



Congregation Shir Hadash

Tashlich

A Prayer for Tashlich

Here I am again
ready to let go of my mistakes.

Help me to release myself
from all the ways I've missed the mark.

Help me to stop carrying
the heavy baggage of my poor choices.

As I cast these pebbles upon the waters
lift my troubles off my shoulders.

Help me to know that last year is over,
washed away in the current.

Open my heart to blessing and gratitude.

Renew my soul as the dew renews the
grasses.

And we say together:
Amen.

Being Sorry

It is written:

Three things there are that will never come back:

The arrow shot forth on its destined track;

The appointed hour that could not wait;

And the helpful word that was spoken too late.

What we have done is done.

We cannot change the words we have spoken;

We cannot speak after the time for speaking is
done.

We cannot bring back the time when we should
have helped but did not.

What then can we do?

Why bother to say we are sorry?

Not because of what has been done,
but because of what we will do.

We will learn from our mistakes,
to do the right things at the right time in the
coming year.

The Meaning of Tashlich

We come to this body of water to symbolically “cast away” our accumulated sins and transgressions so that we may purify our hearts and our souls, as the new year begins:

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

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

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

Let us cast away the sin of 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 the sin of selfishness, which keeps us from enriching our lives through wider concerns and great sharing and from reaching out in love to other human beings.

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

Let us cast away the sin of pride and arrogance, so that we can worship God and serve God's purpose in humility and truth.

At this time of year, I take account of my life and relationships during the last year. Of some things I am proud, of others disappointed or ashamed. 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 that I regret. Help me keep preserving what is good and to keep casting off what is bad. May this be a year of goodness and of blessing.

Micah 7:18-20

¹⁸ Who is a God like You, forgiving iniquity and remitting transgression; Who has not maintained God's wrath forever Against the remnant of God's own people, Because God loves graciousness! ¹⁹ God will take us back in love; God will cover up our iniquities, You will hurl all our sins into the depths of the sea.

יח מִי־אֵל כְּמוֹךָ נִשְׂא עוֹן וְעִבֵּר עַל־
פְּשָׁע לְשִׂיאֵרִית גִּחְלָתוֹ לֹא־הִחְזִיק לְעַד
אָפוֹ כִּי־חֲפָץ חֶסֶד הוּא: יֵט יִשׁוּב־
יְרַחֲמֵנוּ יִכְבֹּשׂ עֲוֹנוֹתֵינוּ וְתִשְׁלִיךְ
בְּמַצְלוֹת יָם כָּל־חַטָּאתָם:

A Tashlich Blessing

V'tashlich bim'tzulot yam kol chatatam: V'chol chatat amecha beit Yisrael, tashlich bimkom asher lo y'zachru v'lo yipakdu v'lo ya'alu al lev l'olam.

וְתִשְׁלִיךְ בְּמַצְלוֹת יָם כָּל־חַטָּאתָם:
וְכָל חַטָּאת עִמָּךְ בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל,
תִּשְׁלִיךְ בְּמַקּוֹם אֲשֶׁר לֹא יִזְכְּרוּ
וְלֹא יִפְקְדוּ, וְלֹא יֵעָלוּ עַל יָב לְעוֹלָם.

You will cast all of their sins into the depths of the sea, and may You cast all of the sins of Your people, the House of Israel, into a place where they shall be no more remembered or visited or ever come to mind.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech ha'olam, shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higi-anu laz'man hazeh.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
שֶׁהִחְיֵנוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזֶמַן הַזֶּה.

Praise to You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe, for giving us life, sustaining us, and enabling us to reach this season.

Hashiveinu Adonai eilecha, v'nashuvah, chadeish yameinu k'kedem.

הַשִּׁיבֵנוּ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ
וְנָשׁוּבָה חֲדָשׁ יָמֵינוּ כְּקֶדֶם:

Return us to You and we will return. Renew our days as of old!

Lamentations 5:21