Avinu Malkeinu · Almighty and Merciful

Loving Father
Infinite Power
Gentle, forgiving
Lofty, inscrutable
Avinu
Malkeinu
Compassionate Mother
Omnipotent Lord
Comforting presence
Fathomless mystery
Avinu
Malkeinu
Our Rock and Redeemer
Life of the Universe
Close to us always
Impossibly far
Avinu
Malkeinu
Embracing
Confounding
Accepting our frailty
Decreeing our end
Avinu
Malkeinu
None of these are true
None of them are You
Yet we stand as those before us have stood
Summoned to judgment, longing for love
Avinu, Malkeinu
May these words be a bridge
They come from our hearts
May they lead us to You
Avinu Malkeinu, sh'ma koleinu.
Avinu Malkeinu — Almighty and Merciful — hear our voice.

Avinu Malkeinu, chatanu l'faneca.
Avinu Malkeinu — we have strayed and sinned before You.

Avinu Malkeinu, chamol aleinu
val ol aleinu v'tapeinu.
Avinu Malkeinu — have compassion on us and our families.

Avinu Malkeinu, kaleih dever v'cherev
v'raav mei-aleinu.
Avinu Malkeinu — halt the onslaught of sickness, violence, and hunger.

Avinu Malkeinu, kaleih kol tzar
umastin mei-aleinu.
Avinu Malkeinu — halt the reign of those who cause pain and terror.

Avinu Malkeinu, kalveinu b'sefer
chayim tovim.
Avinu Malkeinu — enter our names in the Book of Lives Well Lived.

Avinu Malkeinu, chadeish aleinu
shanah tovah.
Avinu Malkeinu — renew for us a year of goodness.

Avinu Malkeinu, choneinu vaaneinu;
ki ein banu maasim.
Aseih imanu tz'dakah vacheseed,
v'hoshieinu.
Avinu Malkeinu — Almighty and Merciful — answer us with grace, for our deeds are wanting.
Save us through acts of justice and love.
The Divine That Is Present Within and Among Us

Avinu Malkeinu

We stand in awe; we draw close in love.

Avinu Malkeinu

The Power that passes through us and pervades all things.

Avinu Malkeinu

The Divine that is present within and among us.

Avinu Malkeinu, sh'ma koleinu.

We speak this sacred truth aloud.

Avinu Malkeinu, chatanu l'fanecha.

We stand as one, accountable for our sins.

Avinu Malkeinu, chamol aleinu v'al olaleinu v'tapeinu.

We yearn for true compassion—for our children most of all.

Avinu Malkeinu, kaleih dever v'cherev v'raav mei-aleinu.

May we resist the ravages of illness, fear, and despair.

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THE DIVINE THAT IS PRESENT WITHIN AND AMONG US. This version of the traditional prayer reflects the kabbalistic notion that God is not an entity "out there," separate and distinct from us. Rather, all things, including human beings, exist within God and are manifestations of the Divine. As Rabbi Isaac of Homel (early 19th century) taught: "There is nothing but God alone and... all is God." This ancient and yet radical view offers us a less hierarchical sense of the Avinu Malkeinu prayer, in which we are not “praying to” anything, but acknowledging the greater reality of which we are a part.

RESIST THE RAVAGES OF ILLNESS, FEAR, AND DESPAIR. Asked by an interviewer what I thought of an experiment that seemed to show that praying for people in hospitals made no difference, I told her, “God’s job is not to make sick people healthy. That’s the doctor’s job. God’s job is to make sick people brave.” (Rabbi Harold Kushner, b. 1935)
Avinu Malkeinu, kaleih kol tzar
umastin mei·aleinu.
Let us summon courage to withstand our enemies.

Avinu Malkeinu, kotveinu b’sefer
chayim tovim.
Let the goodness of this gift of life be engraved upon our hearts.

Avinu Malkeinu, chadeish aleinu
shanah tovah.
May we taste anew the sweetness of each day.

Avinu Malkeinu, malei yadeinu
mibirchotecha.
Let us wake up to the blessings already in our grasp.

Avinu Malkeinu, choneinu vaaneinu;
ki ein banu maasim.
Aseih imanu tz’dakah vachesed,
v’hoshi-einu.
However small our deeds, let us see their power to heal. May we save lives through compassion, generosity, and justice.

MAY WE SAVE LIVES. All traditional Jewish prayer, including Reform, speaks of “God’s power to save.” But this version of Avinu Malkeinu sees it differently: human action is a manifestation of God’s power. In other words, as the embodiment of God’s qualities (compassion, generosity, justice), it is we human beings who have the power to save lives. This is a compelling assertion to make when the inevitable question is raised in the wake of tragedy: Where was God?
Welcoming the Torah

God's Thirteen Attributes

The Torah in Our Midst

Torah Blessings

Thanksgiving Blessing

Blessing for the Aliyah

Torah Reading

Prayer for Healing

Raising the Torah

Blessing before Haftarah

Haftarah

Blessing after Haftarah

Shofar: Remembrance

Community Blessings

Returning Torah to Ark

Shofar: Hope

Ein-kamocha va-elahim, Adonai,
ve'in k'maasecha.
Malchut 'cha malchut kol-olamim;
unemshalt 'cha b'chol-dor vador.
Adonai melech.
Adonai malach.
Adonai yinloch l'olam va-ed.
Adonai ot l'amot yitein,
Adonai y'vareich et-am v'shalom.

Incomparable One —
Your deeds unsurpassed, Your sovereignty everlasting.
You guide and govern through all generations.
Adonai —
sovereign of this day.
sovereign of all days, past and future.
Adonai — sovereign of time:
Bestow strength upon our people.
Bless our people with peace.

Av harachamim,
heitivah v'rizcha et-Tziyon;
tivneh chomot Y'rushalayim.
Ki v'cha l'vad batachnu —
Melech El ram v'nista,
adon olamim.

Compassionate One —
let goodness in Zion be Your will,
the building of Jerusalem Your wish.
We place our faith in You alone,
in God, our Strength Eternal,
existing beyond time and space.

INCOMPARABLE
Psalm 86:8.
YOU GUIDE
BESTOW STRENGTH
Psalm 29:11.
LET GOODNESS
Psalm 51:20.
Adonai, Adonai — El rachum v'chanun;
erech apayim, v'rav-chesed ve-emet;
notzeir chesed laalafim;
nosei avon vafesha v'chataah; v'nakeih.

Adonai, Adonai —
God, compassionate, gracious, endlessly patient, loving, and true;
showing mercy to the thousandth generation;
forgiving evil, defiance, and wrongdoing; granting pardon.

Sh'ma, Yisrael:

Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai echad!

Listen, Israel: Adonai is our God, Adonai is One!

Echad eloheinu, gadol adoneinu,
kadosh v'nora sh'mo.

One and magnificent is our God; God’s name is holy, inspiring awe.

Gad’lu l’Adonai iti;
unrom’mah sh’mo yachdav.

Exalt the Eternal with me; let us extol God’s name together.

L’cha, Adonai, hag’dulah, v’hag’vurah,
v’hatiferet, v’haneitzach, v’ahod —
ki-chol bashamayim uvaaretz.

L’cha, Adonai, hamamlachuv,
v’hamitnasei, l’chol l’rash.

Yours, Adonai, are greatness, might, splendor, triumph, and majesty —
yes, all that is in heaven and earth; to You, God, belong majesty and
preeminence above all.