

A Prayer in Memory of Eyal Yifrach, Naftali Frankel, and Gil-ad Shaar

by Rabbi Tamar Elad Appelbaum English translation by Rabbis David Ackerman and Peretz Rodman

"Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I fear no evil for You are with me." [Psalm 23:4]

For with You I yearn for three youths With You I seek their lives, their dreams With You I gaze in awe at parents whose lips and hands are steadfast

With You I plead that the strength of love and kindness will grow in the land.

And with You I am soul-torn when I hear that they are no more With You I lament over brothers who will not return With You I weep at the ruins of a human being who took another's life

With You I tremble at the dark evil within him.

And with You I therefore lift up my soul to distance myself from vengeance and blood

With You I restrain myself so that the holiness within me will not be erased.

With You I hear the cry of children rising up from the earth From amid the shards of humanity and nations and darkest evil.

And with You I pray
That I will again regain my spirit
That I will again believe in humanity
That I will again hear every voice and sob,
The voice of a human in every place.

For You.

Who in every generation hears the cries of the pure Grant me the strength not to despair so that I can proclaim: Behold, I take upon myself the yoke of the kingdom of life A language of compassion and peace and love of humanity. Grant me the strength that my soul not die but live, And perceive the eternal light as it gradually bursts forth.

My God, I will again build
A home, a life, a world,
And Your light will guide my path.
The full grandeur of humanity will again be revealed I will not be afraid. I will not fear.
I will not retreat, for You are with me.

And life and holiness and gentleness which You have planted In every person, every nation and tongue In every creation of the universe, They will comfort me.

גַּם כִּי אֵלֵךְ בְּגֵיא צַלְמָנֶת לֹא אִירַא רַע כִּי אַתַּה עִמַּדִי

כִּי אִתְּדְ אֲיַחֵל לִשְׁלֹשָׁה נְעָרִים אִתְּדְ אֲבַקֵשׁ חַיֵּיהֶם, חֲלוֹמֶם אִתְּדְ אֶשְׁתָּאֶה מֵהוֹרִים שֶׁשְׂפָתָם וִידֵיהֶם אֱמוּנָה אִתְּדְ אֶתְחַנֵּן שֶׁיִּגְדֵּל נָא כֹּחַ הַחֶּסֶד בָּאָרִץ.

וְאִתְּדָּ אֶקְרַע בְּנַפְשִׁי כְּשֶׁאֶשְׁמֵע שֶׁאֵינָם עוֹד אָתְּדְ אֲקוֹנֵן עַל אַחִים שֶׁלֹא יְשׁוּבוּוְ אִתְּדְ אֶּרְכָּה אֶת חֻרְבָּן הָאָדָם שֶׁנָטַל אֶת הַנֶּפֶשׁ אִתְּדְ אֶחֲרֵד מֵרִשְׁעָה אֲפֵלָה בּוֹ.

וְאִתְּדְ אָז אַצִּיל אֶת נַפְשִׁי שֶׁאֶרְחַק מִנָּקֶם וּמִדָּם אָתְּדְ אֶתְאַפַּק לְבַל יִמָּחָה לְדֶשׁ בִּי. אָתְּדְ אֶשְׁמֵע צַעֲקַת יְלָדִים הָעוֹלֶה מִן הָאָרֶץ בֵּין שִׁבְרֵי אֱנוֹשוּת וְעַמִּים וְרָעוֹת חֲשֵׁכוֹת.

> וְאִתְּךּ אֶתְפַּלֵּל שָׁאָשׁוּב לֶאֱסֹף אֶת רוּחִי שָׁאָשׁוּב לְהַאָמִין בָּאָדָם שָׁאָשׁוּב לְשָׁמֹעַ כָּל קוֹל וּבְכִיָּה קוֹל אָדָם בַּאֲשֶׁר הוּא שָׁם.

> > ָכִי אַתָּה,

שֶׁשֶׁמֵעְתָּ בְּכָל דּוֹר וָדוֹר וַעֲקַת תְּמִימִים הֵן בִּי כֹּחַ שֶׁלֹא אֶתְיָאֵשׁ וְאָקוּם לְפָנֶיךְ לִשְׁאֹג: הָרֵינִי מְקַבֵּל/ת עָלֵי עֹל מֵלְכוּת חַיִּים שְׂפַת חֶסֶד וְשָׁלוֹם וְאַהַבֵת אָדָם. הֵן בִּי כֹּחַ שֶׁלֹּא הָמוּת נַפְשִׁי כִּי תִּחְיָה, וְתִרְאָה אוֹר עוֹלֵם הַמֵּפְצִיעַ קִמְעָה.

> עוֹד אֶבְנֶה, אֱלֹהֵי, בַּיִת, חַיִּים וְעוֹלֶם וְאוֹרְךּ לִי יַהֵל אֶת הַדֶּרֶךְ עוֹד קוֹמַת הָאָדָם הַשְּׁלֵמָה תִּגָּלֵה לֹא אֲפַחֵד. לֹא אִירָא. לֹא אֵפּוֹג, שָׁאָתַּה עִמָּדִי.

> וְחַיִּים וּקְדָשָׁה וַעֲדִינוּת שֶׁנָּטַעְהָּ בְּכֶל הָאָדָם, בְּכָל עַם וְלָשוֹן וּבְכָל יְצוּרֵי עוֹלָמִים, הַמָּה יְנַחֲמֵנִי.