



ISJL Tashlich Service

High Holiday Season 2020/5781

Tashlich – “The Casting”

The origin of *Tashlich*, which means “you shall cast,” is unclear. It isn’t in the Talmud, but it became an established ritual by the end of the Middle Ages. As we cast our sins into the water, we remember the creation of the world by God, our Creator. We think about God and ask forgiveness for the things we have done wrong.

The custom of going to a body of water on Rosh Hashanah is symbolic, for the waters which now seem to be at this place were not here before and will not remain afterward. So, if the sinner says to themselves: “I will not repeat my sin; my behavior will change,” the sin, like the waters, will move on.

From the Prophet Micah

Who is a God like You, forgiving iniquity, passing over transgression? You do not cling to Your anger with the remnant of Your people, because You delight in showing love! You will turn back [to us], You will take us back in love, You will subdue our sins, casting them into the depths of the sea. You will show faithfulness to Jacob, steadfast love to Abraham, as You promised our ancestors from the days of old.

~Micah 7:18-20

From Psalm 118

Praise Adonai, for God is good; God’s steadfast love is eternal... In distress I called on God; Adonai answered me and brought me relief. Adonai is on my side, I have no fear; what can human beings do to me?... The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is God’s doing; it is marvelous in our sight. This is the day that Adonai has made – let us exalt and rejoice in it.

~Psalm 118: 1, 5-6, 22-23

From Psalm 130

Out of the depths I call to You, O God. Adonai, listen to my cry; let Your ears be attentive to my plea for mercy. If You keep account of sins, O God, who will survive? Yours is the power to forgive so that You may be held in awe. I look to Adonai; I look to God and I await God’s word.

~Psalm 130: 1-5

At the waters' edge

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.

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 that 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.

Silent Meditations

Cast away all the transgressions by which you have offended, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit, that you may not die, O House of Israel.

~Ezekiel 18:31

We have turned aside from Your mitzvot,
From Your laws which point us toward the good,
And no good has come to us from our misdeeds.
Yet You do justly with everyone who comes before You,
For You have acted out of truth, while we have too often acted falsely.
What shall we say before You who dwells in the heights,
What stories can we tell to You who dwells in heaven?
Do You not already know all that we reveal and all that we have tried to hide?
~From: *On Wings of Awe: A Machzor for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur*

I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your iniquities. From all you idolatries, I will cleanse you. A new heart will I give you; a new spirit will I put within you. I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh, and will give you a heart of flesh. I will put My spirit within you, and teach you to live by My precepts.

~**Ezekiel 36:25**

Who is truly repentant? The one who, when the temptation to sin is repeated, refrains from sinning.

~**Talmud, Yoma 86b**

{When you are ready, please cast your sins into the water}

We sing together:

<i>Eli, Eli,</i>	O God, my God,	אֱלֹהֵי, אֱלֹהֵי
<i>shelo yigameir l'olam</i>	I pray that these things never end:	שֶׁלֹא יִגְמַר לְעוֹלָם
<i>hachol vehayam,</i>	The sand and the sea,	הַחֹל וְהַיָּם,
<i>rishrush shel hamayim,</i>	The rush of the waters,	רִשְׁרוּשׁ שֶׁל הַמַּיִם,
<i>berak ha-shamayim,</i>	The crash of the heavens,	בְּרַק הַשָּׁמַיִם,
<i>tefilat ha-adam.</i>	The prayer of the heart.	תְּפִלַּת הָאָדָם.

~**Hannah Senesh**