קינה על מאורעות זמננו A Tisha b'Av Lament for October 7th

Rabbi Moshe Hauer, Orthodox Union

Tisha b'Av is a day when we mourn the range of tragedies that have marked Jewish history, beginning with the destruction of both batei mikdash. Many of these calamities from throughout the ages are represented in the book of Tisha b'Av kinos that we read in our shuls. While we are generally extremely cautious about adding contemporary prayers, the kinos are an exception, such that most shuls include a kina commemorating the Holocaust.

In this spirit, there have been efforts to write kinos for this Tisha b'Av that reflect on the profound tragedy of October 7 and its aftermath. While all of us will have these events on our mind during Tisha b'Av, some shuls and individuals will seek to express those thoughts in the words of a kina. The kina below is an adaptation of one of the existing kinos, Kinah 25 [מ' ותן ראשי מים [כ"ה], written in the 11th Century, and is shared for those who may find it appropriate, relevant, and useful.

הִשְלִימוּ נַפְשָם בְאַהֲבָה קְשׁוּרָה, אָהִימָה עֲלֵיהֶם בִבְּכִי יֶלֶל לְחַשְּרָה, כְלוּלֵי כֶתֶר עַל רֹאשָם לַעֲטָרָה, וּמִשְפְּחוֹתֵיהֶם מִנְשָּרִים קַלּוּ ומֵאֲרָיוֹת לְהִתְגַבְרָה. וַעֲלֵיהֶם זַעֲקַת שֶׁבֶר אֶשְׁעָרָה, עַל שְנֵי מִקְדָשֵי יְסוֹדָם כְּהַיּוֹם עָרִעֵרָה:

עַל בֵית יִשְרָאֵל וְעַל עַם ד׳ כִי נָפְּלוּ בֶחָרֶב:

הַחַג אֲשֶר נֶהְפַּךְ לְיָגוֹן וְצָרָה, יוֹם מַתַּן דָת סָבַרְתִּי לְחוֹגְגָה, וּבִמְקוֹמָה עַד הַיוֹם תַרַד עֵינִי דְמְעָה וְאֵילִּילָה וְאָנוּדָה, עַם הַתּוֹרָה אֲשֶׁר מִפָּז יְקָרָה וְזָהָב חֲמוּדָה, רוֹדְפֵי שָלוֹם וְעוֹלָם בְּיִישׁוּבָה, מְתּוּאָרִים כְּרוֹצְחִים וּמְקוּלְקָלִים בְּפִי כָּל, הָעַם שֶהוּא הָאוֹר לַגוֹיִים יוֹשְבִים בְּחוֹשֶךְ, וְעַל זֶה שׁוּמָה עָלֵינוּ מִסְפֵּד מַר לְקָשְרָה:

עַל בִית יִשְרָאֵל וְעַל עַם ד׳ כִי נָפָּלוּ בַחָרֵב:

שִּׂנְאַת עוֹלָם לְעַם עוֹלָם הוֹלֶכֶת וּמִתְגַבֶּּרֶת אוֹמְרִים לְכוּ וְנַכְחִידֵם מָגוֹי וְלֹא יִזָבֵּר שֵׁם יִשְׂרָאֵל עוֹד. עַל זֶה אָנוּ מִתְאַבְלִים עִם שְׂרֵפַּת בֵית אֱלֹקֵינוּ הָאוּלָם וְהַבִּירָה, תַחַת כֵן הַיּוֹם לְוָיָתִי אֲעוֹרְרָה, וְאֶסְפְּדָה וְאֵילִילָה וְאֶבְכֶה בְנֶפֶשׁ מָרָה, וְאַנְחָתִי כָבְדָה מִבֹקֶר עַד עָרֶב.

עַל בֵית יִשְרָאֵל וְעַל עַם ד׳ כִי נָפָּלוּ בַחַרֵב:

מִי יִתֵן רֹאשִי מַיִם וְעֵינִי מְקוֹר נוֹוְלֵי, וְאֶבְכֶּה כָּל יְמוֹתַי וְלֵילֵי, עַל חַלְלַי טַפַּי וְעוֹלָלַי, וִישִּישֵי קְהָלַי, וְאַתֶם עֲנוּ אֲבוֹי וְאוֹי וְאַלְלֵי, וּבְכֵן בָּכֹה בֶּכָה רַב וְהֶרֶב:

עַל בֵית יִשְרָאֵל וְעַל עַם ד׳ כִּי נָפְּלוּ בֶחָרֶב:

וְדָמוֹעַ תִּדְמַע עֵינִי וְאֵלְכָה לִי שְׁדֵה בוֹכִים, וַאֲבַכֶּה עִמִי מָרֵי לֵבָב הַנְבוֹכִים, עַל בְתוּלוֹת הַיָּפוֹת וִילָדִים הָרַכִּים נִחְטָפִים, וְלַטֶבַח נִמְשָׁכִים, אָדְמוּ עֶצֶם מִפְנִינִים סַפִּירִים וְנוֹפְּכִים, כִמוֹ טִיט חוּצוֹת נָדַשִים וְנִשְלַכִים:

עַל בֵית יִשְרָאֵל וְעַל עַם ד׳ כִּי נָפְלוּ בֶחָרֶב:

ְוְעַל אֵלֶה אֲנִי בוֹכִיָה וְלְבִּי נֹהֵם נְהִימוֹת, מְחוּץ תְשַׁבֶּל הֶרֶב וּמֵחֲדָרִים אֵימוֹת, בְּבְּאֵרִי וְרֵעִים, כְּפֵּר עַזָה וְשְׂבֵרוֹת, חֲלָלֵי מֻטָלִים עֲרֶמִים וְעֲרֶמוֹת, נִבְלָתָם כְסוּחָה לְחַיֵּת אֶרֶץ וּבְהַמוֹת, יוֹנֵק עִם אִישׁ שֵׂיבָה עֲלָמִים וַעְלָמוֹת, מְתַעְתָעִים בְּמוֹ מוֹנֵי וּמַרְבִים כְלִמוֹת.

על בית ישראל ועל עם ד׳ כי נפלו בחרב:

ְוַעַפְּעַפַּי יִזְלוּ מַיִם דֶמַע לְהַגִּירָה, וַאֲקוֹנֵן מַר עֲלֵי הֲרוּגֵי הַצָּבָא, נָאֶסְפּוּ יַחַד נַפְשָם הִשְּלִימוּ בְמוֹרָא, עַל יִחוּד הַשֵּׁם וְעַל הַגָּנַת עַמוֹ לְחַמוּ בִּגְבוּרָה, גִּבּוֹרֵי כֹחַ עוֹשֵׂי דְבָרוֹ לְמַהְרָה,

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Would my head be filled with water and my eyes a fountain of tears / I would cry all my days and nights / for the corpses of my babes and infants and the aged of our people / I ask you to respond and join me in weeping, much weeping.

For the house of Israel and the people of the LORD who have fallen by the sword.

My eyes flow with tears, and I will take myself to the fields to weep / and ask others stunned and embittered to join in my wailing / for the beautiful young women and vibrant young men / kidnapped and led to slaughter / more beautiful and radiant than rubies, sapphire, or turquoise / they were slung and trampled like mud in the streets.

For the house of Israel and the people of the LORD who have fallen by the sword.

For these, I cry and moan / outside, there is murder, and indoors, terror / in Be'eri and Re'im, Kfar Aza and Sderot/ our corpses strewn, nude and naked / bodies lying like refuse for wild beasts and animals / nursing children and the aged, young men and women / tormented by our attackers, enduring great shame.

For the house of Israel and the people of the LORD who have fallen by the sword.

My eyelids flow with water, dripping tears / I weep bitterly for the murdered of Tzahal, Israel's Defense Force / they assembled, risking everything, to courageously battle for God's name and to protect His

people / the mighty who readily do His will / they were prepared to die for their love for their nation / I will moan for them with a torrent of tears / all of them deserving the greatest honor / while their families readily supported their sacrifice with strength / for them, I let out a piercing cry / along with our grief for the destruction of both Temples, razed today.

For the house of Israel and the people of the LORD who have fallen by the sword.

The festival of Simchat Torah was transformed into a day of tragedy / the day we had hoped to celebrate the gift of G-d's truth to our People / instead since that day our eyes flow with tears, we cry and shake our heads in disbelief / the nation of the precious Torah who pursue peace and a flourishing world / are depicted as corrupt murderers by the world around us / the light unto the nations dwells in darkness / for this we certainly mourn.

For the house of Israel and the people of the LORD who have fallen by the sword.

The enduring hatred for the eternal nation continues to grow / as our enemies plot to destroy and erase any trace of Israel / for this we mourn together with the burning of the House of our God / therefore, today [Tisha B'Av], I will arouse my grief / and lament, and wail, and cry with a bitter soul / my sighs weighing heavily from dawn to dusk,

For the house of Israel and the people of the LORD who have fallen by the sword.

