

In this b'rakhah, we praise God as our eternal Redeemer.

We affirm the truth that Adonai alone is our God, and that we are God's people Israel. God redeems us from the power of kings and delivers us from the hand of all tyrants, bringing judgment upon our oppressors and retribution upon all our mortal enemies, performing wonders beyond understanding and marvels beyond all reckoning. God has maintained us among the living, not allowing our steps to falter, guided us to triumph over mighty foes, and exalted our strength over all our enemies, vindicating us with miracles before Pharaoh, with signs and wonders in the land of Egypt. God smote, in wrath, Egypt's firstborn, brought Israel to lasting freedom, and led them through divided waters as their pursuers sank in the sea. When God's children beheld the divine might they sang in praise, gladly accepting God's sovereignty. Moses and the people Israel joyfully sang this song to You:

Mi khamokha ba-elim Adonai, mi kamokha ne'dar ba-kodesh,
nora t'hilot, oseh feleh.

"Who is like You, Adonai, among all that is worshiped!
Who is, like You, majestic in holiness,
awesome in splendor, working wonders!"

As You divided the sea before Moses, Your children beheld Your sovereignty. "This is my God," they proclaimed:

Adonai yimlokh l'olam va-ed.

"Adonai shall reign throughout all time."

And thus it is written: "Adonai has rescued Jacob; God redeemed him from those more powerful." Praised are You Adonai, Redeemer of the people Israel.

Daily You renew our souls, restoring us
as You redeemed our ancient nation Israel
from slavery to freedom, from sorrow to triumph,
blessing our people with the springtime of its life
to be renewed by all of us each year.
Healer of our wounds, holy God, do not abandon us
to enemies who threaten, to tyrants who deny Your sovereignty.
Into Your care we commit our souls, now as in the past,
sustained by Your truth, embraced by Your love,
inspired with hope for the future by Your faith in us.
Beloved are You, Redeemer of the people Israel,
whose faithfulness in ages past assures our future too.

— Jules Harlow

The first ברכה following שמע קריאת

אַמֶּת וְאִמוּנָה כָּל־זֹאת וְקִיָּם עָלֵינוּ, כִּי הוּא יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ
וְאֵין זֹולָתוֹ, וְאִנְחָנוּ יִשְׂרָאֵל עִמּוֹ. הַפּוֹדֵנוּ מִיַּד מְלָכִים,
מְלַכְנוּ הַגּוֹאֲלֵנוּ מִכַּף כָּל־הָעַרִיצִים, הָאֵל הַנִּפְרָע לָנוּ
מִצָּרֵינוּ וְהַמְשַׁלֵּם גְּמוּל לְכָל־אוֹיְבֵי נַפְשָׁנוּ, הָעוֹשֶׂה גְדוּלוֹת
עַד אֵין חֶקֶר וְנִפְלְאוֹת עַד אֵין מִסְפָּר, הַשֵּׁם נַפְשָׁנוּ בַּחַיִּים
וְלֹא נִתֵּן לְמוֹט רַגְלָנוּ, הַמְדַרְיֵכְנוּ עַל בְּמוֹת אוֹיְבֵינוּ וַיִּרָם
קַרְנָנוּ עַל כָּל־שׁוֹנְאֵינוּ, הָעוֹשֶׂה לָנוּ נִסִּים וְנִקְמָה בַּפְּרָעָה,
אוֹתוֹת וּמוֹפְתִים בְּאֲדַמַּת בְּנֵי חָם, הַמַּכֶּה בְּעַבְרָתוֹ כָּל־
בְּכוֹרֵי מִצְרָיִם, וַיּוֹצֵא אֶת־עַמּוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל מִתּוֹכָם לְחֵרוֹת
עוֹלָם, הַמַּעֲבִיר בְּנָיו בֵּין גִּזְרֵי יַם סוּף, אֶת־רוֹדְפֵיהֶם
וְאֶת־שׁוֹנְאֵיהֶם בְּתַהוֹמוֹת טָבַע, וְרָאוּ בְּנָיו גְּבוּרָתוֹ, שִׁבְחוּ
זְהוּדוֹ לְשִׁמּוֹ. □ וּמְלָכוּתוֹ בְּרָצוֹן קָבְלוּ עֲלֵיהֶם. מִשָּׁה וּבְנֵי
יִשְׂרָאֵל לָךְ עָנוּ שִׁירָה בְּשִׂמְחָה רַבָּה, וְאָמְרוּ כָּלָם:

מִי־כַמְכָּה בְּאֵלֶם יְהוָה, מִי כַמְכָּה נֶאֱדָר בַּקֹּדֶשׁ,
נוֹרָא תְהִלָּת, עֲשֵׂה־פִלָּא.

□ מְלָכוּתְךָ רָאוּ בְנֵיךָ, בּוֹקַע יָם לְפָנַי מִשָּׁה.
זֶה אֵלֵי עָנוּ וְאָמְרוּ:

יְהוָה יִמְלֹךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.

□ וְנֶאֱמַר: כִּי פָדָה יְהוָה אֶת־יַעֲקֹב, וּגְאָלוֹ מִיַּד חֶזֶק מִמֶּנּוּ.
בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה גֹּאֲלֵ יִשְׂרָאֵל.

You cannot find redemption until you see the flaws in your own soul, and try to efface them. Nor can a people be redeemed until it sees the flaws in its soul and tries to efface them. But whether it be an individual or a people, whoever shuts out the realization of their flaws is shutting out redemption. We can be redeemed only to the extent to which we see ourselves.

The world is in need of redemption, but the redemption must not be expected to happen as an act of sheer grace. Our task is to make the world worthy of redemption. Our faith and our works are preparations for ultimate redemption.

— Adapted from Martin Buber