

Pesach 5784: Pour Out Your Wrath...and Forgive our Sins

Rabbi Marc Israel

Just a few times a year.

Rage and sorrow
pours out from our mouths
and from our tears.

Other times we remember, we mourn;
But tonight, we scream.

We scream on Pesach, days of freedom:

Sh'foch chamatchah al ha-goyim
Pour out Your wrath upon the nations.

We cry out on Yom Kippur, day of atonement

Eleh ezkarah v'nafshi alai eshpakh
These I remember, and my soul screams out.

We call to God in our anger

to pour out wrath upon the enemy who,
in every generation, sought to destroy us.

We ask: Where are you God? Answer us!

At the seder, we sing from Hallel:

Min ha-metzar karati Yah
From our narrow window,
we call out to you God

On Yom Kippur we recite:

Mi-ma-amakim k'ratikha Adonai
We call upon you from the depths.

On Pesach, we watch:

the wine in Elijah's cup shimmers:
will God redeem our broken world?
(or is that just my parent's knee)

On Yom Kippur, we confess:

We have sinned.
We too are responsible
to heal our broken world.

October 7.

Our enemies again rose to destroy us,

V'hi She'amda - God stand by us,

sheb'chol dor vador,
om'dim aleinu l'chaloteinu,
As they have in every generation,
They tried to wipe us out.

Shemini Atzeret -

as we prayed for rain to sustain our world,
our enemies sought to destroy our lives.

Nir Oz, Be'eri, Nachal Oz, Kfar Azza, Netiv Asarah

The innocent faces of the victims -

Beaten, burned, and beheaded.

Women raped, babies murdered.

And the faces of the hostages -
Terrified, screaming for help,
An outstretched hand, trying to pull free.

Tonight we scream out:

sh'foch chamatcha al hagoyim,
God, let Hamas feel the heat of your wrath.

Tonight we pray :

Anani bamerchav Yah
God answer me, bring our hostages home,
from their narrow tunnels
To the wide-open arms
Of family and friends,
Yearning to hold them.

Today we acknowledge, too,

that in every war - try as one might,
civilians die. Tens of thousands.

A brother or sister, mother or father,

A child. So many children.

But they are terrorists, some will cry.

But they are humans - we cannot deny.

This cost of war - we feel their pain.

And, also we must atone:

Tag killings on the West Bank,

Protesters blocking food convoys,

Massive bombardments - targeted strikes might do.

Over-zealous young soldiers dancing joyfully,

on remnants of a mosque.

Women and children dying in the streets of hunger.

This is not how Jews behave.

We cry out for the victims of October 7:

Hashem Yikom Damam

God should avenge their blood!

Vengeance belongs to God - alone.

The land is soaked with blood,

So many Innocent people, ours and theirs.

Can we hear the cry of their blood, calling us:

our brothers, our sisters, and, yes, even our cousins?

As we walk in this valley of death,

Our cup does not overflow.

[REMOVE 10 DROPS FROM ELIJAH'S CUP]

May the redemption that feels so far away

Come to us now: *Bimheirah, byameinu*

Quickly, in our day.