

**READER:** Who shall be happy,  
And who shall be miserable;

**ALL:** Who shall attain fulfillment in their days,  
And who shall not attain fulfillment in their days.

בְּרֵאשׁ הַשָּׁנָה יִכָּתֵב בּוֹן. וּבַיּוֹם צוֹם כְּפֹר יִחְתָּמוּן.

*Berosh hashanah yikatei'vun. Uve'yom tzom kipur yei'chateimun.*

🍃 On New Year's Day it is written and on the Day of Atonement it is sealed.

**READER:** Who shall be tormented by the fire of ambition,  
And whose hopes shall be quenched by the waters of failure;

**ALL:** Who shall be pierced by the sharp sword of envy,  
And who shall be torn by the wild beast of resentment;

**READER:** Who shall hunger for companionship,  
And who shall thirst for approval;

**ALL:** Who shall be shattered by the earthquake of social change,  
And who shall be plagued by the pressures of conformity;

בְּרֵאשׁ הַשָּׁנָה יִכָּתֵב בּוֹן. וּבַיּוֹם צוֹם כְּפֹר יִחְתָּמוּן.

*Berosh hashanah yikatei'vun. Uve'yom tzom kipur yei'chateimun.*

🍃 On New Year's Day it is written and on the Day of Atonement it is sealed.

**READER:** Who shall be strangled by insecurity,  
And who shall be stoned into submission;

**ALL:** Who shall be content with their lot,  
And who shall go wandering in search of satisfaction;

**READER:** Who shall be serene,  
And who shall be distraught;

COMMENT:

This alternative *unataneh tokef* is modeled on the traditional version:

On Rosh Hashanah, all is written and revealed, /and on Yom Kippur, the course of every life is sealed!

--how many pass on, how many shall thrive, /who shall live on, and who shall die, /whose death is timely, and whose is not, /who dies by fire, and who shall be drowned, /who by the sword, and who by the beast, /who by hunger, and who by thirst, /who by an earthquake, who by a plague, /who shall be strangled, and who shall be stoned, /who dwells in peace, and who is uprooted, /who shall live safely, and who shall be harmed, /whose life is tranquil, and whose is tormented, /who shall be poor, and who shall be rich, /who shall be humbled, and who is raised up!

COMMENT:

Our risks of being stoned to death or dying from plague has gone down, but the author of the piece in the main column has named some of the modern perils and fears that have replaced the old hazards.