have sinned before You.

אָבִינוּ מַלְכֵנוּ, חַמּוּל עָלֵינוּ וְעַל עוֹלָלֵנוּ וְטַפְּנוּ.

Avinu Malkeinu, have mercy upon us and our children.

אָבִינוּ מַלְכֵנוּ, כִּלְה דְּבַר וְחַרְב וְרָעַב מַעְלֵינוּ.

Avinu Malkeinu, help us to diminish pestilence, war and famine.

אָבִינוּ מַלְכֵנוּ, כִּלְה כָּל צָר וּמִשְׁטֵיץ מַעְלֵינוּ.

Avinu Malkeinu, inspire us to cause all hate and oppression to vanish from the earth.

אָבִינוּ מַלְכֵנוּ, כְּתַבְנוּ בְּסֵפֶר חַיִּים טוֹבִים.

Avinu Malkeinu, enter us into the Book of Life.

אָבִינוּ מַלְכֵנוּ, חֲדָשׁ עָלֵינוּ שָׁנָה טוֹבָה.

Avinu Malkeinu, renew our faith in the future that we may make the coming year truly a Shanah Tovah, a year of goodness.

אָבִינוּ מַלְכֵנוּ, חַנּוּנוּ וְעִנּוּנוּ, כִּי אֵין בָּנוּ מַעֲשִׂים,
עֲשֵׂה עִמָּנוּ צְדָקָה וְחֶסֶד וְהוֹשִׁיעֵנוּ.

Avinu Malkeinu, though we may be unworthy, do not give up on us. Inspire and encourage us, for You are both just and loving.

A-vi-nu Mal-kei-nu, cha-nei-nu, va'a-nei-nu,
ki ein ba-nu ma'a-sim.
A-sei i-ma-nu tz'da-ka v'che-sed v'ho-shi-ei-nu.

יִתְגַּדַּל וְיִתְקַדַּשׁ שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא.
בְּעֵלְמָא דִּי־בְרָא כְרַעוּתָהּ, וְיִמְלִיךְ מַלְכוּתָהּ
בְּחַיִּיכוֹן וּבְיוֹמֵיכוֹן וּבְחַיֵּי דְכָל־בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל,
בְּעֵגְלָא וּבְזִמְן קָרִיב, וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

יְהֵא שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא מְבָרַךְ לְעֵלְמֵי וּלְעֵלְמֵי עֵלְמֵיָא.
יְתַבְרַךְ וְיִשְׁתַּבַּח, וְיִתְפָּאֵר וְיִתְרוֹמֵם וְיִתְנַשֵּׂא,
וְיִתְהַדַּר וְיִתְעַלֶּה וְיִתְהַלַּל שְׁמֵהּ דְקוּדְשָׁא, בְּרִיף הוּא.

לְעֵלְא מִן כָּל־בְּרַכְתָּא וְשִׁירְתָּא,
תְּשַׁבְּחָתָא וְנִחַמְתָּא דְאַמִּירָן בְּעֵלְמָא, וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

יְהֵא שְׁלָמָא רַבָּא מִן־שְׁמֵיהּ וְחַיִּים
עֲלֵינוּ וְעַל־כָּל־יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

עֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמִרוֹמָיו, הוּא יַעֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם
עֲלֵינוּ וְעַל־כָּל־יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

Yit-ga-dal v'yit-ka-dash sh'mei ra-ba.
B'al-ma di-v'ra chir-u-tei, v'yam-lich mal-chu-tei
b'cha-yei-chon u'v'yo-mei-chon u'v'cha-yei d'chol beit Yisraeil,
ba'a-ga-la u'viz-man ka-riv, v'im-ru: Amen.

Y'hei sh'mei ra-ba m'va-rach l'a-lam ul'al-mei al'ma-ya.

Yit'ba-rach v'yish-tabach v'yit-pa-ar, v'yit-ro-mam, v'yit-na-sei,
v'yit-ha-dar v'yit-a-leh, v'yit-ha-lal sh'mei d'Ku-d'sha, b'rich Hu.
L'ei-la min kol bir-cha-ta v'shi-ra-ta,
tush-b'cha-ta v'ne-che-ma-ta
da'a-mi-ran b'al-ma, v'im-ru: Amen.

Y'hei sh'lama raba min sh'ma-ya v'cha-yim
a-lei-nu v'al kol Yisraeil, v'im'ru: Amen.

O-seh sh-alom bim-ro-mav, hu ya'a-seh sha-lom
a-lei-nu v'al kol Yisraeil, v'im-ru: Amen.