

A Tashlikh Service

A Prayer from Micah 7:18-20

מִי־אֵל כְּמוֹךָ נִשְׂא עוֹן וְעֵבֶר עַל־פְּשָׁע לְשֹׂאֲרֵית גְּחֻלְתּוֹ לֹא־הִחְזִיק לְעַד אִפּוֹ כִּי־חָפֵץ חֶסֶד הוּא:

יְשׁוּב יְרַחֲמֵנוּ יִכְבֹּשׂ עֲוֹנֹתֵינוּ וְתַשְׁלִיךְ בְּמַצְלוֹת יָם כָּל־חַטָּאוֹתֵם:

תִּתֵּן אֱמֶת לִיעֲקֹב חֶסֶד לְאַבְרָהָם אֲשֶׁר־נִשְׁבַּעְתָּ לְאַבְתֵּינוּ מִימֵי קֶדֶם:

Who is like You, Adonai, forgiving iniquity and pardoning transgression?
You do not maintain anger but delight in lovingkindness.
You will again have compassion upon us, subduing our sins,
Tashlikh/casting our sins into the depths of the sea.
You will show faithfulness and enduring love to us
as You promised to our ancestors in days of old.

The Offering: A Tashlich Prayer

Jill Hammer

I cast this gift to the water.
It is my past: blessing and regret.
It is my present: reflection and listening.
It is my future: intention and mystery.
It is what I did
and did not;
it is yes and no and silence.
It is what was done
and what arose from what was done
and what arises in this body remembering.
I let it all go. I own
neither the sting nor the sweetness.
I hold on to nothing.
The river has no past.
Each moment of rushing water
Is a new beginning.
Harm that has been:
heal in the rush of love and truth and time.
We who are lost:
let the current take us homeward.

May these waters churn what is broken
into what is whole.
May each separate droplet
reach the ocean that is becoming.
The journey awaits.
I have no power to refrain from it;
only to steer it when I can.
May the One who is
the great Crossroad
guide my turning.
Three times I declare:
It is finished.
It is born.
It is unending.
Three times I listen:
It is love.
It is the river.
It is before me.
May my offering go where it is meant to go
and may the one who offers it
find the way.
Amen.

A Tashlich Meditation

Think of a practice or attitude that you wish to change.

In the world of action: what is it that you do?

In the world of emotion: how does it make you feel?

In the world of knowledge: can you plan to do otherwise?

In the world of being: imagine God within, helping you change. Sum all of this up for yourself in one word or concept.

Holding your bread/birdseed in hand, focus on that word...

And then throw it in the water and watch it wash away.

Spend the year working on your plan to change.

Let each sighting of moving water be your reminder.

(Adapted from Avi Dolgin)

Song (to tune of: I'm gonna lay down my sword and shield)

I'm gonna cast all my sins away

down by the riverside

down by the riverside

down by the riverside

I'm gonna cast all my sins away

down by the riverside

down by the riverside

I aint gonna do those things no more

I aint gonna do those things no more

I aint gonna do those things no more (2x)