

## Oseh Shalom Bimromav- A Prayer for Peace

Our father in Heaven, we pray today that you shelter your world with peace. All of the great religions turn to You during these fateful years- years of religious extremism, nuclear proliferation, social injustice, and even genocide.

In the Jewish tradition, we pray...

Oseh Shalom Be'mromav hoo ya'aseh shalom aleinu v'al kol yisrael

He who makes peace from above, may he make peace upon us and all of Israel... and if I may be so bold... al kol yoshvei tevel... unto all inhabitants of Your holy abode.

Today we ask you to learn the ways of peace. As a Jew, I believe the ways of peace can only come through the proper perspective of truth.

The Jewish tradition teaches us, that God quarreled with the angels when humanity was created.

*Mercy said- let him be created, because he will do merciful deeds*

*Truth said- let him not be created, for he will be full of falsehood*

*Righteousness said- let him be created, for he will fill his days with righteous deeds*

*Peace said- let him not be created, for he will never seize from conflict*

*What did the holy one do? He took truth and threw it to the ground? The angels were aghast. "Sovereign of the Universe, why do You do this to your own seal of truth?"*

*Thus it is written in the Psalms- Let truth spring up from the earth? (Gen R. 8:5)*

In this teaching lies the core of religious conflict. Peace may indeed reside in the heavens- in the ethereal realms above, but You desire peace below. Peace should emerge between brothers and sisters, all imprinted with the image of God, regardless of race, gender, or creed.

In this same way that you desire peace below, you understand that truth must come spring up from the ground, for if truth remains in the kingdom of Heaven- it will breed the sources of hatred and intolerance. For we are mere

mortals, and like the human eye which cannot perceive the entire spectrum of light, we are partly blinded from your veritable truths.

We desire peace, and therefore you have taught us to throw truth to the ground- to understand our own limits of experience, and to be humbled by the own awareness of the limits of understanding.

Yes, we still desire to know your truth. But a higher truth. A truth that is informed by a desire to know You in all your **myriad** ways, and to experience your Divine presence among all holy people.

We desire this today, because we desire shalom- peace and fullness. For only then will your full glory be observed, and humanity will yearn to sit under the messianic canopy of peace. Only when we recognize the Divine in each other can we hope to recognize the Divine at all.

May this be your will, and may our collective work be blessed in the service of all humanity.

Amen