

אבינו מלכנו / Avinu Malkeinu (Our Father, our King)

(not said on Shabbat)

The High Holy Days are considered to be, in our tradition, the season of God as Ruler. At this time, more than any other, the Sovereignty, the Reign of God is emphasized throughout the liturgy. For many of us in contemporary society, the concept of a King is a difficult one. It comes to many of us as an outmoded, perhaps somewhat Medieval idea. How does one relate to a King on a throne? Many Jews struggle to escape any transcendent image of God and replace it with the image of a God within. Many of us have trouble with the maleness of the image.

Despite these difficulties, there is a powerful core of truth in the Avinu Malkeinu prayer. We know we cannot survive on our own. Although our lives depend upon our inner resources, we cannot exist without the aid of natural and social forces. Knowing who we are means accepting the limits of our power and knowledge and the inevitability of our dependency.

In this version of Avinu Malkeinu, we have chosen to use many different Names for the God to Whom we pray. Our petition rises to Father, Mother, Creator, Rescuer, Helper, Source, Soul, Divine Presence, among other Names. All these are aspects of the One who is greater than any description or title. These changes have been made in the Hebrew and the English.

May our petition be acceptable before You.

בוֹרְנוּ שׁוֹמְרֵינוּ חָטְאָנוּ לְפָנֶיךָ.

Boreinu Shomreinu, chatanu l'fanecha.

Our Creator, our Guardian, we have done wrong before you.

אָבִינוּ מַלְכֵנוּ אֵין לָנוּ מֶלֶךְ אֶלָּא אַתָּה.

Avinu Malkeinu, ein lanu melech ela atah.

Our Father, our King, we have no Sovereign except You.

רַחֲמֵינוּ צְדִיקֵנוּ, עֲשֵׂה עִמָּנוּ לְמַעַן שְׁמֶךָ.

Rachameinu Tzidkeinu, aseh imanu l'ma-an sh'mecha.

Our Compassionate One, our Just One, help us for the sake of Your Name.

צוּרֵנוּ גֹאֲלֵנוּ חֲדָשׁ עֲלֵינוּ שָׁנָה טוֹבָה.

Tzureinu Goaleinu, chadesh aleinu shanah tovah.

Our Rock, our Redeemer, renew for us a good year.

יְשׁוּעָתֵנוּ תְקַוְתָנוּ בְּטֵל מֵעֲלֵינוּ כָּל גְּזֵרוֹת קָשׁוֹת.

Y'shuateinu Tikvateinu, bateil mei-aleinu kol g'zeirot kashot.

Our Rescuer, our Hope, annul all evil decrees against us.

אֵלֵהֵינוּ עֲטַרְתָנוּ כֹּל צַר וּמִשְׁטִין מֵעֲלֵינוּ.

Eloheinu Atarteinu, kaleih kol tzar umastin mei-aleinu.

Our God, our Crown, destroy the power of every oppressor and adversary.

אָמִינוּ רוּחַתְנוּ כְּלֵי דְבַר וְחֶרֶב וְרָעַב וְשָׂבִי וּמִשְׁחִית וְעוֹן וְשָׂמַד מִבְּנֵי בְּרִיתְךָ.
Imeynu Ruchateinu, kali dever v'cherev v'ra-av ush'vi umaschit v'avon ush'mad
mib'nei b'riteich.
*Our Mother, our Life's Breath, remove from all Your children disease, war, famine, exile and
destruction.*

שְׂכִינְתְּנוּ נִפְשֵׁנוּ סְלִי וּמְחִלֵי לְכָל עֲוֹנוֹתֵינוּ.
Sh'chinateinu Nafsheinu, s'lichi um'chali l'chol avonoteinu.
Our Divine Presence, our Soul, forgive and pardon all our wrongdoing.

נִצְחָנוּ זֹכְרָנוּ מְחֹק בְּרַחֲמֶיךָ כֹּל שִׁטְרֵי חוּבוֹתֵינוּ.
Nitzcheinu Zochreinu, m'chok b'rachamecha kol shitrey chovoteynu.
Our Eternal One, our Rememberer, ignore the record of our transgressions.

עֲזַרְתָּנוּ מוֹרְנוּ, הִחַזֵּירְנוּ בְּתִשׁוּבָה שְׁלֵמָה לְפָנֶיךָ.
Ezrateinu Moreinu, hachazireinu bit'shuvah sh'leimah l'fanecha.
Our Help, our Guide, may we return to You in wholehearted repentance.

מְקוֹרְנוּ חַיֵּינוּ שְׁלַח רְפוּאָה שְׁלֵמָה לְחֹלֵי עַמֶּךָ.
M'koreinu Chayeynu, sh'lach r'fu-ah sh'leimah l'choley amecha.
Our Source, our Life, send complete healing to all of your people.

רַעֲנוּ דוֹרְנוּ זְכָרְנוּ בְּזִכְרוֹן טוֹב לְפָנֶיךָ.
Rei-einu Dodeinu, zochreinu b'zikaron tov l'fanecha.
Our Friend, our Beloved, remember us with favor.

רַעֲנוּ דוֹרְנוּ כְּתִבְנוּ בְּסֵפֶר חַיִּים טוֹבִים
Rei-einu Dodeinu, kotveinu b'seifer chayyim tovim.
Our Friend, our Beloved, inscribe us in the Book of Good Life.

מְקוֹרְנוּ חַיֵּינוּ כְּתִבְנוּ בְּסֵפֶר גְּאֻלָּה וְיִשׁוּעָה.
M'koreinu Chayeynu, kotveinu b'seifer g'ulah viyshu-ah.
Our Source, our Life, inscribe us in the Book of Redemption and Salvation.

עֲזַרְתָּנוּ מוֹרְנוּ, כְּתִבְנוּ בְּסֵפֶר פָּרְנָסָה וְכִלְכָּלָה.
Ezrateinu Moreinu, kotveinu b'seifer parnasah v'chalkalah.
Our Help, our Guide, inscribe us in the Book of Sustenance and Livelihood.

נִצְחָנוּ זֹכְרָנוּ כְּתִבְנוּ בְּסֵפֶר זְכוֹת.
Nitzcheinu Zochreinu, kotveinu b'seifer z'chuyot.
Our Eternal One, our Rememberer, inscribe us in the Book of Merit.

שְׂכִינְתְּנוּ נִפְשֵׁנוּ כִּיתְּבֵנוּ בְּסֵפֶר סְלִיחָה וּמְחִילָה.
Sh'chinateinu Nafsheinu, kitvinu b'seifer s'lichah um'chilah.
Our Divine Presence, our Soul, inscribe us in the Book of Reconciliation.

אָמִינוּ רוּחַתְנוּ שְׁמָעֵי קוֹלְנוּ חוּס וְרַחֵם עָלֵינוּ.
Imeynu Ruchateinu, shim'i koleinu chus v'rachem aleinu.
Our Mother, our Life's Breath, hear our voices; show us mercy and compassion.

אֱלֹהֵינוּ עֲטַרְתְּנוּ קַבֵּל בְּרַחֲמִים וּבְרַצוֹן אֶת תְּפִלָּתְנוּ.
Eloheinu Atarteinu, kabel b'rachamim uv'ratzon et t'filateinu.
Our God, our Crown, accept our prayer with favor and mercy.

יְשׁוּעָתְנוּ תְּקוּתְנוּ פָּתַח שַׁעְרֵי שָׁמַיִם לְתִפְלָתְנוּ.
Y'shuateinu Tikvateinu, patach sha-arey shamayim lit'filateinu.
Our Rescuer, our Hope, open the gates of heaven to our prayer.

צוּרֵנוּ גֹאֲלֵנוּ חֲמוּל עָלֵינוּ וְעַל עוֹלָלְנוּ וְטַפָּנוּ.
Tzureinu Go-aleinu, chamol alenu v'al olaleinu v'tapeinu.
Our Rock, our Redeemer, show mercy to us and to our children and infants.

רַחֲמֵנוּ צְדִיקְנוּ עֲשֵׂה לְמַעַן הַרוּגִים עַל שֵׁם קְדוֹשְׁךָ.
Rachameinu Tzidkeinu, aseih l'ma-an harugim al sheim kad'shecha.
Our Compassionate One, our Just One, do it for the sake of those who have been killed while honoring your name.

אָבִינוּ מַלְכֵנוּ עֲשֵׂה לְמַעַנְךָ אִם לֹא לְמַעַנֵנוּ.
Avinu Malkeinu, l'ma-ancha im lo l'ma-aneinu.
Our Father, our King, act for Your sake, if not for ours.

בוֹרְנוּ שׁוֹמְרֵנוּ חַנּוּנוּ וְעַנּוּנוּ, כִּי אֵין בָּנוּ מַעֲשִׂים, עֲשֵׂה עִמָּנוּ צְדָקָה וְחֶסֶד וְהוֹשִׁיעֵנוּ.
Boreinu Shomreinu, choneinu va-aneinu ki eyn banu ma-asim. Aseih imanu tz'dakah vachessed v'hoshi-einu
Our Creator, our Guardian, be gracious and respond to us, for we have too few good deeds; act toward us with justice tempered by love, and save us.

אָבִינוּ מַלְכֵנוּ Avinu Malkeinu...

בוֹרְנוּ שׁוֹמְרֵנוּ Boreinu Shomreinu...

מְקוֹרְנוּ חַיֵּינוּ M'koreinu Chayeynu...

חַנּוּנוּ וְעַנּוּנוּ, כִּי אֵין בָּנוּ מַעֲשִׂים
עֲשֵׂה עִמָּנוּ צְדָקָה וְחֶסֶד וְהוֹשִׁיעֵנוּ.
choneinu va-aneinu ki eyn banu ma-asim.
Aseih imanu tz'dakah va'chesed v'hoshi-einu

*Our Father our King/Our Creator our Guardian/Our Source, our Life
Be gracious and respond to us, for we have too few good deeds;
Act toward us with justice tempered by love, and bring us salvation.*