

A Collection for Times of Pain and Fear in Israel and around the Jewish World

Praying for Peace and Hope

We honor the victims of hatred, pray for those wounded, thank the security forces for their efforts, and reaffirm our commitment to coexistence, mutual respect, and peace.

The communities, institutions, members, and rabbis of the Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism together with rabbis and leaders throughout the world express their condolences to the families of those killed; share in the pain of those injured and wish them a speedy recovery.

We offer our sincere thanks and gratitude to the police and security personnel who work day and night to protect us and embrace all the people of Israel in this time of fear.

We will continue to believe in and work for Jewish-Arab coexistence. We hope that voices of moderation and reason on both sides will not be silenced by the cycle of hatred and fear.

This collection is dedicated in loving memory of **Richard Leikin z"l**, a beloved member of *Kehillat Kol Haneshama* in Jerusalem, who was murdered in a terror attack in October 2015 - *Cheshvan 5776*



Prayers

Supplications for difficult days

Student Rabbi Noa Mazor

Our God and God of our fathers and mothers, in these difficult times we turn to You.

Shechinah Mekor Chayeynu, source of our life, we look to you in bad days as in good.

Give us the strength to find the strength to cope with the flood of emotions. Give us the ability to see the difficulties of others. All come from dust and return to dust, their days passing like a shadow. Adonai our God, may our days pass in pleasantness, mercy, life, and peace.

Give our leaders the capacity to see the crown of creation that rests on every human head.

Help us to trust others who are struggling for their own way, for their lives and for ours. Guide us, Adonai, in Your way – the way of love of every human, the way of making peace among humans and between adversaries.

In these difficult times, give us the strength to believe that the day will indeed come when all will sit under the vine and fig tree and nothing shall make them afraid. Amen.

Before lighting the Shabbat candles

“I have been deprived of peace” (Lamentations 3:17) – this refers to the lighting of the Shabbat candle” (Babylonian Talmud, *Shabbat* 25b). May these candles be a blessing on Your holy Shabbat and a source of hope for us and all Israel. Restore peace to our souls and our Land and do not deprive us. Transform this Shabbat and the coming days into “a day that is only Sabbath and rest for all eternity” (from the Grace after Meals on Shabbat). And let us say: Amen.

Please, with the strength and greatness of Your right arm

This ancient poem is traditionally recited on Friday night before singing Lecha Dodi. It does not appear in most Reform prayer books, but it can make a good addition to the service during times of trouble when we want to emphasize our prayers for peace and redemption.

אֲנֵי בְּכַח גְּדֻלַּת יְמִינְךָ תִּתִּיר צְרוּרָה:
קִבֵּל רִנַּת עַמְּךָ שֶׁגָּבְנוּ טְהַרְנוּ נוֹרָא:
נָא גְבוּר דּוֹרְשֵׁי יְחֻדְךָ כְּבַבְתָּ שְׁמֵרָם:
בְּרַכְּם טְהַרְם, רַחֲמֵי צְדָקָתְךָ תִּמְיֵד גְּמֵלָם:
חֲסִין קְדוֹשׁ בְּרוּב טוֹבְךָ נִהַל עֲדָתְךָ:
יְחִיד גְּאֵה לְעַמְּךָ פְּנֵה, זֹכְרֵי קִדְשֶׁתְךָ:
שׁוּעֵתֵנוּ קִבֵּל וְשִׁמְעַ צַעֲקֹתֵנוּ יוֹדֵעַ תַּעֲלוּמוֹת:

Please, with the strength and greatness of Your right arm.

Accept the chanting of your nation, raise us high and purify us,

O awesome one. Please, O heroic one, guard those who seek your unity as the pupil of an eye.

Bless them, purify them, and may Your righteous mercy always reward them.

O unfathomable one, with Your abundant goodness guide Your people.

O unique and proud one, turn to your people who remembers your holiness. Accept our pleas and hear our cries, knower of secrets.

Prayer for the Children of the World

Rabbi Nava Hefetz

אֲדוֹן כָּל הַבְּרוּאִים, מֶלֶךְ שֶׁהַשְּׁלוֹם שְׁלוֹ,

رب الخليفة ملك السلام

Creator of all life, sovereign of peace,

בֵּרַךְ אֶת יְלַדֵּינוּ וְאֶת יְלַדֵּי כָּל הָעוֹלָם

بارك اولادنا واولاد العالم اجمع

Bless our children and the children of all the world

בְּבְרִיאוֹת הַגּוּף, בְּרִיאוֹת הַנֶּפֶשׁ וּבְרִיאוֹת הָרוּחַ.

بصحة الجسد والنفس والروح

With physical, emotional, and spiritual health.

אתה שבראת אותם בצלמך,
باري المخلوق على صورتك
You who created them in Your image

ובאהבה רבה נפחת בהם רוחך
وبالمحبة الجمة بعثت فيهم الروح
And lovingly imbued them with Your spirit,

הצלח דרכם בעולמך אשר בראת.
وفق دريهم بعالمك الذي خلقت
Let their paths be successful in this world that You created.

הריק מחוסנך עליהם וחזק בריחי גופם ונפשם.
هب لهم من لدنك قوة واعضد اجسادهم وانفسهم
Give them of Your resilience and strengthen the sinews of their bodies and
minds.

היה שומרם ומצילים מיד רשעה,
احرسهم ونجهم من كل شر
Guard and save them from all evil

כי רב חסד ואמת אתה.
لانك الصدوق المنعم
For Your mercy and truth abound.

שים שלום בארץ ושמחת עולם לכל יושביה.
اجعل السلام يعم البلاد وبهجة ابدية لكل البشر
Grant peace to the Land and everlasting happiness to all its inhabitants.

אמן, כן יהי רצון.
فلتكن مشيئتك آمين
Amen, may it be Your will

A Prayer for Life

Sheikha Ibtisam Mahamid and Rabbi Tamar Elad-Appelbaum

God of Life

Who heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds

May it be your will to hear the prayer of mothers

For you did not create us to kill each other

Nor to live in fear, anger or hatred in your world

But rather you have created us so we can grant permission to one another to sanctify

Your name of Life, your name of Peace in this world.

For these things I weep, my eye, my eye runs down with water

For our children crying at nights,

For parents holding their children with despair and darkness in their hearts

For a gate that is closing and who will open it while day has not yet dawned.

And with my tears and prayers which I pray

And with the tears of all women who deeply feel the pain of these difficult days

I raise my hands to you please God have mercy on us

Hear our voice that we shall not despair

That we shall see life in each other,

That we shall have mercy for each other,

That we shall have pity on each other,

That we shall hope for each other

And we shall write our lives in the book of Life

For your sake God of Life

Let us choose Life.

For you are Peace, your world is Peace and all that is yours is Peace,

And so shall be your will and let us say Amen.

Tamar Elad-Appelbaum is a female Rabbi of the conservative movement, from Jerusalem.

Sheikha Ibtisam Mahamid is a female Sheikh from the town Foredis.

They wrote this prayer together in summer 2014, during the military operation of Tsuk-Eitan.

A Prayer for Our People and Our Land

Rabbi Professor Yehoyada Amir

Sovereign of the world, accept willingly our prayer for the State of Israel and its people. Grant Your blessing to the Land and to all its inhabitants. Let us understand Your just laws and grant us the morality of Your prophets – “Act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8).

Spread Your spirit over all the inhabitants of our Land and plant tolerance and mutual respect in our hearts. Uproot from within us hatred, violence, coercion, and exploitation.

Spread the Sukkah of Your peace over the Jewish people in all its dispersed communities. Grant them the mental strength to come to our Land and let us dwell in it together as fellows.

Encourage our soldiers who defend our Land; may their spirit be firm and their weapons pure. Guard them under the shadow of Your wing, grant them salvation, and may they overcome our enemies. But please – grant peace in the Land and let it be a blessing for all its inhabitants. Realize speedily the vision of Your prophets: “Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, and neither shall they learn war anymore” (Isaiah 2:4). Amen.

Additions to the supplications section in the Grace after Meals

הַרְחֵמֵנוּ הוּא יְבָרֵךְ אֶת מְדִינַת יִשְׂרָאֵל רֵאשִׁית צְמִיחַת גְּאוּלְתָּנוּ וַיִּפְרוֹשׂ עֲלֵיהָ וְעַל
יוֹשְׁבֵיהָ סוֹכֵת שְׁלוֹם

הַרְחֵמֵנוּ הוּא יַחְזֵק יָדֵי מְגִינֵי אֶרֶץ קוֹדְשֵׁנוּ וַיִּנְחַלֵּם עִמָּהּ, לֵב נְבוֹן, יְשׁוּעָה וְחַיִּים
הַרְחֵמֵנוּ הוּא יִשְׁכֵּן שְׁלוֹם בֵּין זֶרַע שָׂרָה וְזֶרַע הָגָר וַיְבִיא נַחֲמָה לְאַרְצֵנוּ

May the merciful one bless the State of Israel, the first manifestation of the approach of our redemption, and spread the Sukkah of peace over it and all its inhabitants.

May the merciful one strengthen the hands of the defenders of our holy Land and grant them daring, acumen, salvation, and life.

May the merciful one bring peace between the descendants of Sarah and the descendants of Hagar and grant comfort to our Land.

Selected Hebrew and Arabic Poems

An Arab Shepherd is Searching for His Goat

Yehuda Amichai

An Arab shepherd is searching for his goat on Mount Zion
And on the opposite hill I am searching for my little boy.
An Arab shepherd and a Jewish father
Both in their temporary failure.
Our two voices met above
The Sultan's Pool in the valley between us.
Neither of us wants the boy or the goat
To get caught in the wheels
Of the "Had Gadya" machine.

Afterward we found them among the bushes,
And our voices came back inside us
Laughing and crying.

Searching for a goat or for a child has always been
The beginning of a new religion in these mountains.

Wanted

Admiel Kosman

Wanted – a quiet place where the soul may rest
Just for a few minutes.
Wanted – a place to plant my feet
Just for a few minutes.
Wanted – flowers, a leaf, a stalk, a bush that will not strike camp
And move off when she comes. Just for a few minutes.
Wanted – just one word, clean, pleasant, and warm, to be a bench,
A shelter for someone, for kin, a dovelike girl, my soul
That left the ark for a few minutes at dawn
And since then has found no footing anywhere.

Think of Others

Mahmoud Darwish

As you prepare your breakfast, think of others
(do not forget the pigeon's food).
As you conduct your wars, think of others
(do not forget those who seek peace).
As you pay your water bill, think of others
(those who are nursed by clouds).
As you return home, to your home, think of others
(do not forget the people of the camps).
As you sleep and count the stars, think of others
(those who have nowhere to sleep).
As you liberate yourself in metaphor, think of others
(those who have lost the right to speak).
As you think of others far away, think of yourself
(say: "If only I were a candle in the dark").

(Trans. © Mohammed Shaheen)

Travel Tickets

Samih al-Qasim

When I'm killed, one of these days,
My killer will find in my pockets
Travel tickets:
One to peace,
One to the fields and the rain,
And one to the conscience of humankind.
(Please do not waste the tickets,
My dear killer:
I beg you to travel)

Songs



Dove with an Olive Leaf

Lyrics and melody: Talma Alyagon-Roz

Yesh li tmunah babayit
Shel yonah im aley shel zayit
Mey aleyha galgal hechamah
Leragleyha pig'ey milchamah
Hayonah shel hashalom
Al chorvotaha shel umah acheret
Tmunah mushlemet
Chalomot betokh misgeret

יש לי תמונה בבית
של יונה עם עלה של זית
מעליה גלגל החמה,
לרגליה פגעי מלחמה
היונה של השלום,
על חורבותיה של אומה אחרת
תמונה מושלמת,
חלומות בתוך מסגרת

Yonah im aley shel zayit
Tze'i min hatmunah
Hashivi et ha'emunah
Shehashalom yavo be'ikvotayikh

יונה עם עלה של זית
צאי מן התמונה,
השיבי את האמונה
שהשלום יבוא בעקבותייך

Yesh li tmunah babayit
Shel yonah im aley shel zayit
Veyaldi mitbonen umaksheh
"Tagidi, ma yesh la bapeh?"
Hayonah shel Hashalom
Sof milchamah hi mevaseret
Yonah mushlemet
Shel shalom betokh misgeret

יש לי תמונה בבית
של יונה עם עלה של זית
וילדי מתבונן ומקשה
"תגידי, מה יש לה בפה?"
היונה של השלום
סוף מלחמה היא מבשרת
יונה מושלמת
של שלום בתוך מסגרת

Yonah im aley shel zayit...

יונה עם עלה של זית...

Yesh li tmunah babayit
Shel yonah im aley shel Zayit
Mazkirah li hashkem va'erev
Shebachutz al habrosh yesh orev
Hayonah shel Hashalom
Le'af makom eynehan memaheret
Yonah teyeret le'olam eyneh nisheret.

יש לי תמונה בבית
של יונה עם עלה של זית
מזכירה לי השכם וערב
שבחוץ על הברוש יש עורב
היונה של השלום
לאף מקום איננה ממהרת
יונה תיירת לעולם אינה נשארת

Translation on page 10

I have a picture at home
Of a dove with an olive leaf
Above her the wheel of the sun,
Below her the ravages of war.
The dove of peace
Over the ruins of another nation
A perfect picture
Dreams in a frame.

Dove with an olive leaf –
Come out of the picture
Give us back the faith
That peace will follow in your tracks.

I have a picture at home
Of a dove with an olive leaf
And my son looks and quizzes me
"Tell me, what's that in his mouth?"
The dove of peace
Tells us of the end of war
A perfect dove
Of peace in a frame.

Dove with an olive leaf...

I have a picture at home
Of a dove with an olive leaf
It reminds me morning and night
That outside on the cypress tree there's a raven
The dove of peace isn't in a rush
A traveling dove, she never stays.



A Song for Shabbat

Lyrics: Yehuda Amichai, melody: Moshe Wilensky

Hatavo'i elay halaylah
Kvasim kvar yavhu bechatzer
Milchamah she'af pa'am lo day la
Hi akhshav bamakom acher

התבואי אלי הלילה
כבסים כבר יבשו בחצר
מלחמה שאף פעם לא די לה
היא עכשיו במקום אחר

Ukhvishim shavim bli heref
Levadam kesus bli rokhvo
Vehabayit nisgar ba'erev
Al hatov vehara shebo

וכבישים שבים בלי הרף
לבדם כסוס בלי רוכבו
והבית נסגר בערב
על הטוב והרע שבו

Veyadanu heytev ki hagvul
Hu karov va'asur lanu sham
Avi hitpalel vayekhulu
Ha'aretz vekhol tzva'am

וידענו היטב כי הגבול
הוא קרוב ואסור לנו שם
אבי התפלל ויכולו
הארץ וכל צבאם

Tzava vecha'aretz he'efilu
Od me'at yikhabe' ha'or
Hamitzvah ba shamayim hitchilu
Shuv hashnayim tzrikhim ligmor

צבא והארץ האפילו
עוד מעט יכבה האור
המצווה בה שמיים התחילו
שוב השניים צריכים לגמור

Will you come to me tonight?
The washing has already dried out in the yard
The insatiable war
Is somewhere else just now

And roads constantly return
Alone like a horse without a rider
And the house is shut in the evening
With all the good and the bad it contains.

And we knew full well that the border
Was close and we must not go there
My father prayed "the earth
and all the host/army of them were finished"

The host/army and the land darkened
Soon the light will go out
The commandment begun by the sky
Must once again be completed by them both.



Salaam

Lyrics and melody: Mosh Ben Ari

Od yavo shalom aleynu
Od yavo shalom aleynu
Od yavo shalom aleynu
ve'al kulam.

עוד יבוא שלום עלינו
עוד יבוא שלום עלינו
עוד יבוא שלום עלינו ועל כולם.

Salaam, aleynu ve'al kol ha'olam
Salaam, salaam

סאלם, עלינו ועל כל העולם
סאלם, סאלם

Od yavo shalom aleynu...

עוד יבוא שלום עלינו...

Peace will yet come upon us
Peace will yet come upon us
Peace will yet come upon us and upon everyone.

Salaam, on us and on the whole world.
Salaam, salaam.

Dvar Torah for Parashat Noah

A sermon held last Shabbat evening by Student Rabbi Alona Nir-Keren the spiritual leader of Kehillat YOZMA in Modi'in

I walk the streets of Jerusalem. I hear footsteps behind me. The shadows of two people stretch before me. I stop myself from turning around. They are following me. Two construction workers in stained work clothes. They are speaking to each other quietly in Arabic. One is carrying a small chainsaw and the other is carrying two trowels. He is holding the trowels the way one might hold a knife – by the wooden handle, pointed down. My glance focuses on the sharp edges of the tool. The workers pass me without noticing me at all. My muscles relax. I breathe a sigh of relief.

I push my daughter on the swing in the playground. There are other parents and children around. Suddenly, a city maintenance worker comes into the playground. He is Arab. In one hand he holds a lawnmower cable and in the other garden shears. Without thinking, moved by some kind of maternal instinct, I move to put my body between the worker and my daughter. He passes by quickly looking down.

A conversation with a couple of friends from Givat Mesuah. The woman tells of how she called Musa - their long-time gardener who has been taking care of their garden for more than a decade – who lives in Jabel Mukaber. "Is everything okay?", she asks him. "All's well", he answers. "I can even get to Jerusalem without any problem, but they won't let me bring my tools with me." Her husband hears this and says in the background with half a smile, "Ah...so he can stab us with our garden shears". They laugh.

These situations are incomprehensible, surrealistic, terrifying.

Where I grew up – between Akko to the north and Haifa to the south – Arabs and Arabic were integral parts of the landscape. The Nesher company cab driver, the dentist and nurse that work in my mother's clinic, the lawyer and the waiter in the hummus stand; all were Arabs – Muslim and Christians. It was only in the army – when I taught and met youth groups from all over the country – that I came to understand that this was not the reality for most Jews living in Israel.

In a climate of absolute separation, fear grows and takes over. There are no people; only shadows. And a shadow can be something very scary.

What can be done with this fear? It isn't detached from reality. But how do we prevent it from taking over our lives?

In this week's Haftarah portion, the prophet Isaiah says:

”הֲרַחֲבֵי מְקוֹם אֹהֶלְךָ, וִירִיעוֹת מְשַׁכְּנוֹתֶיךָ יִטּוּ--אֶל-תַּחֲשֹׁכֶי; הָאֲרִיכִי, מִיַּתְרֶיךָ, וַיִּתְדַתֶּיךָ חֲזָקִי”

Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes. (Isaiah 54:2)

Of course, looking at this verse today, one might interpret it as a call to challenge America's clear message to Israel this week, connecting the settlements to the terrorist attacks.

But this is not my intention; definitely not.

This week's Haftarah is taken from Isaiah, from the verses that the prophet mentions the story of Noah and the flood. In his words:

”כִּי-מִי נֹחַ, זֹאת לִי, אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּעְתִּי מִעֲבַר מִי-נֹחַ עוֹד, עַל-הָאָרֶץ--כִּן נִשְׁבַּעְתִּי מִקֶּצֶף עָלֶיךָ, וּמִגֶּעַר-בְּךָ.”

“To me this is like the days of Noah, when I swore that the waters of Noah would never again cover the earth. So now I have sworn not to be angry with you, never to rebuke you again. (Isaiah 54:9)

Isaiah throws us back into the stormy waters of the flood – to the "waters of Noah" - to the closed ark swaying on the water hoping to see dry land. Despite the temptation, despite the endless news bulletins, despite the feeling of fear – we are not there yet. Our lives have not been marginalized to a rickety boat on stormy waters.

Isaiah's use of the metaphor of a tent is the exact opposite of that of an ark; a tent's poles anchor it solidly to the ground, while its flaps are made of flexible fabric. A tent can be widened; stretched.

Would that our response to each stabbing be a strengthening in the stakes that anchor our existence – our being – here in the State of Israel. But let us not build walls of cement; let us not build high walls or roadblocks or closures; let us not seal our hearts and our thoughts. Would that we will be able to think also about tomorrow and imagine together a wide, open, flexible, inviting and respectful tent. Would that this vision of the future guide us in the present – even when it is so stormy.

May we have a peaceful Shabbat. Shabbat Shalom!

שבת שלום!
Shabbat Shalom!

Closing Prayer / Racheli Frankel

<p>إلى إخواني وأخواتي أبناء محفل الألم أخوية الشوق تعرض صفحا عن محادثات ضائعة عن إحتضانات بقيت عالقة بأطراف الأصابع عن كلمات لم تُتطرق وتلك التي قيلت عندما ظننا أن لدينا سنوات إلى الأبد للتصحيح لمسامحة كل من يطلب عن كل "لو كنت" " "لو منعت" "لو حافظت" عن لو أنني لو هو تحرر من علقات الألم ومن شارب عصاراة القلب سامح سامح سامحكم وكرروا من بعدي أيضا هذا الصوت يخلو فقط خذوا الصفح الرقيق على شظايا الفرح على ضحكة تسللت من الباب على لحظة شتات فكري على كمين بكاء غير متوقع سُمحتم، مُنعتم، انتهكتُم الاذن مُعطى أنا وهو انقذنا يمكن السماح للحظة الاستنشاق والاسترخاء مسموح، ببطي، أن تعود وتعيش</p>	<p>To my brothers and sisters Members of the order of pain The fellowship of longing I offer a penance For missed conversations For hugs left dangling on the fingertips For words unspoken And for those spoken When we thought we had an eternity to amend them I sell a pardon to anyone who wants one For every "if only" "If I had forbidden" "If I had protected" For every if only I, if only he Release from the leaches of pain From all the drinkers of the essence of the heart You are forgiven, forgiven, forgiven Repeat after me, you too This voice only empties Take a forgiving penance For fragments of joy and laughter that sneak in through the door For an instant of distraction For the ambush of unexpected tears It has been permitted, removed, and expunged for you Permission is granted Save us – me and him It is possible to forgive For a moment just to breathe and relax It is permitted, slowly, to live again.</p>	<p>לאחי ואחיותי בני מסדר הכאב אחוות הגעגוע מציעה סליחה על שיחות מוחממות על חיבוקים שנותרו תלויים בקצות האצבעות על מילים שלא נאמרו ועל אלה שכן כשחשבנו שיש שנות נצח לתקן מוכרת מחילה לכל דורש על כל 'אם רק הייתי' 'לו אסרתני' 'לו שמרתני' על לו אני לו הוא שחרור מעלוקות הכאב מכל שזיתי תמצית הלב מחול מחול מחול לכם חיזרו אחרי גם כן הרף. הקול הזה רק מרוקן טלו כפרה חומלת על רסיסי שמחה על צחוק שהתגנב בעד הדלת על רגע של הסח הדעת על מארב של פכי לא צפוי הותר הוסר הופר לכם הרשות נתונה אני והו הושיענא אפשר לסלוח לרגע רק לנשום ולהרפות מותר, לאט, לשוב לחיות.</p>
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Racheli Frankel is the mother of Naftali Frankel, one of the three Israeli youths who were kidnapped and murdered in the summer of 2014. Since immediately after the attack, she has consistently spoken out against revenge and in favor of dialogue.