

TASHLICH - CASTING OFF

יָשׁוּב יִרְחַמְנוּ יִכַּבֵּשׁ עֲוֹנוֹתֵינוּ וְתִשְׁלַיֵךְ בְּמַצְלוֹת יָם כָּל־חַטָּאוֹתָם:

We will be taken back in love, our transgressions forgiven and all our harms hurled into the depths of the sea. - Micah 7:19

הַשְּׁלִיכוּ מֵעֲלֵיכֶם אֶת־כָּל־פְּשָׁעֵיכֶם אֲשֶׁר פָּשַׁעְתֶּם בָּם וַעֲשׂוּ לָכֶם לֵב חֲדָשׁ וְרוּחַ חֲדָשָׁה...בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל:

Cast away all the transgressions by which you have offended, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit...O House of Israel. - Ezekiel 18:31

ELI ELI (HALICHAH L'KEISARIAH)

Eli Eli, shelo yigameir l'olam:

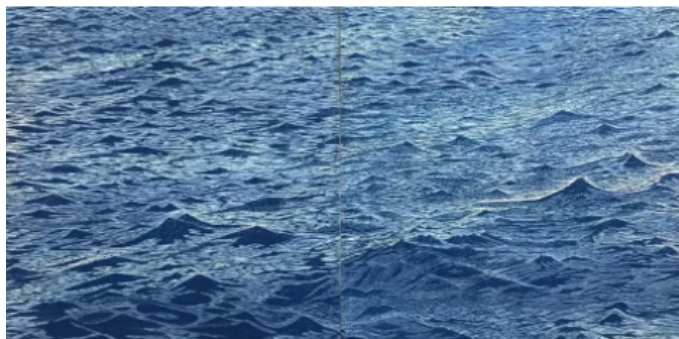
Hachol v'hayam, rishrush shel hamayim,

b'rak hashamayim, t'filat haadam.

אֱלֹהֵי אֱלֹהֵי, שְׁלֵא יִגְמַר לְעוֹלָם:
הַחוּל וְהָיָם, רִשְׁרוּשׁ שֶׁל הַמַּיִם,
בְּרַק הַשָּׁמַיִם, תְּפִלַּת הָאָדָם.

O God, my God, I pray that these things never end
The sand and the sea, the rush of the waters,
The crash of the heavens, the prayer of the heart.

During Tashlich, we are outside, close to nature (the water, the sun) and to God, with the ability to look up and see the heavens. We hold seeds that represent all of our transgressions, and the water takes them away from us. It is not a cure but a reprieve, a chance for us to work on our spiritual healing in the coming year.



On this sacred day
when the old year slips away
we prepare to meet the year ahead,
we stand at the water's edge
our pockets lined with dust and bread,
symbols of our shortcomings and
regrets.

*Many are the regrets and sorrows
that weigh upon our souls,
let us cast them off into the moving waters
so we may begin anew.*

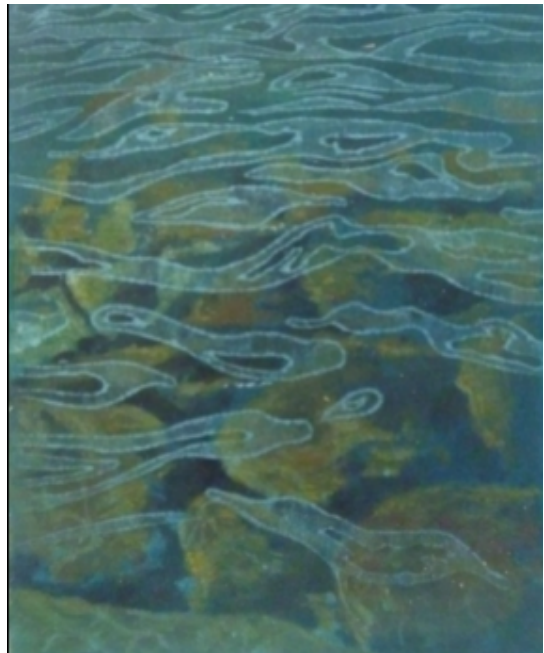
Great is our regret
for the harsh words we have spoken,
the tender words we left unsaid,
for the anger we let smolder,
the compassion we withheld,
for our greed and jealousy,
our lack of generosity.
for all that we could have done,
all that we have left undone.

*Many are the regrets and sorrows
that weigh upon our souls,
let us cast them into the moving waters
so we can strive to become
all that we were meant to be.*

Great is our remorse
for the energy we spent fighting
instead of trying to make amends,
for the times we could have lent a hand
instead of keeping our hands by our
sides,

for the times we looked away from
those near and far
who need our help and caring,
when we turned away from the places in
the world
in need of repairing.

*Many are the regrets and sorrows
that weigh upon our hearts and souls,
let us cast them into the moving waters
so we can begin to build bridges
connecting us one to another.*



Readings for Private Reflection

We let loose and let free
 The little pieces of ourselves
 That have dishonored us
 The little pieces of ourselves
 That have betrayed our neighbors and blighted our common good
 The little pieces of ourselves
 That have helped erect and not dismantle injustice in our name
 In order to more perfectly love
 You, ourselves and each other

As these symbols of my transgressions are transformed to nourishment, so may my heart and spirit be nourished through the opportunities for goodness that this new year brings.

May my good deeds pour forth like water, like a handful of birdseed. May I do good and seek goodness

USH'AVTEM MAYIM

Ush'avtem mayim b'sason
 mimaay'nei hay'shuah.

וּשְׂאֲבֹתֶם מֵיַם בְּשִׂשׂוֹן
 מִמַּעַיְנֵי הַיְשׁוּעָה.

Joyfully shall you draw water from the wells of salvation. *(Isaiah 12:3)*

Sources:

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"On this sacred day..." Elizabeth Tragash, "At the Water's Edge: A Reading for Tashlich," <https://ritualwell.org/ritual/waters-edge-reading-tashlikh>

"We let loose..." Jews for Racial and Economic Justice, jfrej.org

"As these symbols..." Rabbi Janet Madden, <https://ritualwell.org/ritual/waters-edge-reading-tashlikh>
 Image p. 1, Eve Stockton, "Seascape Diptych 23," https://www.1stdibs.com/art/prints-works-on-paper/landscape-prints-works-on-paper/eve-stockton-seascape-diptych-23-large-blue-horizontal-woodcut-print-water-ocean-waves/id-a_4475342/

Image p. 2, Sally Ann Davis, "Water Patterns," <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/490610953130504400/>