

# Rosh HaShanah Outdoor Tashlich Service

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## Hinei Mah Tov

*Hinei mah tov umah na'im  
shevet achim gam yachad.*

הִנֵּה מַה טוֹב וּמַה נְעִימִים  
שֵׁבֶת אַחִים גַּם-יַחַד

How good it is, and how pleasant, when we live together in peace. (Psalm 133:1)

## 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 karmic baggage of my poor choices.

As I cast this bread upon the waters  
Lift my troubles off my shoulders.

Help me to know that last year is over,  
washed away like crumbs in the current.  
Open my heart to blessing and gratitude  
Renew my soul as the dew renews the grasses.

And we say together: Amen.

(Rabbi Rachel Barenblat)

## Avinu Malkeinu

*Avinu Malkeinu, chaneinu va'aneinu,  
ki ein banu ma'asim.  
Asei imanu tzedakah v'chesed, v'hosheinu.*

אָבִינוּ מַלְכֵנוּ, חַנּוּנוּ, וְנַעֲנֵנוּ,  
כִּי אֵין בָּנוּ מַעֲשִׂים.  
עֲשֵׂה עִמָּנוּ צְדָקָה וְחֶסֶד, וְהוֹשִׁיעֵנוּ.

Our Parent, Our Ruler, be gracious and answer us,  
for we have little merit.  
Treat us generously and with kindness, and be our help.

## Season

To everything, there is a season  
And there is an appointed time for every purpose under heaven.  
Now is the time for turning.  
The leaves are beginning to turn  
From green to red and orange.  
The birds are beginning to turn.  
And are heading once more towards the South.  
The animals are beginning to turn.  
To storing their food for the winter.  
For leaves, birds, and animals.  
Turning comes instinctively.  
But for us turning does not come so easily.

## Will

It takes an act of will  
For us to make a turn.  
It means breaking with old habits.  
It means admitting that we have been wrong,  
and this is never easy.  
It means losing face.  
It means starting all over again,  
and this is often painful.  
It means saying: "I am sorry."  
It means admitting that we have the ability to change,  
and this is often embarrassing.  
These things are terribly hard to do.  
But unless we turn, we will be trapped forever  
In yesterday's ways.

# Turn, Turn

God, help us to turn -  
From callousness to sensitivity,  
From hostility to love,  
From pettiness to purpose,  
From envy to contentment,  
From carelessness to discipline,  
From fear to faith.

Turn us around, O God, and bring us back toward You.  
Revive our lives, as at the beginning.  
And turn us towards each other, God,  
For in isolation there is no life.

For hundreds of years, Jews have gathered by the water's edge on the afternoon of Rosh Hashanah to symbolically cast off our sins. Today, as did generations before us, we too stand by the water's edge, poised between the year now gone and the year that is yet to be. Tashlich is a time to recognize that we can change the quality of our lives. Now is the time to ask ourselves those hard questions, some of which are provided below. Please find a spot for yourself and cast your sins into the water.

*Take a moment to reflect on the sins you need to cast off in order to welcome in the new year.*

- Am I using time at work/school wisely?
- Am I using time at home wisely? Am I there when my family needs me or not?
- As I've grown, have I continued to honor my parents?
- If I have children, have I shown respect to them as they grow and blossom?
- The relationships that I build - are they reflecting holiness?
- The kind deed: did I perform it or postpone it?
- The unnecessary word: did I say it or hold back?
- Did I motivate myself to succeed in life as much as I could have?
- Have I become the kind of person I wanted to become this year?
- Have I acquired more than just possessions? Have I acquired new insights as well?
- Have I refrained from gossip? Have I felt the heartbreak of others?
- Am I living life fully? If I have not, have I learned? How will I change?
- In what ways have I fallen short?

## Casting Away our Sins

*You may recite the following as you cast your sins:*

In my distress I cried out to God; God answered me and set me free.

Who is like You, O God, forgiving iniquity and pardoning the transgression of the remnant of Your people!

You do not retain Your anger forever, for You delight in loving-kindness.

You will again have compassion upon us, subdue our iniquities, and cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

## Blessing for Hearing the Shofar

*Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, melech ha-olam,  
asher kidishanu b'mitzvotav vitzivanu  
lishmoah kol shofar.*

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם  
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ  
לְשִׁמֹּעַ קוֹל שׁוֹפָר.

Blessed are you Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe,  
who has given sanctified us with God's commandments  
and commanded us to hear the voice of the shofar.

## תְּקִיעַה גְּדוּלָה

## Hashiveinu

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

הַשִּׁיבֵנוּ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְנָשׁוּבָה.  
חַדֵּשׁ יָמֵינוּ כְּקֵדֶם.

Turn us to You, O God, and we will return; renew us as in days of old.