

Resolution (together)

The Shofar announced that the time for change is now.

We will think about our lives, our behavior, about the people we admire and love.

We will gather our strength, to deepen our understanding, to discover our power.

We will place our family, our education, and our health above mere play.

We will become the masters of our lives and of our feelings.

We will take responsibility for all that we do.

We will work harder to make a better world.

May we enjoy, O God, Your faithful care, as we have put our hope in You.

Tashlich – The Casting

The origins of this custom are uncertain; it does not appear in the Talmud and it seems to have begun in the Middle Ages. We call it *Tashlich*, “you shall cast”.

It is customary to go to a body of water where there are fish, for as fish are suddenly caught in a net, so are we caught in the severe net of divine judgment; and gazing at the water, we contemplate *Teshuvah* “returning”. As we shake our pockets, we symbolically transfer our wrongdoings to the fish, think about God, and ask forgiveness for the things we have done wrong.

Tashlich

“...create within yourselves a new heart and a new spirit.”

—Ezekiel

Tashlich Service

(reader)

During this season of repentance, we are called upon to do *Teshuvah*, to return to God in sincerity and in truth. Through prayer and study, reflection and ritual, we strive to begin the New Year in a spirit of humility, self-scrutiny and spiritual renewal.

Today we come to this body of water to perform the *Tashlich* ceremony. We seek, symbolically, to “cast away” our accumulated sins and transgressions, to send away our unworthy thoughts, so that we may purify our hearts and our souls, as the New Year begins.

In the words of the prophet Ezekiel:

“Cast away from yourselves all your transgressions, and create within yourselves a new heart and a new spirit.”

(together)

In my distress I cried out to The Eternal One; God answered me and set me free.

Who is like You O God, forgiving iniquity and pardoning the transgression of the remnants of Your people!

You do not retain Your anger forever, for You delight in loving-kindness.

You will again have compassion upon us, subdue our iniquities, and cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

You will show faithfulness and loving-kindness, as you promised our ancestors from days of old.

You shall not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain;
For the earth shall be full of the love of the Source of Life
As the sea is full of the waters that cover it.

Let Us Cast Away *(together)*

Let us cast away the sin of deception, so that we will mislead no one in word or deed, nor pretend to be what we are not.

Let us cast away the sin of vain ambition, which prompts us to strive for goals, which bring neither true fulfillment nor genuine contentment.

Let us cast away the sin of envy, so that we will neither be consumed by desire for what we lack nor grow unmindful of the blessings, which are already ours.

Let us cast away the sin of selfishness, which keeps us from enriching our lives through wider concerns, greater sharing, and from reaching out in love to other human beings.

Let us cast away the sin of indifference so that we may be sensitive to the sufferings of others and responsive to the needs of people everywhere.

Let us cast away the sin of pride and arrogance, so that we can worship God and serve God’s purposes in humility and truth.

