

Focusing Prayer

God of All Generations

God's Powers

God's Holiness

The Day's Holiness

Our Offering

Thanksgiving

Peace

Prayer of the Heart

THIS IS the Season of God.
This is the Season of Our Humanity.

And this is the day when one word stands at the very center of Jewish prayer:

M'loch.

Three Hebrew letters: מ ל ך

Reign over space and time.

M'loch.

Reign over the infinite expanse. Show us Your reality.

Help us see our finite place in the cosmos that is our home.

What is God's sovereignty? What is God's rule?

It is the rule of Unity by which we sense coherence in the universe.

It is the Power of relationship,
relating every image of God to every other image of God

and to every facet of nature—

sunshine and ocean waves; heartbeats, honey bees, the stuff that stars are
made of.

It is the Ultimate Power that governs our lives with wisdom, compassion,
truth, and kindness.

In this Season of God—

May we breathe new life into the ancient name *Melech HaOlam*.

And may the Ruler of the universe breathe new life into each of us.

THIS IS THE PRAYER God utters:

"May My mercy conquer My anger.

In all My actions toward My children, may My compassion prevail."

And this is the prayer I say:

Compassionate One, rule over me today and always.

Let mercy and forgiveness hold sway.

Let the good within me prevail.

THIS IS THE PRAYER . . . PREVAIL. Based on Talmud *B'rachot* 7a.

COMPASSIONATE ONE. A traditional name of God (*HaRachaman*), also translated
"The All-Merciful" or "The Benevolent One."

Eloheinu v'Elohei avoteinu v'imoteinu, אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְאִמּוֹתֵינוּ,

m'loch

al kol haolam kulo bichvodecha;

v'hinasei al kol haaretz bikarecha.

God who is ours
and God of our fathers and mothers:

In Your glory

reign

over the infinite expanse of space and time.

V'hofa bahadar g'on uzecha,

al kol yoshvei teiveil artzecha.

V'yeida kol pa-ul ki atah f'alto;

v'yavin kol yatzur ki atah y'tzarto.

In Your grandeur,
be exalted;
through Your power,
show us Your reality.
Then all who dwell on earth shall understand
that You are their maker.

V'yomar kol asher n'shamah b'apov:

"Adonai, Elohei Yisrael, melech;

umalchuto — bakol mashalah."

Astound us with the beauty of Your presence,
so that every breath of life shall say:
"Eternal is the God of Israel;
all-embracing — God's rule and sovereignty."

IN YOUR GLORY REIGN מְלִיךְ . . . בְּכַבֹּדְךָ Part of the festival blessing known as *K'dushat HaYom* (Sanctity of the Day), this prayer celebrates the distinctive theme of Rosh HaShanah: the sovereign rule of God. If God is indeed Sovereign, why does the prayer begin with a verb in the imperative tense, asking God to "reign over the infinite expanse of time and space"? Implicit in these words is the desire for God's rule to become manifest in a world seemingly governed by chance, or dominated by aggressive empires of the day.

כוּנְה
Kavanah

אֲבוֹת וְאִמּוֹת
Avot v'Imahot

גְבוּרוֹת
G'vurot

קְדוּשַׁת הַשֵּׁם
K'dushat HaShem

קְדוּשַׁת הַיּוֹם
K'dushat HaYom

עֲבוּדָה
Avodah

הוֹדָאָה
Hodaah

שְׁלוֹם
Shalom

תְּפִלַּת הַלֵּב
T'filat Halev