

AROSH HASHANAH PRAYER

Meditation before the Blowing of the Shofar:

“Happy are the People of Israel who know how to blow the *teruah* (i.e. the sound of the Shofar)” (*Psalms 89:16*).

Do other nations not know how to blow a horn? Rather the verse means to tell us, how fortunate are the Jewish people who are afforded the gift to be able to appease their creator with the blowing of the *teruah* (horn blowing).

-Pesikta D'Rab Kahana (Mandelcorn ed., pesikta 23)

All merciful God, who hears the sound of the Shofar
We ask that the sound of the Shofar, the sound of our souls
Arouse your compassion for us, and grant us our deepest prayers
For ourselves, our families, our friends, and our world.

Our Parent in Heaven
The Shofar cries to you today
In the sound of a mother who cannot afford to give food to her young
In the sound of an old man, lonely for the warmth and comfort of others
In the sound of a family who are about to lose their home
In the sound of all those who suffer from illness

Our Parent in Heaven
The Shofar cries to you today
In the sound of a child, yearning for Jewish knowledge
In the sound of our Israeli brethren, searching for peace and security
In the sound of a college student looking for community and spiritual meaning
In the sound of a new immigrant to Israel, looking for place and future

Our Parent in Heaven
The Shofar cries to you today

In the sound of a fellow human being battling depression
In the sound of a couple in the throes of marital conflict
In the sound of the victim of abuse and neglect
In the sound of a friend who has lost her job and her hope

And as you listen to the prayers of each of your children
Answer their supplications and
Grant us the gift of listening
To bless those around us with our own compassion and mercy.

May we learn to listen like You
And may we be the agents of kindness
That we ask you to be for us

Tru'ah

-Rabbi Frederick L Klein