



SOUL NIDREI SUPPLEMENT 5785

A Prayer for the New Year

By Eyal Ziv (translated by Irit Burkeman)

Give us one year of real silence
A year of white blooms and green grass
A year of fervoured love and a toasty warm home
And that we should know only once 'what is good and pleasant'.

תָּן לָנוּ שָׁנָה אַחַת שֶׁל שְׁקֵט אֲמִתִּי
שָׁנָה שֶׁל לֹבֵן הַפְּרִיחוֹת וְיִרְק הַדְּשָׁאִים
שָׁנָה שֶׁל לֵהֵט אֶהָבוֹת וְחוּם תְּנוּר בֵּיתִי
וְשִׁנְדַע רַק פְּעַם מֵהוּ טוֹב וּמָה נְעִים

A year without the voices of hate and the cries of the bereaved
Without pictures of blood without the drums of war
Without the paralysing fear of the worst
Without missing the future laughter of the one who was buried

שָׁנָה לְלֹא קוֹלוֹת שִׁנְאָה וְזַעֲקוֹת הַשְּׂכּוּל
לְלֹא מְרֵאוֹת הַדָּם לְלֹא הַלְמוֹת תְּפִי הַמְּלַחֲמָה
לְלֹא הַפְּחַד הַמְּשַׁתֵּק שֶׁל הַנוֹרָא מִכָּל
לְלֹא צְחוּקוֹ שֶׁל הַעֲתִיד אֲשֶׁר נִטְמָן בְּאֲדָמָה

After all, we didn't ask for kingdoms' treasures
Nor subliminal happiness nor luxury cars
Only a pinch of real silence and white blooms
In which we could be adorned

הֵן לֹא בִקְשָׁנוּ לָנוּ אוֹצְרוֹת שֶׁל מַמְלָכוֹת
לֹא אֲשֶׁר עֲלָאֵי וּמְכוֹנִיּוֹת פְּאָר
קְרֵטוֹב אֶחָד שֶׁל שְׁקֵט אֲמִתִּי וּלֹבֵן שֶׁל פְּרִיחוֹת
אֲשֶׁר נוֹכַל בָּהֶם בְּלֹאט לְהִתְהַדָּר

As in the past to get excited from the autumn smells
To gallop to happiness as the whistle of the train
To build us a sukkah of peace now
And to be deserving of sitting in it

לְהִתְרַגֵּשׁ כְּפַעַם מְרִיחוֹת הַסֶּתֶו
לְדַהֵר אֶל הָאֲשֶׁר כְּשִׁרִיקַת רִפְבֶּת
לְבָנוֹת לָנוּ סִכַּת שְׁלוֹם עֲכָשׁוּ
וּלְהִיּוֹת בָּהּ רְאוּיִים לְשִׁבַּת

Nachman of Bratslav's Prayer for Peace

May it be Your will, Eternal God, that war and bloodshed be abolished from the world, that a great and wondrous peace rule forever; that never again shall nation lift up sword against nation, and never again shall they train for war. But may all who dwell on the earth recognize and understand the basic truth: that we have not come into this world for strife and division, nor for hate and jealousy, contrariness and bloodshed; but we have come into this world to recognize and know You, may You be blessed forever.

A Prayer for the Release of Captives

Words: based on the words of Kol Haneshamah Reform Congregation, Jerusalem

God of Abraham, the first who risked his life for the release of captives. God of Moses, Miriam and Aaron, whose words and actions brought us out of slavery. God of Elijah, who was comforted through his deep despair, by your still small voice. Be with those everywhere who are enslaved and captive. Our thoughts and prayers go to those still held hostage by Hamas. Grant strength and resilience to them, and their families yearning and working for their release. Give wisdom, courage and conviction to all those working to bring them home. Help us to understand what we too can do to hasten the release of captives and to support those in distress.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם מַתִּיר אֲסוּרִים :

Baruch attah Adonai eloheinu melech ha-olam matir asurim.

Blessed are you our Living God, who frees captives.