

“אֵיךְ אֶשְׁאַל” ~ פיוט לסליחות תשפ”ו-תשפ”ז

“*Eikh esh'al* - How can I ask?” A *piyyut* responding to the violence of the Gaza war and elsewhere in the land of promise

1. אֵיךְ אֶשְׁאַל לְגַלֵּל הַחֶרֶפָה מֵעָלַי וְעִדּוּתֶיךָ לֹא נִצְרָתִי?
  2. הַסָּכִין בְּיָדִי בְּעָדִי עֲדִיין וְאֶדְרֹשׁ מֵאַתּ פִּיהַּ מְחִילָה לִּי?
  3. לְהַכּוֹת אֶגְרוֹף הַמִּחָאָה בַּחֲזֶה, לְבַקֵּשׁ מֵעָדִי בּוֹז תִּסִּיר מֵעָלַי?
  4. נְהַלֵּי עֲמָךְ יַעֲנֵי מְדַבֵּר לְאַכְזֹר מְגוֹדֵל גִּזְק הַמִּחְבָּלִים עָלַי.
  5. “כַּפּוּל כַּפָּלִים נִמְטִיר עֲלֵיהֶם כִּי קָטְלוּ הָאֵם שֶׁד בְּפִי יְנִיקָה”
  6. אֲזַ אֲמַרְנוּ “כְּמוֹ שֶׁעָשׂוּ לִי אֲסוֹן, אֶעֱשֶׂה כֵּן גַּם אֲנֹכִי לָהֶם”
  7. וְהָרַס הַהָרֶס בֵּית וּבִנְיָן לְאַבָּק, מַחֲלָקָה וְרוֹפֵא, בְּאֹהֶל פְּלִיטִי פִּצְצָה!
  8. כְּאִלוּ לְשִׁמְעַ “אוֹיְבֵי כֻלָּם” מְגֵרוֹנִם וְקוֹל צִעָקָה שֶׁהָרִים מִפִּיהֶם.
  9. קוֹלֵינוּ קוֹל עָשׂוּ נֶעֱשֶׂה לֵאמֹר “מִחֻטָּאֵם הָאֵשֶׁם עוֹלָה, לֹא לָנוּ הוּא.”
  10. וְהִכִּי “לְשִׁמְךָ תֵּן כְּבוֹד חֶסֶדְךָ” וְכִי יְדִי יַעֲקֹב חֲרָבִי בְּרִזֵּל הִעָשׂוּ?
  11. הִגְלָה וְרָפָא פְּצוּעֵי לְבַבְנוּ שֶׁנִּתְקַן כָּל עַמִּים אֶת אֶרְצְךָ עִם עוֹלָמְנוּ.
  12. אֲזַ נְדַרְשׁ אֲסִירֶיךָ, עוֹשְׁקֶיךָ, וְנִבְקֵשׁ הַשְּׁלוֹם
- וְיַעֲלֶה בְּזָכוֹת סְלִיחָתְנוּ!

1. How can I ask that the disgrace be rolled off me, when I have not preserved Your testimonies? (Psalm 119:22)
2. The blade still in my hand, for my purpose, would I yet seek forgiveness from Your mouth for me?
3. To strike with protesting fist upon my breast; to seek, from my Witness — “Lift the scorn from me”?
4. Your people’s leaders — cruel desert birds (Lam 3:4); for such great trauma from those who brought ruin came upon me.
5. “Double, redoubled I shall rain upon them, for they slew the mother, while breast nursed child,”
6. we said then. “As was done to me, such calamity, so shall I do unto them.” (Deut 12:30) –
7. Destruction — reducing house and building to dust, hospital ward and doctor, those in tents who fled bombs!
8. As if in order to hear “my enemies finished them all” (Lam 2:22) from their throats, and a voice, screaming out (Gen 27:34), rising from their mouths.
9. Our voice has become the voice of Esau (Gen 27:22), saying: “from their sin rises the guilt — it is not on us.”
10. Then how shall Your Name be ascribed the glory of Your steadfast love (Psalm 115:1), when the hands of Jacob, becoming iron swords, have done all this?
11. Reveal and heal the wounds of our hearts, that we all, all the peoples, may restore Your land along with our world.
12. Then let us search out her captives and downtrodden and pursue Peace; by such merit, may forgiveness for us ascend!

1. Eikh esh'al l'galel hacherpah mei'alai, v'eidutekha lo natzarti / 2. Hasakin b'yadi b'adi adayin, v'ed'rosh m'chilah me'i'eit pikha li / 3. L'hakot egrof ham'cha'ah bachazeh l'vakesh mei'eidi buz tasir mei'alai / 4. Nehalei amkha ya'anei midbar l'akhzar, migodel nezek ham'chablim 'alai / 5. K'ful k'falim namtir aleihem, ki katlu ha'eim shad b'fi y'nikah / 6. Amarnu k'mo she'asu li ason, e'eseh ken gam anokhi lahem / 7. V'heres heihareis beit uvinyan l'avak, machlakah v'rofei b'ohel p'litei p'tzatzah / 8. K'ilu lishmo'a oyvai kilam migronam, v'kol tza'akah sheheirim mipihem / 9. Koleinu kol Eisav ne'esah, leimor meichat'am ha'asham 'oleh lo lanu hu / 10. V'heikhi l'shimkha ten k'vod chasdekha, v'khi y'dei ya'akov charvei barsel hei'asu / 11. Higaleh v'rapei p'tzu'ei l'vaveinu, shen'takein kol 'amim et artzakh em 'olmeinu / 12. Az nid'rosh asireha, oshkeha, un'vakeish hashalom, v'ya'aleh biz'khut s'lichateinu ~ neohasid.org, Rabbi David Seidenberg, 5786 and 5787