A Prayer for the State of Israel

> רְבּוֹנוֹ שֶׁל עוֹלָם, קַבֵּל נָא בְּרַחֲמִים וּבְרָצוֹן אֶת־ הְפִּלּוֹתֵינוּ בְּעַד מְדִינַת יִשְרָאֵל.

Sovereign of the universe, accept in lovingkindness and with favor our prayers for the State of Israel, her government, and all who dwell within her boundaries and under her authority. Open our eyes and our hearts to the wonder of Israel, and strengthen our faith in Your power to work redemption in every human soul. Grant us also the fortitude to keep ever before us those ideals upon which the State of Israel was founded. Grant courage, wisdom, and strength to those entrusted with guiding Israel's destiny to do Your will. Be with those on whose shoulders Israel's safety depends and defend them from all harm. Spread over Israel and all the world Your shelter of peace, and may the vision of Your prophet soon be fulfilled: "Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore" (Isaiah 2:4).

לא ישָא גוּי אֶל גוּי חֶרֶב ולא ילמדוּ עוד מלחמה.

## A Prayer for the State of Israel

Avinu she-ba-shamayim, stronghold and redeemer of the people Israel: Bless the State of Israel, [that it may be] the beginning of our redemption. Shield it with Your love; spread over it the shelter of Your peace. Guide its leaders and advisors with Your light and Your truth. Help them with Your good counsel. Strengthen the hands of those who defend our holy land. Deliver them; crown their efforts with triumph. Bless the land with peace and its inhabitants with lasting joy. And let us say: Amen.

Avinu she-ba-shamayim, tzur yisrael v'go-alo, bareikh et m'dinat yisrael [she-t'hei] reishit tz'miḥat ge'ulateinu. Hagen aleha b'evrat ḥasdekha u-f'ros aleha sukkat sh'lomekha, u-sh'laḥ or'kha va-amit'kha l'rasheha sareha v'yo-atzeha, v'takneim b'eitzah tovah milfanekha. Ḥazeik et y'dei m'ginei eretz kodsheinu, v'hanḥileim eloheinu y'shu-ah, va-ateret nitzaḥon t'atreim. V'natata shalom ba-aretz v'simhat olam l'yosh'yeha, v'nomar: amen.

## A Prayer for Peace

May we see the day when war and bloodshed cease, when a great peace will embrace the whole world.

Then nation will not threaten nation,

and the human family will not again know war.

For all who live on earth shall realize

we have not come into being to hate or to destroy.

We have come into being to praise, to labor, and to love.

Compassionate God, bless the leaders of all nations with the power of compassion.

Fulfill the promise conveyed in Scripture:

I will bring peace to the land,

and you shall lie down and no one shall terrify you.

I will rid the land of vicious beasts

and it shall not be ravaged by war.

Let justice and righteousness flow like a mighty stream. Let God's peace fill the earth as the waters fill the sea. And let us say: *Amen*.

## תִּפִּלֶּה לִשְׁלוֹם מִדִינַת יִשְׂרָאֵל

אָבִינוּ שֶׁבַּשָּׁמֵים, צוּר יִשְּׂרָאֵל וְגוֹאֲלוֹ, בָּרֵךּ אֶת־מְדִינַת יִשְּׁרָאֵל [שֻׁתְּהֵא] רֵאשִׁית צְמִיחַת גְּאֻלֶּתֵנוּ. הָגֵן עָלֶיהָ בְּאֶבְרַת חַסְדֶּךְ וּפְּרֹשׁ עָלֵיהָ סְבַּת שְׁלוֹמֶךְ, וּשְׁלַח אוֹרְךְ וַאֲמִתְּךְ לְרָאשֵׁיהָ שָּׁרֶיהָ וְיוֹצֲצֶיהָ, וְתַקְנֵם בְּעֵצָה טוֹבָה מִלְפְנֵיךְ. חַזֵּק אֶת־יְדֵי מְגנֵּי אֶרֶץ קְדְשֵׁנוּ, וְהַנְחִילֵם אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְשׁוּעָה, וַצְטֶרֶת נִצְחוֹן תְעַשְׁרֵם. וְנָתַתְּ שָׁלוֹם בָּאֵרֵץ וְשִׂמְחַת עוֹלָם לִיוֹשְבֵיהָ, וְנֹאמַר: אָמֵן.

תְּפִּלֶה לְשָׁלוֹם

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךּ יהוה אֱלֹהֵינוּ וֵאלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְאִמּוֹתֵינוּ, שֶׁתְבַטֵּל מִלְחָמוֹת וּשְׁפִיכוּת דָּמִים מִן הָעוֹלָם ותשׁבִּיו שׁלוֹם בּעוֹלם,

וְלֹא יָשָׂא גוֹי אֵל גּוֹי חֵרֵב וְלֹא יִלְמְדוֹּ עוֹד מַלְחַמה.

יַבִּירוּ וְיֵדְעוּ כְּל־יוִ שְׁבֵי תֵבֵל

שֶׁלֹא בָּאנוּ לָעוֹלָם בִּשְׁבִיל רִיב וּמַחֲלְּקֶת, וְלֹא בִּשְׁבִיל שִׁנְאָה וְקִנְאָה וְקִנְתוּר וּשְׁפִיכוּת דָּמִים. רַק בֵּאנוּ לָעוֹלָם כָּדֵי לְהַבִּיר אוֹתְרָּ, תִּתְבָּרַךְּ לָנֵצַח.

וּבְבֵן הְּרַחֵם עָלֵינוּ וִיקָיַם בֵּנוּ מִקְרָא שֶׁכָּתוּב: וְנָתַתִּי שָׁלוֹם בָּאֶרֶץ וּשְׁכַבְתָּם וְאֵין מַחֲרִיד, וְהִשְׁבַּתִּי חַיָּה רָעָה מִן הָאֶרֶץ וְחֶרֶב לֹא תַעֲבֹר בְּאַרְצְכֶם. וִינֵּל כַּמֵיִם מִשְׁפָּט, וּצִדָּקָה כִּנַחַל אֵיתַן.

פִּי מָלְאָה הָאֶרֶץ דֵּעָה אֶת־יהוה בַּמֵּיִם לַיָּם מְכַפִּים.

ISRAEL. Upon Israel's independence in 1948, many prayers were circulated for the well-being of the new state. This one was

PRAYER FOR THE STATE OF

for the well-being of the new state. This one was composed by Israel's chief rabbis and was then slightly edited by the writer S.Y. Agnon.

THAT IT MAY BE שֶׁתְהַשׁ.
This Hebrew word was added by the Chief Rabbi of England, Immanuel Jakobovits, turning the phrase "the beginning of the redemption" into an expression of hope, rather than a statement of fact.

A PRAYER FOR PEACE.
Rabbi Nathan Sternharz,
a student of the Hasidic
master Nahman of Bratzlav
(1772–1810, Ukraine),
recorded this prayer. The
version here has been

NATION WILL NOT THREATEN ג'י Isaiah 2:4.

adapted and translated by

Jules Harlow.

ו WILL BRING PEACE וְּנֶתֵתְּיּ Leviticus 26:6.

LET JUSTICE AND RIGH-TEOUSNESS FLOW וְיִגֵּל בַּמִיִם Amos 5:24.

FILL THE EARTH בִּי מֶלְאָה. Isaiah יהָאַרִץ.