

**Mipnei Darchay Shalom: For the Sake of the Ways of Peace
Reflections on Social Issues and World Events**

**A PRAYER FOR ISRAEL, FOR THE INNOCENTS, FOR PEACE
July 2006**

Ribono Shel Olam, Master of the Universe, we pour our hearts out to you in anguish for the suffering of all your children. We cry to You Whose tears fall for us. We cry out in reflexive pain for attacks upon our own people Israel, feeling as one body the ache in any part of our being. Protect our people upon our Land, calm and soothe them, return our captives, and let terror be no more. Help us to remember that we are one people, for all of our different ways of response. Let not the wanton hatred that brought down the walls of Your House divide us yet again from each other and from You. Know that our hearts break for the suffering of the innocents who bear the wrath born of our own pain and fear. Yearning for surcease from terror, we lash out in destructive fury. Open our eyes to the illusions of military might, to see in the rising plumes of so much smoke the certain rise of hate that will divide for generations more your children from each other, and bring no peace. Of those who really are children, in all the lands of war, protect them please, their fragile bodies and tender souls like flowers bending in the storm. Ease their parents' fear and give them reason to hope, that in whatever of Your languages they speak, they may find words with which to comfort their children. Please protect and quickly bring home our soldiers, and those of every flag, and wake us from the strangest dream to see swords and guns and uniforms scattered on the ground. From the whirlwind of war's futility, guide us to the wisdom of another way. For the sake of the ways of peace, help us all to clothe in humility our words to each other and to You. And let us say, Amen.

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