

¶ For the Sin of  
Destroying God's Creation

אֱלֹהִי עוֹלָם אַתָּה בָּרָאת שְׁמִים  
וְאָרֶץ בָּאֶחָבָה,  
צִדְּךָת צְמָחִים וִתְּיוֹת, וְנִפְחַת נִשְׁמָת  
חַיִּים בְּבָנֵינוּ אַדְםָ.  
נִבְרָאנוּ בָּקָרְבָּן עוֹלָם נָכָר וְתָהָר,  
וְכַעַת הוּא נָהָר עַל-יְדֵינוּ.  
לֹא עַל צְדָקָתֵינוּ לְפָנֶיךָ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ,  
כִּי אֲשֶׁר-נוּ בְּבָנָנוּ, וְגַרְמָנוּ נַזְקָק בְּפִיר:  
עַל חַטָּאת שְׁמַלְאָנוּ אָרֶץ וַיְמִים  
בְּזָבֵל וּבְאַשְׁפָה,  
עַל חַטָּאת שְׁחַמְדָנוּ לְפָצֵחַ חַיּוֹת  
נְפָלָאות שְׁהַצְלָתָ מִמֵּי הַמִּבּוֹל,  
עַל חַטָּאת שְׁהַכְּרִתָנוּ יְעוּרָה  
עַצְּמַת הַמִּקְמִים נָפְשָׁ קָלְחָה.  
אֲפָא יְהוָה פָּקָח עַיְינָנוּ וְרֹאָה אַתָּה  
הַדָּן צִדְּךָתָה,  
אֲזֶן שְׁבָחָךְ כָּמוֹ שְׁכָתוֹב: מִהָּרְבוֹ  
מִעֲשֵׂר יְהוָה, כָּלָם בְּחַכְמָה עֲשֵׂית  
מַלְאָה הָאָרֶץ קָנִינָה.  
הַסִּר אֶת-לְבָבֵךְ אֶתְכָּן מִבְשָׁרָנוּ, וְתַנְּ לְבָבֶךָ  
בָּשָׂר בְּקָרְבָּנוּ.  
תַּנְּ לְנוּ חַכְמָה וְאַמְּצָלָב לְשֻׁמָּר עַל  
הָאָרֶץ מִתְּחַת שְׁמִים.

Eternal God, You created the  
heavens and earth in love.  
You fashioned plants and  
animals, breathing Your spirit  
into humanity.

We were created amidst a clean and pure world, but it is now  
degraded in our grasp.

Not on our own merits do we beseech You, Adonai our God,  
for we have sinned, we have wasted, we have caused vast damage:

For the sin of filling the sea and land with filth and garbage;  
for the sin of destroying species that You saved from the flood;  
and for the sin of laying bare the forests and habitats that sustain life.

Please, God, open our eyes that we might see the splendor of Your  
creation. Then we shall praise You, as it is written: "How great are  
Your works, Adonai! You have made them all with wisdom; the earth  
is filled with Your creations" (Psalm 104:24).

Remove the heart of stone from our flesh, and give us a feeling heart.  
Grant us wisdom and determination to safeguard the earth beneath  
the heavens.

—DANIEL NEVINS

We have sinned against You in everyday conversation,  
and we have sinned against You through conspiratorial  
glances.

We have sinned against You through condescension,  
and we have sinned against You through stubbornness.

For all these sins, forgiving God, forgive us, pardon us,  
grant us atonement.

*V'al kullam, elo-ah s'lihot, s'lah lanu, m'hal lanu, kapper lanu.*

We have sinned against You by throwing off all restraint,  
and we have sinned against You by rashly judging  
others.

We have sinned against You by plotting against others,  
and we have sinned against You through selfishness.

We have sinned against You through superficiality,  
and we have sinned against You through stubbornness.

We have sinned against You by rushing to do evil,  
and we have sinned against You through gossip.

We have sinned against You through empty promises,  
and we have sinned against You through baseless  
hatred.

We have sinned against You by betraying trust,  
and we have sinned against You by succumbing to  
confusion.

For all these sins, forgiving God, forgive us, pardon us,  
grant us atonement.

*V'al kullam, elo-ah s'lihot, s'lah lanu, m'hal lanu, kapper lanu.*