

Al eleh anu bokhim, anu bokhim, For these we weep

For the Amazon, the lungs of the world,
and for the greed that goads people to burn the jungles
Al eleh anu bokhim

For the ocean's rising acidity,
and for the heat that bleaches wondrous corals
Al eleh anu bokhot

For Redwoods clearcut
and for their multitudes of species that have lost their homes ~ *Al eleh anu bokhim*

For plastic found in deepest ocean and upon highest mountain,
and for a throwaway culture that devalues everything in our lives
Al eleh anu bokhot

For the murder of elephants, rhinos, pangolins,
and for the retribution their extinction must deserve
Al eleh anu bokhim

For the birds and insects gone silent,
and for the starlight smothered by our lights
Al eleh anu bokhot

For the generations whose home we are ruining,
and for the generation that knows this but doesn't change course
Al eleh anu bokhot

For the Antarctica glaciers and the polar ice caps,
and for the penguins and polar bears endangered
Al eleh anu bokhim

For snowpack and glaciers everywhere,
and for the billions whose cities will be drowned, and whose farms will have no water
Al eleh anu bokhim

For drought drying forests and expanding deserts,
and for desert habitats shrinking from before human development, and for the Saharah cheetah, the fringe-toed lizard, and the addax
Al eleh anu bokhot

For the undiscovered species whose lives we will never know,
and for the loss of wisdom, truth and beauty each one embodies on this planet
Al eleh anu bokhim

For the billions of animals living lives of torture to satisfy human gluttony,
and for the pandemics and plagues that can spread from them to humanity
Al eleh anu bokhot

For the untold losses and annihilations suffered by the creatures of the Earth,
and for the ignorance that sees not, and the callous hearts not broken
Al eleh anu bokhim

For the wicked who prosper from war, homelessness, poverty, and from the land's ruin,
and for the horror they bring on all of us, while they shelter in their mansions
– Alas, how long will they prosper?
Al eleh anu bokhot

For the governments refusing to act,
and for the leaders who thwart and reverse policies that would save species, habitats, ecosystems,
Al eleh anu bokhim

Rabbi David Seidenberg,
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neohasid.org/docs/AIEleh.doc

For violent storms and the fires, and for the forest sanctuaries lost
Al eleh anu bokhot

For a world suspended in the nothingness of space,
and for the anxiety we live in, imagining this refuge lost
Al eleh anu bokhim

For our own sore hearts, living in a world of wounds,
and for our children and generations to come, for their fears and their hopes for a better world
Al eleh anu bokhot

For the wounding of God's works, and for the wounding of God's image,
Al eleh anu bokhim

For the Breath of Life, desecrated, destroyed, defiled!
Can You hear us, can You save us from ourselves?
Al eleh anu bokhot, for these we cry

Teach us to care, teach us to sit still, to understand, for the time is late.
Impel us to act, participate, triumph, at least enough, lest there be no one left to cry