

families whose members were slaughtered and killed as martyrs in Thy Name. With the babies at their mother's breast, with the aged and the infirm, with the tots from the elementary schools and with the great scholars of our famous Yeshivos. — With all these "Achainu b'nai yisroel hanesunim b'tzoro u'beshevyo" who find themselves scattered on the highways and by-ways — on the steppes and on the mountains, hounded like animals, degraded, shattered and tattered.

With these do we come to the "Pamaliyo shel maalo", the high court of the Creator and we offer our urgent prayer, "Ono adoishem Hoshi-o-no", rescue our people, it is high time for our deliverance, oh Lord. We pray that the Almighty may designate a year of plenty. May there be no more need to take away children from their parents, neither here nor abroad. Grant a "K'sivo v'Ch'simo Tovo" to thy people Israel.

However, we must realize that some contrition is also necessary in order to reach the Omnipotent. Let us therefore fill our hearts with penitence and scrutinize our own ways and deeds and that of our religious leaders. It may be that we are disqualified to appear as advocates before the Almighty, this New Year.

It is written, "On thy walls oh Jerusalem, have I placed watchmen." We were appointed to guard over the safety of the fortress containing our holy heritage. We are the trustees of that heritage and that trusteeship carries with it definite responsibilities. Let us do some introspection, "Lifnai yom ha-din", as we approach the threshold of the day of judgement. Have we performed our duty towards our trust? Have we guarded well the protecting walls of that fortress? Was it not because of our own unforgiveable negligence that the enemies of our Torah were able to lay siege to the fortress and to break through the walls and to pilfer the costly fruits of our Tree of Life and to even attempt the destruction of the very roots of our Tree of Life? It is because we were not faithful to our trust that the vineyard of Israel was defiled.

There is a precept in the Torah, "Ki sivneh ba-yis chodosh . . ." "When thou buildest a new house, thou shalt make a battlement for thy roof; that thou bring not blood upon thy house, if any one were to fall from there." We have come to a new land. New houses have we built. We have prospered, but in building our new great houses, we forgot to provide battlements for the roofs, not even for the roofs of the towers