



## **A JEWISH PRAYER FOR NAKBA DAY**

*Le'el she'chafetz teshuvah,*  
to the One who desires return:

Receive with the fulness of your mercy  
the hopes and prayers of those  
who were uprooted, dispossessed  
and expelled from their homes  
during the devastation of the Nakba.

Sanctify for *tov u'veracha*,  
for goodness and blessing,  
the memory of those who were killed  
in *Lydda*, in *Haifa*, in *Beisan*, in *Deir Yassin*  
and so many other villages and cities  
throughout Palestine.

Grant *chesed ve'rachamim*,  
kindness and compassion,  
upon the memory of the expelled  
who died from hunger,  
thirst and exhaustion  
along the way.

Shelter beneath *kanfei ha'shechinah*,  
the soft wings of your divine presence,  
those who still live under military occupation,  
who dwell in refugee camps,  
those dispersed throughout the world  
still dreaming of return.

Gather them *mei'arbah kanfot ha'aretz*  
from the four corners of the earth  
that their right to return to their homes  
be honored at long last.

Let all who dwell in the land  
live in dignity, equity and hope  
so that they may bequeath to their children  
a future of justice and peace.

*Ve'nomar*  
and let us say,  
Amen.

*Le'el she'chafetz teshuvah,*  
to the One who desires repentance:

Inspire us to make a full accounting  
of the wrongdoing that was  
committed in our name.

Help us to face the terrible truth of the Nakba  
and its ongoing injustice  
that we may finally confess our offenses;  
that we may finally move toward a future  
of reparation and reconciliation.

*Le'el malei rachamim*,  
to the One filled with compassion:  
show us how to understand the pain  
that compelled our people to inflict  
such suffering upon another –  
dispossessing families from their homes  
in the vain hope of safety and security  
for our own.

*Osei hashalom*,  
Maker of peace,  
guide us all toward a place  
of healing and wholeness  
that the land may be filled  
with the sounds of joy and gladness  
from the river to the sea  
speedily in our day.

*Ve'nomar*  
and let us say,  
Amen.