

T'FILAT HADER ECH

A PR AYER FOR THE JOUR NEY

May we be blessed as we go on our way,
May we be guided in peace,
May we be blessed with health and joy,
May this be our blessing Amen.
May we be sheltered by the wings of peace,
May we be kept in safety and in love,
May grace and compassion find their way to
every soul
May this be our blessing Amen
- Debbie Friedman



WELCOME TO THE WOODS

The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely, or unhappy is to go outside, somewhere where they can be quite alone with the heavens, nature, and God.

Because only then does one feel that all is as it should be and that God wishes to see people happy, amidst the simple beauty of nature. As long as this exists, and it certainly always will, I know that then there will always be comfort for every sorrow...

And I firmly believe that nature brings solace in all troubles.

- Anne Frank, Diary of a Young Girl



WE AR E ONE

All the life of the planet is inter-related...each species has its own ties to others, and...all are related to the earth. – Rachel Carson

A human being is a part of the whole, called by us 'Universe,' a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feelings as something separated from the rest — a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty.

- Albert Einstein

It really boils down to this: that all life is interrelated. We are all caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied into a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.

- Martin Luther King, Jr

ATZ CHAYYIM

"To the human eye, no creature embraces heaven and earth more than the tree. A tree is poised in between worlds, its roots dividing out smaller and deeper into the earth beneath until they seem to dissolve in it, its branches soaring above us, full of leaves like hands holding the sky."

 Rabbi David Seidenberg,
 "The Human, the Tree, and the Image of God"

SHIMA

שמע,ישראל: יי אלהינו, יי אקד. משמע,ישר אלו מלכותו לעולם ועד.

Sh'ma, Yisrael: Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai echaqi Sh'ma, Shem k'vod malchuto l'olam va'ed

Listen, Israel: Adonai is our God, Adonai is One! Blessed is God's glorious majesty forever and ever.



AT THE SHOR E

Imagine two waves, a smaller one and a larger one, traveling across the ocean. Suddenly, the larger wave sees land approaching, and gets upset. He cries to the smaller wave, "Oh no! Up ahead—waves are crashing and disappearing! We're going to die!"

The smaller wave, somehow, is unperturbed. So the larger wave tries to convince her, to no avail. Finally the smaller wave says, "What would you say if I told you that there are six words, that if you really understood and believed them, you would see that there's no reason to fear?"

The bigger wave protests, but as the land approaches, he becomes desperate. He'll try anything. "Fine, fine, tell me the six words." "Okay," the small wave says. "You're not a wave, you're water." - Ram Dass



MI SHEBEIRACH

Mi shebeirach avoteinu M'kor hab'racha l'imoteinu

מִי שֶׁבֵּרַךְ אַבוֹתִינוּ מְקוֹר הַבְּרָכָה לְאָמוֹתִינוּ.

May the source of strength,
Who blessed the ones before us,
Help us find the courage to make our lives
a blessing, and let us say,
Amen.

Mi shebeirach imoteinu M'kor habrachah l'avoteinu

מִי שֶׁבַרַך אָמוֹתִינוּ מְקוֹר הַבְּרָכָה לְאַבוֹתִינוּ.

Bless those in need of healing with r'fuah sh'leimah. The renewal of body, the renewal of spirit, and let us say,

Amen.

WALK WITH ME

Walk with me into the woods Leave the edge of the forest behind

Come deep into the green until the shafts of sunlight are lost feel the stillness of the center

Walk with me to the top of the hill
Leave the broad path behind.
Up-up beyond where the trees grow.
Hear the quiet of the heights

Walk alone
each one of us
on our own right path
With the echoes of the blasts of the shofar
With the stillness of the center
With the help of our God.

- Priscilla R. Stern



תקיעה Tekiah! שברים Shevarim! תרועה Teruah! תקיעה גדולה Tekiah Gedolah!

OUTDOOR PRAYER

"May it be my custom to go outdoors each day among the trees and grass - among all growing things and enter into prayer, to talk with my Creator, and may all the foliage of the field all grasses, trees, and plants, all made by the Transcendent Source awake at my coming, To send the powers of their life into the words of my prayer, So that my speech is made whole through the life and spirit of all growing things Which are made as ONE by their Transcendent Source. - Rebbe Nachman of Bratzlav

COME BACK!

In order to serve God, one needs access to the enjoyment of the beauties of nature, such as the contemplation of flower-decorated meadows, majestic mountains, and flowing rivers. For all these are essential to the spiritual development of even the holiest of people.

- Rabbi Avram ben Maimon

Each of us needs to withdraw from the cares which will not withdraw from us. We need hours of aimless wandering or spaces of time sitting on park benches, observing the mysterious world of ants and the canopy of the treetops.

Maya Angelou

Teach us to care and not to care. Teach us to sit still. - T.S. Eliot



OSEH SHALOM

Oseh shalom
bimromav
hu ya'aseh shalom
aleinu
v'al kol Yisrael
v'al kol yoshvei
tevel
v'imru amen.

עושה שלום בְּמְרוּמְיוּ הוא יַצְשה שלום עֲלִינוּ וְעַל כָל יִשראָל וְעַל כָל יִשראָל וְעַל כָל יושָבִי תָבֵל וְאַמְרוּ אָמִן:

May the One who creates peace on high bring peace to us, to all Israel, and to all the world.

And we say: Amen.



