



Tashlich Ritual and Service

From the teaching of Rabbi Kliel Rose

On the first day of Rosh Hashanah (on the second day when the first day is Shabbat) in the afternoon it is customary to gather at a body of water for a ritual which demonstrates that sin can be separated from our lives. Into the water we symbolically cast our sins of the year gone by, and we reaffirm our intention that life in the new year will be informed by a new heart and a new spirit.

Source texts on why it is preferable to say tashlich by flowing water with fish:

“Since fish always have their eyes open, they symbolize our hope that God will open God’s eyes to our repentance. *Shenei Luhot Ha-Berit*

“A king is anointed near a river as a sign that his kingdom should have continuity, just as a river continually flows.” (Horayot 12a)

The Ritual:

“Wash over me, carry my burden to a God who hears. Wash over me, send me an answer to my prayers. I cast out my worries, I cast out my fears, I cast out my worries, I cast out my fears.” (Rabbi Shefa Gold)

Micah 7:18-20

מי אל כְּמוֹךָ יְשׂא עוֹן וְעִבֵר עַל פְּשַׁע לְשִׂאֲרֵית נִחְלָתוֹ לֹא הִחְזִיק לְעַד אָפוּ כִּי חָפַץ חֶסֶד הוּא: יָשׁוּב יִרְחַמֵּנוּ יְכַבֵּשׁ עֲוֹנֹתֵינוּ וְתִשְׁלִיךְ בְּמַצְלוֹת יָם כָּל חַטָּאתָם: תִּתֵּן אֲמֶת לְיַעֲקֹב חֶסֶד לְאַבְרָהָם אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּעְתָּ לְאַבְרָהָם מִיְמֵי קֶדֶם:

Who is God like You, forgiving iniquity and pardoning the transgression of the remnant of Your people? You do not maintain anger forever but You delight in lovingkindness. You will again have compassion upon us, subduing our sins, casting all our sins into the depths of the sea. You will show faithfulness to Jacob and enduring love to Abraham, as You promised our fathers from days of old.

Isaiah 11:9

לֹא יִרְעוּ וְלֹא יִשְׁחִיתוּ בְּכֹל הַר קָדְשִׁי כִּי מְלֶאכֶה הָאָרֶץ דַּעַה אֶת ה' בְּיָמֵים לַיָּם מְכַסִּים:

None shall hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, for the love of the Lord shall fill the earth as the waters fill the sea.

Casting Away

From *The Days Between* by Marge Piercy

We cast into the depths of the sea
our sins, and failures and regrets.

Reflections of our imperfect selves
flow away.

What can we bear,
With what can we bear to part?

We upturn the darkness,
bring what is buried to light.

What hurts still lodge,
what wounds have yet to heal?

We empty our hands,
Release the remnants of shame.

Let go fear and despair
That have dug their home in us.

Open hands,
Opening heart—

The year flows out,
the year flows in.