

§ *For the Sin of
Destroying God's Creation*

אֱלֹהֵי עוֹלָם אֶתָּה בְּרֵאתָ שָׁמַיִם
וְאֶרֶץ בְּאַהֲבָה,
יִצְרַת צִמְחִים וְחַיִּים, וְנִפְחַת נִשְׁמַת
חַיִּים בְּבְנֵי אָדָם.
נִבְרָאנוּ בְּקֶרֶב עוֹלָם נָקִי וְטָהוֹר,
יָקַעַת הוּא נְהָרָם עַל־יְדֵינוּ.
לֹא עַל צְדָקוֹתֵינוּ אֲנַחְנוּ מִפְּלִים
תַּחֲנוּנֵינוּ לִפְנֵיךָ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ,
כִּי אֲשַׁמְנוּ, בִּזְבֹּזָנוּ, וְגִרְמָנוּ נֹזֶק כְּבִיר:
עַל חֲטָא שְׁמֵלָאנוּ אֶרֶץ וַיָּמִים
בְּזָל וּבְאַשְׁפָּה,
עַל חֲטָא שֶׁהִשְׁמַדְנוּ לְנֶצַח חַיִּים
נִפְלְאוֹת שֶׁהִצֵּלְתָּ מִמֵּי הַמַּבּוּל,
וְעַל חֲטָא שֶׁהִכְרַתְנוּ יַעְרֹת
עֲצִים הַמְקִימִים נֶפֶשׁ כָּל־חַי.
אָנָּה יְהוָה פָּקַח עֵינֵינוּ וְנִרְאָה אֶת־
הוֹד יִצִּירְתֶּךָ,
אֲזַ שְׂבַחְךָ כְּמוֹ שִׁכְתוּב: מְהֵרָב
מִעֲשֵׂיךָ יְהוָה, כָּלֶם בְּחֻמָּה עֲשִׂיתָ
מִלְּאָה הָאֶרֶץ קִנְיָנְךָ.
הִסַּר אֶת־לֵב הָאֶבֶן מִבְּשָׁרֵנוּ, וְתֵן לֵב
בָּשָׂר בְּקֶרְבָּנוּ.
תֵּן לָנוּ חֻמָּה וְאַמִּץ־לֵב לְשִׁמּוֹר עַל
הָאֶרֶץ מִתַּחַת הַשָּׁמַיִם.

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.