

Tashlikh Ritual Resource



We are here, this Rosh Hashanah, poised somewhere between what we have been and what we wish to be. We are here at this season of *teshuvah*, of turning, of returning to the self we have covered up behind the roles and masks within which we have learned to protect ourselves. We are here in celebration and in search, in judgment and embrace, ready to confront ourselves and the world in which we find ourselves. We seek to open wide the windows behind which we have hidden, and to send forth hand and heart to learn where we have come, what we have become, and what we hope to be.

(Richard N. Levy)



הַשְׁלִיכוּ מֵעֲלֵיכֶם אֶת-כָּל-פְּשָׁעֵיכֶם אֲשֶׁר פָּשַׁעְתֶּם בָּם וַעֲשׂוּ לָכֶם לֵב חֲדָשׁ וְרוּחַ חֲדָשָׁה

*Hashlikhu mey-alekhem et kol pishikhem, asher pishatem bam
Va'asu lakhem lev chadash, v'ruach chadasha*

Cast away, cast away all that you've done wrong, and give yourself a brand new start
Cast away, cast away all that you've done wrong, and get yourself a fresh new heart
Toss away the light or dark, where you sense you missed the mark, begin the new year with a brighter day. (2x) *(interpretative translation by Bill Shorr)*

מִי-אֵל כְּמוֹךָ נִשְׂא עוֹן וְעִבֵּר עַל-פְּשָׁע לִשְׂאֲרֵית נִחַלְתּוֹ
לֹא-הִחֲזִיק לְעַד אָפוּ כִי-תִפֹּץ חֶסֶד הוּא
יָשׁוּב יְרַחֲמֵנוּ יִכְבֹּשׂ עֲוֹנֵתֵינוּ וְתִשְׁלִיךְ בְּמַצְלוֹת יָם כָּל-חַטָּאתָם

Who God is like You, who lifts up our faults, and overlooks our transgression;
who does not hold on to anger forever, for You desire lovingkindness!
Return and show us compassion, help us overcome our faults
Throw to the depths of the sea everything that causes us to miss the mark
(Ezekiel 18:31; Micah 7:18-19)

וַיִּגַּל כַּמַּיִם מִשְׁפָּט וּצְדָקָה כְּנַחַל אֵיתָן כִּי-מִלְאָה הָאָרֶץ דְּעָה אֶת-ה' כַּמַּיִם לַיָּם מְכַסִּים

*V'yigal kamayim mishpat, u'tzdakah k'nachal eytan,
ki mala ha'aretz deya et Adonai kamayim layam m'khasim*

And justice shall roll down like the waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream
Earth shall be filled with knowledge of YHVH, like water fills the sea

(Amos 5:24; Isaiah 11:9)



Kavvanot/Intentions for “casting off”

Here are some things to reflect on as you cast your beans or crumbs or small stones into the water:

What are the internal obstacles that keep me from realizing my highest values? From being my best self? Cast off those attitudes, those behaviors, the obstacles to becoming who you want to be.

What are the internal barriers that keep me from taking positive, necessary action – whether in my personal life, or in the world around me? Cast off all that gets in the way of taking that first (or next) step.

Living Waters

Rabbi Sheila Peltz Weinberg

Made of water,
surrounded and sustained by water,
on the Day of Change we walk to the water,
the place of transformation.

We gaze into the water
at our shimmering reflection.

Living waters, we say,
May these waters melt
our hatred and our terror
dissolve our despair and our rage
and cause our lies and our suffering to fade
away.

May these waters carry to the sea
the hurts we cause each other.
May these waters carry to the sea:
Our tears
The tears of our family,
The tears of our neighbors,
The tears of our enemies,
The tears of all Israel.

Water Cannot Return

Yehudah Amichai, trans. Rabbi Steven Sager

מים אינם יכולים לחזור בתשובה.
לאן יחזרו? לברז? למקורות, לאדמה,
לשורשים,
לענן, לים, לתוך פי?
מים אינם יכולים לחזור בתשובה.
כל מקום הוא ימיהם כקדם, מימיהם כקדם,
כל מקום התחלה וסוף, והתחלה.

Water cannot return in *teshuvah*.
To where would it return? To faucet, to
sources, to earth, to roots,
to cloud, to sea, to my mouth?
Water cannot return in *teshuvah*.
Every place is seasons as of old,
seas as of old,
every place is beginning and end,
and beginning.



הַשִּׁיבֵנוּ ה' אֱלֹהֵי וְנִשְׁוֹבָה חֲדָשׁ יְמֵינוּ כְּקֶדֶם

*Hashivenu, hashivenu Adonai eleycha
V'nashuvah, v'nashuvah - chadesh, chadesh yameinu k'kedem.*

Turn us to you, Adonai, and we will return; renew our days as in the beginning (*Lamentations 5:21*)