



Open a Gate for Us

**A collection of prayers, readings and songs
by Israeli authors and rabbis, inspired by the
liturgy of Yom Kippur**

Kol Nidrei | Ze'ev Falk

All our lips' vows, our hearts' accounts
And the thoughts of repentance we contemplated and expressed
In our thousands of prayers
Last Yom Kippur –
Failed to change our way of life
Or to bring our redemption during the year just ended.

From the heights of our enthusiasm
We returned to our mundane habits
Immediately after Ne'ilah.

Will You hear our remorse
Will You release us from our imprisonment
By the spirit of the routine?
Will you accept our prayer to atone for our sins
Even though we sin again?

Know that in our hour of weakness we shall not remember our declaration
From last Yom Kippur.
Be considerate of our forgetfulness and accept our intentions
For forgiveness and pardon.





The following two "alternative" confessions follow the structure of acrostic writing in the Hebrew alphabet, referencing the traditional Yom Kippur confession.

Confession | Rabbi Mordechai Rotem

We closed our ears to the cry of the poor and wretched.	אָטְמָנוּ
We disdained people of honesty and integrity.	בִּזְנוּ
Our heart was haughty.	גְּבַהּ
We excluded good manners from our lives.	דְּחִינוּ
We agreed with entrenched power holders.	הִסְכַּמְנוּ
We gave up on holiness.	וַתַּרְנוּ
We sanctified the golden calf.	זָבַחְנוּ
We set our sights on "only by might and only by power."	חָרְטָנוּ
We daubed with plaster the flimsy chambers of our hearts.	טָחְנוּ
We were able but unwilling.	יָכַלְנוּ
We dug a pit for those who walk in innocence.	כָּרִינוּ
We stared with enmity at others.	לָטְשָנוּ
We were quick to raise our voices and our hands with aggress	מִהָרְנוּ
We took advantage of every opportunity to exploit.	נִצַּלְנוּ
We were self-satisfied.	סָמְכָנוּ
We worshiped foreign idols.	עֲבַדְנוּ
We were afraid to proclaim the truth out loud.	פָּחַדְנוּ
We laughed at and mocked the unfortunate.	צָחֲקָנוּ
We sanctified the unholy and the materialistic.	קִדְשָנוּ
We saw and did not testify.	רָאִינוּ
We forgot what was not convenient to remember.	שָׁכַחְנוּ
We reached for more but ended up with less.	תַּפְּסָנוּ



The Long Confession | Rabbi Dalia Mark

Who will reckon every glance cast aside?
Every demand for justice that was not promptly met – who will count?
Who will tell the story of a hand not offered
Inattention, silence, evasion, and inaction – who will contain?
And You know the secrets of the world and of each individual,
You reckon and tell, count and contain.
Wipe away our iniquities, delete and remove our sins,
Purify us, draw us close, and renew our days as of old.

For the sin we have committed before You by

Helplessness	אין אונים
The wasting of resources	בזבוז משאבים
Caprice	גחמנות
Meager action	דלות מעשים
Ignoring reality	התעלמות
Abandoning our values	ותור על ערכים
Arrogance	זחיחות
Inattention	חרשות
Stupidity of blood	טפשות הדם
Fear of our fellows	יראת אדם
Denial and self-denial	פחש והתכחשות
Apathy	לאות
Inaction	מניעת כף
Our presence and our absence	נוכחות ובגנקהדות
Holding our nose closed	סתירת אף
Closing our eyes	עצירת עינים
Weak will	פיק ברקים
Hypocrisy	צביעות
Our refusal to see what lies ahead	קצר ראות
Cheating	רמאות
The silence of our heart	שתיקת לבב
False pretense	תרוצי שוא

And for all these, God of pardon, pardon us, forgive us, atone for us





Gathering

Lyrics: Itamar Prat | melody: Naomi Shemer

Gather the deeds
The words and the symbols
Like a blessed harvest
Too heavy to carry.

אסוף את המעשים
את המילים והאותות
כמו יבול ברכה
כבד משאת.

Gather the blossoms
That ripened into memories
Of summer that
Prematurely passed on.

אסוף את הפריחה
אשר גמלה לזיכרונות
של קיץ שחלף
בטרם עת.

Gather all the images
Of her beautiful face
As the fruit and the grain
The earth is gray
Beneath the stalks
And it can't give you anything more.

אסוף את כל מראות
פניה היפים
כמו את הפרי ואת הבר.
האדמה היא אפורה
מתחת לשלפים
ואין לה עוד לתת לך דבר.

There is no more stem
Dreaming about its ear
There are no more "Nedarey Ve'asarey"
Only the wind's promise
That the rain will in time
Rebuild the dust at the end of Tishrei.

ואין יותר גבעול
חולם על שיבולתו
ואין יותר 'נדרי ואסרי'
רק הבטחת הרוח
כי הגשם בעיתו
עוד יחונן את עפרה בתום תשרי.

The song *Asif* – Gathering, describes the special relations between the agricultural life in the land of Israel, in which crops are being gathered at the month of Tishrei, to the spiritual life of the same period of time, which demands a gathering of a man's deeds and sins.





Jewish Autumn

Lyrics: Avraham Halfi | melody: Yoni Richter

Jewish autumn

In the land of my forefathers

Sends me

Hints of Elul.

סתיו יהודי

בארץ אבותי

שולח בי

רמזי אלול.

Already are fluttering inside of me

Little birds

Whistling the sadness

Of Yom Kippur

כבר משתגעות בי קצת

הציפורים הקטנטנות

שוקות העצב

של יום הכיפורים.

So will the shofars be blown

To open the gates of Heaven

And Jewish faces from the Diaspora

In a grayish glow

Will hover before the Almighty's throne.

אז יתקע בשופרות

לפתוח שערי שמיים

ופנים יהודיות מן הגולה

באפרפר נוגה

ירחפו לפני כסא אדון עולם.

With pleas and entreaties

And many sparks

In the depths of their eyes.

ובקשות ותחנונים

וניצוצות הרבה

בעומק עיניהן.

