



**T'ruah**

the rabbinic call for human rights

# EL MALEI RACHAMIM

**BY RABBI SHARON COHEN ANISFELD**

*In the wake of the events of October 7, 2023, many of us in the global Jewish community have found ourselves longing for liturgical language to speak to the sense of loss, hopelessness, and heartbreak we have felt over the past year. The following words are an adaptation of El Malei Rachamim ("God full of compassion"), a prayer traditionally recited over the dead at funerals and during Yizkor on Yom Kippur, created by Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld, President of Hebrew College.*

## **"El Malei Rachamim" by Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld, Av 5784**

אל מלא רחמים

God full of mercy,  
Womb of the world,  
In whom there is room enough  
for all life to flourish  
From whom there is blessing enough  
For all life to be nourished –

We call out to You,  
broken-hearted.

שוכן במרומים

You who dwell on High  
Beyond the borders of loyalty and love  
that make us human —  
Hearing what we cannot  
Holding what we cannot  
Healing what we cannot —  
Help us.

המצא מנוחה נכונה

תחת כנפי השכינה

Grant perfect rest  
Beneath the wings of Your Presence  
To the precious innocent souls —  
Israeli and Palestinian,  
Jewish and Muslim,  
Christian, Bedouin, and Druze —  
Who have lost their lives  
to the ravages of war  
during this past year.

Shelter those who witnessed unspeakable brutality  
And whose walls could not protect them.  
Carry those who were caught or cornered,  
unable to escape destruction, degradation, despair.  
Lift up those who searched for sustenance or safety,  
longing for the embrace of home.

במעלות קדושים וטהורים

כזוהר הרקיע מזהירים

May those souls  
who are with you now  
be granted a glimpse of the world as You see it --  
shimmering  
everywhere  
with the light of Your presence.

בגן עדן תהא מנוחתם

May they find rest and comfort  
In Your holy Garden.

אנא בעל הרחמים

Please, O Master of Mercy

הסתיריהם בסתר כנפיך לעולמים

וצרור בצרור החיים את נשמותיהם

Hide them beneath the cover of your wings, forever,  
And let their souls be bound up with ours,  
Summoning us all to righteousness  
And hope renewed.

יי הוא נחלתם

וינוחו בשלום על משכבם

May Your unending love be their inheritance.  
May their eternal resting place be Your peace.  
And let us say:  
Amen.