

## סְלִיחוֹת - S'LICHOT

**בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הַגָּפֶן.**

*Baruch Atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, borei p'ri hagafen.*

We praise You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, Creator of the fruit of the vine.

**בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא מִיְּנֵי בְּשָׂמִים.**

*Baruch Atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, borei minei v'samim.*

We praise You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, Creator of varied spices.

**בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא מְאוֹרֵי הָאֵשׁ.**

*Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, borei m'orei ha-esh.*

We praise You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, Creator of the lights of fire.

**בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי, הַמְבַדִּיל בֵּין קֹדֶשׁ לְחֹל.**

*Baruch Atah Adonai, hamavdil bein kodesh l'chol.*

Praise to You, Adonai who distinguishes the holy and ordinary.

### שְׁבוּעַ טוֹב

Shavuah Tov!

*A good week, a week of peace, may gladness reign and joy increase.*

**אֱלֹהֵינוּ הַנְּבִיא, אֱלֹהֵינוּ הַתְּשֻׁבִי, אֱלֹהֵינוּ הַגִּלְעָד.**

**בְּמַהֲרָה בְּיָמֵינוּ, יָבוֹא אֵלֵינוּ עִם מְשִׁיחַ בֶּן דָּוִד.**

*Eliyahu hanavi, Eliyahu hatishbi, Eliyahu hagiladi Bimheirah b'yameinu, yavo eileinu, im Mashiach ben David.*

May Elijah the prophet, Elijah the Tishbite, Elijah of Gilead- come quickly in our day - heralding redemption.

**כָּל הַנְּשָׁמָה תְּהַלֵּל יְהוָה הַלְלוּיָהּ:**

*Kol ha-neshamah t'halel Ya. Halleluyah!*

May everything that has breath praise God. Praised is God!

At this moment of separation, we have not only move into a new week, but more importantly, we are moving into the High Holy Days -- time for introspection and

reflection; a time for celebration and anticipation. Tonight, we pray for renewal; for healing; for a future of blessings.

*This holy day of Slichot is the period of cheshbon ha-nefesh, our spiritual inventory. Where have we strayed this year? Where have we made progress over this past year? What are our challenges? What are our celebrations.*

Eternal God, what can we say in Your presence? How can we account for our failings? How can we account for the failings of the world? We speak of T'shuvah and repentance, yet we are slow to change. But, on this day, we turn to you in prayer asking for a chance to make ourselves whole for the coming year.

*How do we demonstrate our appreciation for the blessings that we too often take for granted. Eternal God, help us look with more loving and appreciative eyes. Let our hearts better demonstrate how we cherish the blessings and gifts that sustain us and grow our joy in this world.*

As we embark on the journey, we know that we first must visit the year in reflection. We have fallen short of the mark of goodness and decency that we have established for ourselves.

We have been **arrogant** and **bigoted**.

*We have been **cynical** and **deceitful**; our **egos** have governed our deeds and we have **fueled** the fires of gossip.*

We have been **greedy**, filled with **hate**, blind to **injustice**, and been **jealous** of each other.

*We have **kept grudges**, **lied**, **maligned** each other, been **narrow minded** and **obstinate**.*

We have been more concerned for our **possessions** than our **dignity**; we have been **quarrelsome**, **rancorous**, and **selfish**.

*We failed in **trust**, lived **unwelcomingly**, and committed acts of emotional and possibly physical **violence**. Our wills were **weak**.*

We were **extreme** in our intolerance and we **yielded** to temptation.

*We were **zealous** for our own good, ignoring the world around us.*

**ועל כָּלֵם, אֱלוֹהַּ סְלִיחוֹת, סְלַח לָנוּ, מְחַל לָנוּ, כְּפָר-לָנוּ!**

*V'al kulam, Elo-ah slichot, s'lach lanu, m'chal lanu, kapaer lanu!*

*For all these, O God forgive us, pardon us, grant us atonement!*

But still, there is the good that we perform. We learned to appreciate each day's gifts. **B**ravely we faced life challenges. **C**reatively, we found ways to bring others joy. **D**evotedly, we cared for those in need.

*We encouraged others to succeed. Faithfully, we held tight to our best visions for humanity. We were giving of our hearts and honest in our relationships.*

We imagined better tomorrows where justice, kindness, and love govern our behaviors. **M**indfully, we let go of yesterday and live in the "now." We sought and shared opportunities to grow peace between people.

*We led with quality – our best selves. People found respect, safety, and trustworthiness in our confidence. We sought to understand before reacting. We respected vulnerability and welcomed our neighbors into our lives. We shared "xoxos" with those we love. We said, "Yes" to helping even when it was easier to say, "No;" zealous to pursue fulfilling the needs of others.*

We seek balance as we move into tomorrow. May our lists of transgressions diminish as the blessings we bring blossom.

*Open my ears, that I might better hear the cries of those in pain and in need. Give my arms strength, that I will help them carry their load. Open my heart to better love my life already filled with blessings.*

**הַשְׁבֵנוּ יְהוָה אֵלֵינוּ, וְנִשְׁוֵבָה. חֲדָשׁ יָמֵינוּ כְּקֶדֶם.**

*Hashivaenu Adonai Aelecha, v'nashuvah. Chadaesh yamaenu k'kedem.*

### **"RETURN AGAIN"**

*Return again, return again, Return to the land of your Soul (x 2)*

*CHORUS:*

*Return to who you are, return to what you are, Return to where you were  
Born and reborn again.*

God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

*God Said, "Let an expanse separate the heavens," and there was Earth.*

God said, "Let the waters gather and let fruit and trees grow on dry land," and, the Earth lived.

*God said, "Let the seas bring forth life. Let animals roam the land and birds fill the skies," and there was life on Earth.*

God said, "Let Us make humanity in Our image," and . . . we were born.

*God told the first man and woman, "Be fruitful and multiply," and there was humanity.*

God commanded us, "Do not hate another in your heart, love your neighbor as yourself," and there was light.

**הַשְּׁבִנוּ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ, וְנָשׁוּבָה. חֲדָשׁ יָמֵינוּ כְּקֶדֶם.**

*Hashivaenu Adonai Aelecha, v'nashuvah. Chadaesh yamaenu k'kedem.*

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*Return to who you are, return to what you are, Return to where you were  
Born and reborn again.*

Help us return to You, O God, and we shall return. Renew our days so that we might begin again. Help us rest peacefully tonight.

*May we work that others can rest peacefully, as well.*

May we create for our children, and our children's children, a world of compassion and hope.

*Spread Your shelter of peace over this world – may we share it in joy and in peace. May we return to you and to each other.*

In our turning give us vision.

*In our turning give us courage.*

In our turning give us wisdom.

*In our turning give us strength.*

In our turning give us compassion.

*In our turning, may we help bring peace.*

**אָבִינוּ מֶלְכֵנוּ, חַנּוּנוּ וְעֵינָנוּ, כִּי אֵין בָּנוּ מַעֲשָׁחִים, עֲשֵׂה עִמָּנוּ צְדָקָה וְחֶסֶד וְהוֹשִׁיעֵנוּ.**

*Avinu Malkaenu chanaenu va-anaenu, ki aen banu ma-asim,  
aseh imanu tzedakah vachessed v'hoshi-aenu.*

**תְּקִיעַה גְּדוּלָה !!!**