

U've'shofar gadol

Rosh Hashanah Musaf - from the Unetane Tokef

Singer: Leslie Lyndon

U've'shofar gadol yitaka, v'kol
d'mama daka yishama;
u'mal'achim ye'chafezun, v'chil
u're'ada yocheizun, v'yomru hinei
yom ha'din, lifkod al tze'va marom
ba'din, ki lo yizku ve'eineicha
ba'din.

V'chol ba'ei olam ya'avrun
lefaneicha ki've'nei maron.
Ke'vakarat ro'eh ed'ro, ma'avir
tzono tachat shivto, ken ta'avir
ve'tispor v'timneh, v'tifkod nefesh
kol chai, ve'tachtoch kitzvah
le'chol briya, ve'tichtov et ge'zar
dinam.

ובְּשׁוֹפָר גָּדוֹל יִתְקַע, וְקוֹל דְּמָמָה דַּקָּה
יִשָּׁמַע; וּמַלְאָכִים יַחְפְּזוּן, וְחֵיל וְרַעְדָּה
לְאַחֲזוּן, וְיֹאמְרוּ הִנֵּה יוֹם הַדִּין, לְפָקוֹד
עַל צְבָא מְרוֹם בַּדִּין, כִּי לֹא יִזְכּוּ בְּעֵינֶיךָ
בַּדִּין. וְכָל בָּאֵי עוֹלָם יַעֲבְרוּן לְפָנֶיךָ כַּבְּנֵי
מְרוֹן. כְּבִקְרַת רוּעָה עֶדְרוֹ, מְעַבִּיר צֹאנוֹ
תַּחַת שֶׁבֶטוֹ, כִּן תַּעֲבִיר וְתִסְפּוֹר וְתִמְנְנֶה,
וְתִפְקוֹד נַפְשׁ כָּל חַי, וְתַחַתּוֹךְ קִצְבָה לְכָל
בְּרִיָּה, וְתַכְתּוֹב אֶת גְּזַר דֵּינָם.

B'Rosh ha-Shanah yikateivun,
u'v'Yom tzom Kippur
ye'chateimun.
Kama ya'avrun, v'chama yibare'un
Mi yich'yeh u'mi yamut, mi v'kitzo
u'mi lo v'kitzo
Mi va'esh u'mi va'mayim, mi
va'cherev u'mi va'chayah.
B'Rosh ha-Shanah
Mi va'ra'av u'mi va'tzamah, mi
va'ra'ash u'mi va'magefa, mi
va'chanika u'mi va'sekila.
B'Rosh ha-Shanah
Mi yanu'ach u'mi yanu'a, mi
yisha'ket u'mi yitaref,
Mi yishalev u'mi yit'yasar, mi
ye'ani u'mi ye'asher, mi yishafel
u'mi yarum.
U'teshuvah u'tefilah u'tzedakah
Ma'avirin et ro'a ha'gezerah.

בְּרֹאשׁ הַשָּׁנָה יִכְתְּבוּן, וּבַיּוֹם צוֹם כְּפוּר יַחְתְּמוּן
כְּמָה יַעֲבְרוּן, וְכְמָה יִבְרָאוּן;
מִי יַחֲיֶה וּמִי יָמוּת; מִי בִקְצוֹ וּמִי לֹא בִקְצוֹ;
מִי בָאֵשׁ וּמִי בַמַּיִם; מִי בַחֶרֶב וּמִי בַחֲנִיָּה.
בְּרֹאשׁ הַשָּׁנָה
מִי בַרְעֵב וּמִי בַצָּמָה; מִי בַרְעֵשׁ וּמִי בַמַּגְפָּה; מִי
בַחֲנִיקָה וּמִי בַסְּקִילָה.
בְּרֹאשׁ הַשָּׁנָה
מִי יָנוּחַ וּמִי יָנוּעַ; מִי יִשְׁקֹט וּמִי יִטְרַף;
מִי יִשְׁלֹוּ וּמִי יִתִּיֶסֶר; מִי יַעֲנִי וּמִי יַעֲשֶׂר; מִי
יִשְׁפֹּל וּמִי יָרוּם.
וְתִשׁוּבָה וְתִפִּילָה וְצִדְקָה
מְעַבְרִין אֶת רֵעַ הַגְּזֵרָה.

The great shofar is sounded, and a still small voice is heard: the angels, quaking with fear, declare: "The day of judgement is here to bring the hosts of heaven to justice!". Indeed, even they are not guiltless in Your sight. All humankind passes before You like a flock of sheep. As a shepherd seeks out their flock, making their sheep pass under their rod, so do You make all living souls pass before You; You count and number Your creatures, fixing their lifetime and inscribing their destiny.

*On Rosh Ha-Shanah their destiny is inscribed, and on Yom Kippur it is sealed.
How many shall pass away and how many shall be born,
who shall live and who shall die, who shall come to a timely end and who to an untimely end,
who shall perish by fire and who by water, who by sword and who by beast;
On Rosh Ha-Shanah etc.
who by hunger and who by thirst, who by earthquake and who by plague,
who by strangling and who by stoning
On Rosh Ha-Shanah etc.
who shall be at ease and who shall wander about, who shall be at peace and who shall be
molested, who shall have comfort and who shall be tormented, who shall become poor and who
shall become rich, who shall be lowered and who shall be raised.
But repentance, prayer and charity can cancel the stern decree.*

The Unetane Tokef is one of the most stark and fearful passages in our liturgy, speaking of the frailness of human beings, the uncertainty of life, and the knowledge that this is truly a Day of Judgement. But it also ends with hope, that if we turn ourselves towards God, our lives can have strength and meaning.

See: Rabbi Dr. Reuven Hammer on Unetane Tokef

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