

After the storm: A prayer to choose life

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with Aharon Varady, Baruch Sienna and others assisting

Master of the Universe,
You commanded us, *Choose life*,¹
but the people of our generation
have no certainty how to choose life.
We are all also responsible,
whether by necessity or by our choices,
for the disruption of the climate
that would intensify this deadly storm,
as we are responsible for its healing.

We seek the strength
to accept our responsibility now
to help those harmed by the storm,
and to persist in helping
in the face of coming storms,
to support all those engaged
in rescue and relief work,
and to join with them.
And for all beings who are in need and
exposed *by the passage of the storm*,²
we pray, please save them.

For You are the One who disciplines nations
and who teaches humanity knowledge³ –
please teach us a path forward
through vision, and not through calamity,
to take responsibility for each other
and for the future of this wondrous planet.
Help us choose the path of life
rooted in justice *for the just establish the world*,⁴
in order that the promise will be upheld
through us for our children
and our children's children,
Blessed will you be in the city,
blessed will you be in the field,⁵
so that we will not be lost quickly
from off the good earth.⁶

Ribono shel olam, tsivitanu uvacharta bachayyim, uv'nei doreinu einenu b'tuchim biv'chirat hachayyim. V'kulunu achrai'im, ba'al korcheinu o mib'chirateinu l'hafra'at ha'akilim shesavir l'hagdil ha-s'ara hakat'lanit hazot, ukh'mo khen achrai'im l'rapo'to.

M'vakshim anachnu et hakoach l'kabel ha'achrayut aleinu atah la'azor l'eilu shenifga'im al y'dei ha-s'arah, ul'himasheikh la'azor b'meshekha ha-s'arot haba'ot, v'litmokh b'eilu shemits'tarfim ba'avodot hahatsalah v'has'ad ul'chaber itam. Ba'ad kol haniv'ra'im haniz'kakim v'chasufim ka'avur sufah anu mitpal'lim, na l'hoshi'eim.

Ki atah hayoseir goyim vha-m'lamed adam da'at — Na l'lamdeinu derekh kadimah al y'dei chazon v'o al y'dei ason lakachat achraiut zeh el zeh, v'al atid ha'olom hanifla'. Azor lanu liv'chor b'derekh hachayyim m'yusad al hatsedeck, ki tsadik y'sod olam, l'ma'an yitkayeim banu l'veineinu v'livnei baneinu hakatuv, Barukh atah ba'ir, uvarukh atah b'sadeh, shelo ne'evad m'heirah mei'al ha'arets hatovah.

רְבָנוֹ שֶׁל עַולְםָ,
צִוִּיתָנוּ "וּבְחִרְתָּ בְּמִים",
וּבְנֵינוּ אַיִלְנוּ בְּטוֹחוֹם בְּבִचִירַת הַמִּים.
וְכָלָנוּ גַּם אֲחֻראִים
בָּעֵל כּוֹרְחָנוּ אוֹ מְבַחִירָנוּ
לְהַפְּרָעָת הַאֲקָלִים
שְׁקָבֵר לְהַגְּדִיל הַסְּעָרָה הַקְּטָלָנִית הַזֹּאת,
וְכָמוּ כָּנוּ אֲחֻראִים לְרִפְאָתוֹ.

מְבַקְשִׁים אֲנַחֲנוּ אֶת הַכְּפָר
לְקַבֵּל אֲחֻרִיות עַלְינוּ עַתָּה
לְעֹזֶר לְאָלוֹ שְׂנָגָעִים עַל יְדֵי הַסְּעָרָה,
וְלְהַמְשָׁר לְעֹזֶר בְּמִשְׁךְ הַסְּעָרוֹת הַבָּאוֹת,
וְלִתְמֹונָה בְּאָלוֹ שְׁמַצְטָרְפִים
בְּעַבְדוֹת הַהְצָלָה וְהַסְּעָד וְלִחְבָּר אַתָּם.
וּבְעֵד בְּלִבְרוֹאִים הַנִּזְקִים
וְשׁוֹפִים פָּעַבּוֹר סּוֹפָה
אֲנוּ מַתִּפלִים, נָא לְהַושְׁעָם.

כִּי אַתָּה הַיִּסְרָגִים וְהַמְּלַמְּד אָדָם דִּעָת –
נָא לְלִמְדָנוּ דָּרָךְ קָדִימָה
עַל יְדֵי חִזּוֹן וְלֹא עַל יְדֵי אָסּוֹן
לְקַחְתָּ אֲחֻרִיות זוֹהָא אֶל זֶה
וְאֲחֻרִיות עַל עַתִּיד הַעוֹלָם הַגְּפָלָא.
עֹזֶר לְנוּ לְבַחֲור בְּדָרָךְ הַסְּמִים
מִיוֹסֵד עַל הַצְּדָקָה, כִּי צָדִיק יִסּוּד עוֹלָם,
לְמַעַן יִתְקִים בָּנוּ
לְבָנֵינוּ וְלְבָנֵינוּ בְּפִתְוִיבָה,
בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה בָּעֵיר
וּבָרוּךְ אַתָּה בְּשָׂדָה",
שֶׁלָּא נָאַבֵּד מִהְרָה מֵעַל הָאָרֶץ הַטָּבָה.