

Personal Prayers to Inspire One's Tashlich Experience

When we truly repent, God takes us back with love and compassion. May we be compassionate to ourselves and forgive ourselves our shortcomings, while holding ourselves to a better standard.

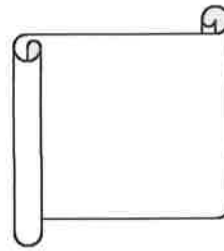
The waters cannot return in repentance

The waters cannot
return in repentance
To where would they
return?

To the faucet, the
sources, the ground, the
roots,
the cloud, the sea, into
my mouth?

The waters cannot
return in repentance,
every place is their seas
days of old, their waters
of old,
every place a beginning
and end, and a
beginning.

Yehuda Amichai



"Our days are like scrolls; write upon them what you want remembered." Bachya ibn Pekudah, medieval Sephardic thinker.

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What am I casting away?

□□

What do I really need to
cast away, that I don't really
want to admit, because it
will take real work, not just
lip-service?

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What will be the cost to me
this year, if I do not admit
to myself what I truly need
to discard?

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But You and I can return
in repentance, to our
source, our roots; the
place of our beginning;

today, an end;
tomorrow, a beginning.)

**After True Repentance comes Re-birth and Re-newal-
the Essence of Rosh Hashanah!**

Standing in this place

I find the Awe;

Awe in Creation:

the never-ending waters with their ongoing flow

crashing din of water, constant bustle of life.

The Awe is in the Calm; knowing my life too is part of that incessant flow.

The waters: filled with radiant life, filled with turmoil,

Filled with sunlight and dark depths;

Human life, indeed.

Let me leave on the shore that which the tide should pull away

Suck and swallow into the churn.

The sins don't disappear, they fade away in memory.

All of us need to come to a shore; a line in the sand, a stopping point;

Where we are forced to go no further,

To turn around, lest we drown.

Let me take from this place

The cleanse of water,

Like Mikveh

The Re-birth of worlds- mine and God's

The re-newal of hearts- mine and yours.

Eli, Eli--- words by Hannah Senesch

Eli, Eli, she-lo yigamayr l'olam,

Ha-chol, v'ha-yam

Rish-rush shel ha'mayim

Barak ha-sha-mayim.

Tefilat ha-adam.

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.

L'shana Tova- a year of peace and growth, from Temple Beth Torah, Ventura, CA

Tashlich - The Casting

Hiney ma tov u'ma-nayeem she-vet ah-cheem gam ya-chad!

The origins of TASHLICH ("you shall cast"), are uncertain; it seems to have begun in the Middle Ages. On this day when we celebrate the world's Creation, we look at the water and remember the Divine Creator of All.

Why Come to Water for Repentance?

It is customary to go to a river or sea where there are fish, for as fish are suddenly caught in dangerous nets, so are we caught and entangled in binds that we didn't anticipate, and which threaten our wholeness and well being. Gazing at the water, we contemplate *Teshuvah*. As we shake out our pockets, we symbolically transfer our wrongdoings to the fish! And, as our crumbs feed the fish in the sea, we remember that just as fish have eyes that are always open, so may we be ever aware of the choices we make, and their implications in the year ahead. We are reminded too that our deeds do not escape an ever-aware and ever-Present God.

*The waters before us are a symbolic illusion;
for the waters which now seem to be at this place
were not here before and will not remain afterward.
So we take this to heart: if I cast away my sins
They too, like the waters, will move on, never to be repeated.*

*Ha-shiveynu Adonai aylecha v'na-shuva, chadeysh yameynu k'kedem.
Turn us back to You and we shall return.*

Prophet Micah 7:18: *Who is like You, Adonai? You forgive iniquity and pass over transgressions in your people. You do not retain anger forever, for You delight in kindness. You will again show us mercy and subdue our iniquities; You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. You will show kindness to Jacob and mercy to Abraham, as You did promise our ancestors of old.*

We ask for a piece of sand
and God gives us a beach.
We ask for a drop of water
and God gives us an ocean.
We ask for time
and God gives us the bond of everlasting life.
And it is so easy for us
to fall in love with the gift
and forget the Giver.

After Edward Farrell