

Tashlich Service: Casting our Sins Away

Tashlich is a remarkable ceremony - symbolic and concrete all at the same time. Through this ritual, we express not only our desire to be free from sin but our continuing hope that we will be forgiven for past misdeeds. On the afternoon of the first day of Rosh Hashanah it is customary to go to a flowing body of water and to recite prayers while "casting" our sins (represented by rocks or bread crumbs) into the water. As we read in Micah: "You will cast (Tashlich) all your sins into the depths of the sea" (7:19). By performing Tashlich, we signify our hope that God will overlook our failings during the past year and grant us favor in the year to come.

Today we come to this body of water to perform the Tashlich ceremony, seeking symbolically to "cast away" our accumulated sins and transgressions so that we may purify our hearts and our souls, as the new year begins.

Avinu Malkeinu *one of the oldest and most moving of all the prayers of the Jewish Year from the time of Messiah... it is recited during Jewish services on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, as well on the Ten Days of Repentance from Rosh Hashanah through Yom Kippur... Today we will say just an excerpt:*

Our Father our King, hear our voice. Father our King, we have sinned before Thee

Our Father, our King, we have no King but You.

Our Father, our King, deal [kindly] with us for Your Name's sake.

Our Father our King, have compassion for us, and also on our children

Our Father our King, bring an end to pestilence, war and famine around us

Our Father our King, bring an end to all trouble and oppression around us.

Our Father our King, Our Father our King, inscribe us in the book of life

Our Father our King, renew upon us a good year

*Our Father our King; be gracious with us and answer us,
though we have no worthy deeds, treat us with us charity and kindness and save us!*

Psalm 130

Out of the depths I call to You; Lord, hear my cry, heed my plea. Be attentive to my prayers, to my sigh of supplication. Who could endure, Lord, if You kept count of every sin? But forgiveness is Yours: therefore we revere You.

I wait for the Lord; my soul yearns. Full of hope I await His word. I wait for the Lord more eagerly than watchmen wait for dawn.

Put your hope in the Lord, for the Lord is generous with mercy. Abundant is God's power to redeem; May God redeem the people Israel from all sin.

Micah 7:18-20

Who is a God like You, forgiving iniquity and pardoning the transgression of the remnant of Your people? You do not maintain anger forever but You delight in loving-kindness. You will again have compassion upon us, subduing our sins, **casting all our sins into the depths of the sea**. You will show faithfulness to Jacob and enduring love to Abraham, as You promised our fathers from days of old.

(Let us take a few moments to meditate on God's goodness in removing our sins and purifying us as we symbolically "cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.")

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. *(cast stone)*

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

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. *(cast stone)*

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. *(cast stone)*

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. *(cast stone)*

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. *(cast stone)*

(Take a few moments to quietly and individually cast any other sins the Ruach brings to mind)