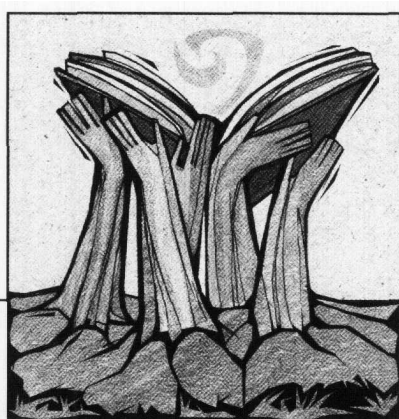


ISRAEL

Prayer for Israel



תפילה

Aryeh Cohen

אריה כהן

My heart, my heart goes out to you Zion
Tears, jubilation, celebration, grieving
Did we not dream a dream that came to be?
And here it is—both song and lament.

לְבִי לְבִי יוֹצֵאת לְךָ צִיּוֹן.
דְּמָעוֹת וְצִהָלָה, שְׂמֵחָה וְיִגּוֹן
הֲלֹא חִלּוּם חָלַמְנוּ וַיְהִי
וְהִנֵּה-גַם רִינָה גַם נְהִי.

We are mere matter, and our prayer is to
the Creator,
Toward the Good and the Just, direct the
people seeking refuge in Zion.
For all the world is Yours, and we have
but one land,
Which we inherited together with the
sons and daughters of Hagar.

נִחְנוּ רַק חוֹמֵר וּתְפִילָה לָנוּ לְיוֹצֵר,
לְטוֹב וּלְצַדִּיק הַכּוֹוֹן אֶת הָעָם בְּצִיּוֹן מִסִּתְתָּר.
כִּי לְךָ כָּל הָאָרֶץ וְלָנוּ אָרֶץ יְחִידָה,
אֲשֶׁר יִרְשָׁנוּ יַחְדָּיו עִם בְּנֵי הָגָר.

Favor us with knowledge with which to
understand
The wisdom of Avraham, “If you will go
left, I will go right.”
Overflow with mercy on a great and
troubled land
For “Zion will be redeemed in judgment
and its inhabitants in righteousness.”

חוֹנְנוּ דַעַת אֲשֶׁר בּוֹן נִבִּין
חֲכָמַת אַבְרָהָם: “אִם תִּשְׁמְאַלְהָ וְאִיִּמִּין;
רַחֲמִים תִּשְׁפִּיעַ עַל אָרֶץ רַבָּה הַגְּזִירָה
כִּי “צִיּוֹן בְּמִשְׁפַּט תִּפְדָּה וְשָׁבִיהָ בְּצַדִּיקָה”

In the midst of increasing violence and deepening mistrust among Israelis and Palestinians, many Jews are turning to tradition for solace and guidance. A large and growing number would like to include Israel in their prayers, but are unable to intone the traditional “Prayer for the State of Israel:” the triumphalism of the early fifties religious Zionism woven through the Prayer and the religious problematics of sanctifying a political and military institution grate on those who pray with open eyes and an open heart. We offer here an alternative, written by Aryeh Cohen, which recognizes the complexity of the realized dream of the State of Israel. What follows is an exploration and critique of the lineage of the traditional “Prayer for the State of Israel” by Shaul Magid and a discussion by Aryeh Cohen of his composition.

—Shaul Magid and Aryeh Cohen