A Prayer for the State of Israel נָא בְּרַחֲמִים וּבְרָצוֹן אֶת־ הְפַלּוֹתֵינוּ בְּעַד מָדִינַת יִשְׁרָאָל.

Sovereign of the universe, accept in lovingkindness and with favor our prayers for the State of Israel, her government, and all who dwell within her boundaries and under her authority. Open our eyes and our hearts to the wonder of Israel, and strengthen our faith in Your power to work redemption in every human soul. Grant us also the fortitude to keep ever before us those ideals upon which the State of Israel was founded. Grant courage, wisdom, and strength to those entrusted with guiding Israel's destiny to do Your will. Be with those on whose shoulders Israel's safety depends and defend them from all harm. Spread over Israel and all the world Your shelter of peace, and may the vision of Your prophet soon be fulfilled: "Nation shall not lift up sword against nation. neither shall they learn war anymore" (Isaiah 2:4). לא ישא גוי אל גוי חרב ולא ילמדוּ עוד מלחמה.

A Prayer for the State of Israel

Avinu she-ba-shamayim, stronghold and redeemer of the people Israel: Bless the State of Israel, [that it may be] the beginning of our redemption. Shield it with Your love; spread over it the shelter of Your peace. Guide its leaders and advisors with Your light and Your truth. Help them with Your good counsel. Strengthen the hands of those who defend our holy land. Deliver them; crown their efforts with triumph. Bless the land with peace and its inhabitants with lasting joy. And let us say: *Amen*.

Avinu she-ba-shamayim, tzur yisrael v'go-alo, bareikh et m'dinat yisrael [she-t'hei] reishit tz'miḥat ge'ulateinu. Hagen aleha b'evrat ḥasdekha u-f'ros aleha sukkat sh'lomekha, u-sh'laḥ or'kha va-amit'kha l'rasheha sareha v'yo-atzeha, v'takneim b'eitzah tovah milfanekha. Ḥazeik et y'dei m'ginei eretz kodsheinu, v'hanḥileim eloheinu y'shu-ah, va-ateret nitzaḥon t'atreim. V'natata shalom ba-aretz v'simḥat olam l'yosh'veha, v'nomar: amen.

A Prayer for Peace

May we see the day when war and bloodshed cease, when a great peace will embrace the whole world. Then nation will not threaten nation, and the human family will not again know war. For all who live on earth shall realize we have not come into being to hate or to destroy. We have come into being to praise, to labor, and to love. Compassionate God, bless the leaders of all nations with the power of compassion. Fulfill the promise conveyed in Scripture: I will bring peace to the land, and you shall lie down and no one shall terrify you. I will rid the land of vicious beasts and it shall not be ravaged by war. Let justice and righteousness flow like a mighty stream. Let God's peace fill the earth as the waters fill the sea. And let us say: Amen.

תְּפִלֶה לִשְׁלוֹם מְדִינַת יִשְׂרָאֵל

אָבִינוּ שָׁבַּשָׁמַים, צוּר יִשְׂרָאֵל וְגוֹאֲלוֹ, בָּרֵף אֶת־מְדִינַת יִשְׁרָאֵל [שֶׁתְּהֵא] רֵאשִׁית צְמִיחַת גְּאֻלָּתֵנוּ. הָגֵן עָלֵיהָ הְּשָׁרְאֵל [שֶׁתְּהֵא] רֵאשִׁית צְמִיחַת גְּאֻלֹתֵנוּ. וּשְׁלַח אוֹרְף גְּאַמְתְּף לְרָאשֶׁיה שָׁרֵיהָ וְיוֹעֲצֵיהָ, וְתַקְנֵם בְּעֵצָה טוֹבָה מִלְפָנֶיף. חַזֵּק אֶת־יְדֵי מְגִנֵי אֶרֶץ קָדְשֵׁנוּ, וְהַנְחִילֵם אֶלֹחֵינוּ יְשׁוּעָה, וַעֲטֶרֶת נִצְחוֹן תְּעַטְרֵם. וְנָתַתֵּ שָׁלוֹם בָּאֵרֶץ וִשׁׁמָחַת עוֹלָם לִיוֹשְׁבֶיהָ, וְנֹאִמַר: אָמֵן.

תִּפִלָּה לְשָׁלוֹם

יִׁהִי רָצוֹן מִלְפָנֵיף יהוה אֱלֹהֵינוּ וֵאלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְאִמּוֹתֵינוּ, שֶׁתְּכַמֵּל מִלְחָמוֹת וּשְׁפִיכוּת דָּמִים מִן הָעוֹלָם וְתַשְׁפִין שָׁלוֹם בָּעוֹלָם, וְלֹא יִשָּׂא גוי אֶל גוי חֵרֶב וְלֹא יִלְמְדוּ עוֹד מִלְחָמָה.

יַבִּירוּ וְיִדְעוּ בְּל־יוֹשְׁבֵי תֵבֵל שֶׁלֹּא בֵּאנוּ לָעוֹלָם בִּשְׁבִיל רִיב וּמַחֲלְשֶׁת, וְלֹא בִּשְׁבִיל שִׂנְאָה וְקִנְאָה וְקִנְתּוּר וּשְׁפִיכוּת דָּמִים. רַק בָּאנוּ לָעוֹלָם בְּדֵי לְהַבִּיר אוֹתְרֶ, תִּתְבָרַך לָגֶצַח.

וּבְכֵן הְּרַחֵם עָלֵינוּ וִיאָיַם בֵּנוּ מִקְרָא שֶׁפָּתוּב: וְנָתַתִּי שָׁלוֹם בָּאֲרֶץ וּשְׁכַבְתָּם וְאֵין מַחֲרִיד, וְהִשְׁבַּתִי חַיָּה רָעָה מִן הָאֵרֶץ וְחֶרֶב לֹא תַעֲבֹר בְּאַרְצְכֶם. וְיִגַּל כַּמֵים מִשְׁפָּט, וּצְדָקָה בְּנַחַל אֵיתָן. כִּי מָלָאָה הָאָרֵץ דֵּעָה אֶת־יהוה כַּמֵים לַיָּם מִכַסִּים.

PRAYER FOR THE STATE OF ISRAEL. Upon Israel's independence in 1948, many prayers were circulated for the well-being of the new state. This one was composed by Israel's chief rabbis and was then slightly edited by the writer S.Y. Agnon.

THAT IT MAY BE שֶׁתְהָא. This Hebrew word was added by the Chief Rabbi of England, Immanuel Jakobovits, turning the phrase "the beginning of the redemption" into an expression of hope, rather than a statement of fact.

A PRAYER FOR PEACE.

Rabbi Nathan Sternharz, a student of the Ḥasidic master Naḥman of Bratzlav (1772–1810, Ukraine), recorded this prayer. The version here has been adapted and translated by Jules Harlow.

NATION WILL NOT THREATEN לא יָשָׂא גוי. Isaiah 2:4.

ןנָתַתְּי **וּשווו BRING PEACE** וְנָתַתְּי שָׁלוֹם. Leviticus 26:6.

LET JUSTICE AND RIGH-דנסטאנגל בַמַיִם דנסטאנגל דנמיַם משְׁפָט. Amos 5:24.

FILL THE EARTH בִּי מֶלְאָה הָאֶרֶץ. Isaiah וו:9.

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