

שנה 574  
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READINGS

### The Wall Weeps

① On the night of the ninth day of the month of Av, Tisha B'Av, the anniversary of the destruction of the Temples, in the dark of the night, there appears on the Western Wall in Jerusalem a white dove-symbol of the Jewish people. It spreads its wings, and sings mournfully over the destruction of the Temple. Dew drops cover the stones of the Wall as the people sway silently. Tradition tells us that the dew drops are tears that the Wall sheds together with the Jews around the world.

#### BEGIN WITH US

Dear God, so much innocent bloodshed!  
We are supposed to be created in Your image but O how we have distorted it.

When we read the beastly acts of man, we are ashamed to be human.

When we read of the nobility of their victims, we are proud to be Jews.

If there is anything for which we are grateful, then we thank You that we have been the victims, not the murderers; the persecuted, not the persecutors.

But must cruelty always be? Must inhumanity ever be the signature of man?

No! No! We refuse to accept that!

We refuse to give hatred the last word

Because we have known the power of love.

We refuse to believe that cruelty will prevail because we have felt the strength of kindness.

We refuse to award the ultimate victory to evil because we believe in You too much.

So help us O God to live by our faith.

Where there is hatred, may we bring love.

Where there is pain, may we bring healing.

Where there is darkness, may we bring light.

Where there is despair, may we bring hope.

Where there is discord, may we bring peace.

Make this a better world and begin with us.

1. Oh lord my God  
 I pray that these things never end.  
 The sand and the sea  
 The rush of the waters  
 The flash of the heavens  
 The prayer of man.

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פְּסִיחַ נִדְּ! לִסְעָה 'סְלָה 'סְלָה  
 מִן הַיָּם וְעַד הַיָּם! מִן הַיָּם! מִן הַיָּם  
 מִן הַיָּם וְעַד הַיָּם! מִן הַיָּם! מִן הַיָּם

MY HEART IS IN THE EAST / Yehuda Halevi

My heart is in the east,  
 but I am in the uttermost west.  
 How can what I eat  
 have taste or be sweet?  
 How can I keep my bounden vows  
 with Zion  
 Yet in Edom's bonds and I  
 in Arab chains?  
 To cast off all the splendor of Spain  
 would be as light in my sight  
 As it would be dear to my eyes to see  
 the earth of the devastated sanctuary.

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Translated by Nahum Waldman

RABBI AKIBA OFFERS CONSOLATION

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After the destruction of the Temple, Rabbi Akiba and his rabbinic  
 colleagues went up to Jerusalem, when they reached the Temple  
 Mount they saw a fox emerging from the ruins of the Holy of Holies.  
 Rabbi Akiba's companions began to cry. He, however, laughed.

"Why do you laugh?" they asked of him. "Why do you weep?" he  
 asked in return. "Is the site of the Temple not Holy." they  
 replied. Now foxes walk about it. How then shall we not weep?"

"It is for that very reason I laughed," he told them. Has not the  
 prophet Zechariah said, "Old men and old women shall yet dwell  
 in the streets of Jerusalem?"

Now that the prophecy of the Temple's destruction has come to pass,  
 it is certain that Zechariah's prophecy will be fulfilled.