

הַרִינִי מְכוּוֹן בְּהַצְבָּעָתִי | בַּתְּפִילָּתִי הַיּוֹם  
לְדַרֵּשׁ שְׁלוֹם בְּעַד הַמְּדִינָה הַזֹּאת כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב:  
”וְדַרְשׁוּ אֶת שְׁלוֹם הָעִיר אֲשֶׁר הִגְלִיתִי אֶתְכֶם שָׁמָּה  
וְהִתְפַּלְלוּ בְעֵדָה אֶל ה' כִּי בְשְׁלוֹמָהּ יִהְיֶה לְכֶם שְׁלוֹם.”  
יְהִי רְצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ ה' שֶׁהַהֲצָבָעוֹת נִמְנוּ נְאֻמָּנוֹת  
וְתִמְנָה הַצְּבָעָתִי כְּאִלּוּ קִיַּמְתִּי הַכְּתוּב הַזֶּה בְּכֹל עֲצָמָתִי.  
תֵּתֵן לִב שׁוֹמֵעַ לְמִי שְׂאֲנוּ בּוֹחֵרִים הַיּוֹם  
וְטוֹב יִהְיֶה בְּעֵינֶיךָ שֶׁתִּשָּׂא עֲלֵינוּ מִמְשָׁלָה טוֹבָה  
לְמַעַן הַבִּיא מִשְׁפָּט וְשְׁלוֹם לְכָל יוֹשְׁבֵי הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת  
וְכָל יוֹשְׁבֵי תֵבֵל וְעַל יְרוּשָׁלַיִם  
וְלִכְבוֹד הַצֶּלֶם בְּכָל אָדָם וּבִבְרִיאָה  
כִּי הַמְּלָכוֹת שֶׁלְךָ הֵיא.  
כְּשֶׁמִּשְׁתַּתְּפָתִי בְּבַחֲרֵירוֹת  
בֶּן זַפְנִי לַעֲשׂוֹת מַעֲשִׂים טוֹבִים וּלְתַקֵּן עוֹלָם בְּכָל פְּעֻלָּי  
וּבְפַעֲלוֹת ... שְׂאֲנִי מִתְנַדֵּב | מִתְנַדְּבֵת לְקַיֵּם הַיּוֹם  
בְּעַד כָּל הַבְּרִיאוֹת, בְּזִכְרוֹן בְּרִית מִי נָח  
לְהִגֵּן וּלְבַל תִּשְׁחִית אֶרֶץ וּמְלוֹאָהּ.  
תֵּן לְכָל אַמּוֹת הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת הַכֹּחַ וְהַרְצוֹן  
לְרַדֵּף צְדָק וּלְבַקֵּשׁ שְׁלוֹם כְּאֲגִדָּה אַחַת  
לְהַצְמִיחַ בְּכָל הָעוֹלָם חַיִּים טוֹבִים וְשְׁלוֹם,  
וְקַיֵּם לָנוּ הַכְּתוּב: ”וַיְהִי נֶעַם אֲדָנָי אֱלֹהֵינוּ עָלֵינוּ  
וּמַעֲשֵׂה יָדֵינוּ כּוֹנֵנָה עָלֵינוּ וּמַעֲשֵׂה יָדֵינוּ כּוֹנֵנָהוּ.”

## Behold, I am intending through my vote | my prayer today

to seek peace for this country, as it is written (Jer. 29:7):

“Seek the peace of the city where I cause you to roam

and pray for her to *YHVH* (*Adonai*/God), for in her peace you all will have peace.”

May it be Your will, *YHVH*, that votes be counted faithfully,

and may You count my vote as if I had fulfilled this verse with all my power.

May You give a listening heart to whomever we elect today

and may it be good in Your eyes to raise for us a good government

to bring justice and peace to all living in this land

and all the world, and to Jerusalem

and to honor the image of God in all humanity and in Creation,

for rulership is Yours.

Just as I have participated in elections,

so may I merit to do good works and to repair the world through all my efforts,

and through the act of...[*fill in your pledge*]...which I pledge to do today

on behalf of all living creatures, in remembrance of the covenant of Noah's waters

to protect and to not destroy the earth and her plenitude.

May You give to all the peoples of this country the strength and the will

to pursue righteousness and to seek peace as a unified force

in order to cause to flourish throughout the world good life and peace,

and fulfill for us the verse: “May the pleasure of *Adonai* our God be upon us,

and establish the work of our hands for us; make the work of our hands endure.” (Ps. 90:17)

If you can't pray in a voting booth, where can you pray? And where would you need more to pray? This prayer is not about casting a winning vote or supporting a party. It's a prayer that peace and justice may come through whomever is elected, to our country, to all humanity, to all Life. It's also more than that: you are invited to pledge to take action that embodies your ideals. This pledge is based on the custom of pledging to give *tsedakah*, charity, when going up to the Torah. What is your pledge on the occasion of “going up” to the voting booth? You can also use this prayer on Election Day, even if you've voted early.

~ Rabbi David Seidenberg (rebduvid86@gmail.com)

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