

תְּשֻׁלִּיךְ *Tashlich*

“Casting Off”

Heiveinu Shalom Aleichem

הַבְּאֵנוּ שְׁלוֹם עֲלֵיכֶם. Heiveinu shalom aleichem

We welcome you in peace.

Esa Einai (Psalm 121:1-2)

אֲשָׂא עֵינַי אֶל־הַהָרִים מֵאֵין יבֵּא עֲזָרִי: Esah einai el haharim mei-ayin yavo ezri
עֲזָרִי מֵעַם יְהוָה עֲשֵׂה שְׂמִים וְאָרֶץ: Ezri mei- im Ado nai o seih sha mayim
va-aretz

I lift up my eyes to the mountains – from where does my help come? My help comes from God, maker of heaven and earth.

What is *Tashlikh*? Its origins are uncertain, not appearing in the Torah or in the Talmud, and seemingly begun during the Middle Ages. *Tashlikh* means, “You shall cast.” Originally, the image was that of “casting off” our sins — putting them behind us in order that we might begin the New Year without fault. But that is not realistic.

For we do carry our past with us.

The wrongs we have done cannot be changed.

The hurt we have created cannot be erased.

But while we carry our past, we do *not* carry our future.

Tomorrow has yet to unfold — each of us chooses what tomorrow will bring.

So rather than cast our sins away, perhaps it is better to imagine casting off those parts of us that impel us to do wrong,

... to hurt others, to hurt ourselves.

Let us, then, “cast off” the *causes* of our wrongdoings —

Jealousy,

Anger,

Suspicion,

And cynicism —

And move forward into the New Year ...

With renewed hope in life ...

And in our own goodness.

On this day of judgment, I take account of my life and relationships during the last year. Of some things I am proud, of others, disappointed. I resolve to strengthen and sustain the many *mitzvot* I have performed -- love in relationships, honesty in business, engagement in the repair of the world -- and I resolve to cast off those actions or words I regret. Help me to keep preserving what is good and to keep casting off what is bad. May this be a year of goodness and blessing.

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Micah 7:18-20

Who is like You, Eternal One:
Forgiving iniquity; overlooking transgression
You do not remain angry forever;
You desire kindness!

*God will take us back compassionately
God will help us to conquer our iniquities
And you will cast your sins into the depths of the
sea.*

You will be true to us,
Show us kindness,
remember Your promise
to our ancestors long ago.

מיכה 7:18-20

מִי־אֵל כְּמוֹךָ
נִשְׂאָ עוֹן וְעִבֵּר עַל־פְּשָׁע
לִשְׂאֵרִית נִחַלְתָּו
לֹא־הִחַזִּיק לְעַד־אָפוּ
כִּי־חַפֵּץ חֶסֶד הוּא:

יָשׁוּב יִרְחַמֵּנוּ
יִכַּבֵּשׁ עֲוֹנוֹתֵינוּ
וְתִשְׁלֵיךְ בְּמַצְלוֹת יָם כָּל־חַטָּאתָם:

תִּתֵּן אֶמֶת לִיעֲקֹב
חֶסֶד לְאַבְרָהָם
אֲשֶׁר־נִשְׁבַּעְתָּ לְאַבְתֵּינוּ
מִיְמֵי קֶדֶם:

Let us cast away our deception, so that we will mislead no one in word or deed, nor pretend to be what we are not.

Let us cast away our vain ambition which prompts us to strive for goals which bring neither true fulfillment nor genuine contentment.

Let us cast away our stubbornness, so that we will neither persist in foolish habits nor fail to acknowledge our will to change.

Let us cast away our pride and arrogance, so that we worship God in humility and truth.

Let us cast away our envy, so that we will neither be consumed by desire for what we lack nor grow unmindful of the blessings which are already ours.

Let us cast away our selfishness, which keeps us from enriching our lives through wider concerns, and greater sharing, and from reaching out in love to fellow human beings.

Let us cast away our indifference, so that we may be sensitive to the suffering of others and responsive to the needs of our people everywhere.

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On this sacred day
when the old year slips away
we prepare to meet the year ahead,
we stand at the water's edge
our pockets lined with dust and bread,
symbols of our shortcomings and
regrets.

Many are the regrets and sorrows
that weigh upon our souls,
let us cast them off into the moving
waters
so we may begin anew.

Great is our regret
for the harsh words we have spoken,
the tender words we left unsaid,
for the anger we let smolder,
the compassion we withheld,
for our greed and jealousy,
our lack of generosity.
for all that we could have done,
all that we have left undone.

Many are the regrets and sorrows
that weigh upon our souls,
let us cast them into the moving waters
so we can strive to become
all that we were meant to be.

Great is our remorse
for the energy we spent fighting
instead of trying to make amends,
for the times we could have lent a hand
instead of keeping our hands by our
sides,
for the times we looked away from
those near and far
who need our help and caring,
when we turned away from the places in
the world
in need of repairing.

Many are the regrets and sorrows
that weigh upon our hearts and souls,
let us cast them into the moving waters
so we can begin to build bridges
connecting us one to another.
-Elizabeth Tragash

תַּשְׁלִיחַ *Tashlich*

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As we cast these pebbles into the water, we remember the vision of Ezekiel, who said:

*Cast away from yourselves all of your transgressions
and create within yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. (18.31)*

וַיֹּאמֶר יי סְלַח־תִּי כִּדְבַרְךָ.

Va-yo-meyr A-do-nai: S'lakh-tee kid-va-re-kha.
God has said: I have forgiven as you have asked.

Hashiveinu (Lamentations 5:21)

הַשִּׁיבֵנוּ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְנִשְׁוֵבָה Hashiveinu Adonai eilecha v'nashuvah
חֲדָשׁ יָמֵינוּ כְּקִדְמָם Chadeish yameinu k'kedem

Cause us to return to You, O God, and we will return. Renew our days as of old.