

Aneinu Prayer

*We encourage communities to consider reciting the Aneinu prayer daily, and even on Shabbat, as a lead-in to prayers for the wellbeing and protection of our IDF soldiers, and for the safety and speedy return of the captives. We have chosen to say this prayer at YCT, and not the Avinu Malkeinu prayer that some other communities have chosen to recite, as it is our feeling that Avinu Malkeinu, with its *לפניך חטאנו* opening and its association with the Yamim Noraim period, is overly focused on the theme of “because of our sins.” While this is a classic Jewish response when tragedy strikes, it is not necessarily the right one at all times. The time will come when that inward-directed focus and accountability will have to take place, but now, as we are at war, and with so many enemies coming out from all quarters, this focus at this time is not helpful religiously, emotionally or from a morale perspective.*

*Aneinu, in contrast, focuses fully on our turning to God for help. It is our most fundamental religious response, to cry out to God *בעת צרה*. When we recite it, we do so responsively, and encourage you and your communities to consider doing so as well. The experience of having the whole community proclaim “Aneinu,” “answer us!” over and over can be powerful religiously and communally. We have also chosen to use a more recent version of the second section, *מי שענה*, published 20 years ago by Julia Andelman and Lisa Exler, which includes the voices of our foremothers and Jewish women throughout history. At a time like this, with mothers and fathers sending their sons and daughters off to war, and with men, women, and children, young and old, murdered, violated and taken captive, we need all those voices to rise up to Heaven and to help bring us a salvation.*

to be recited responsively

	<i>Community:</i>	<i>Prayer leader:</i>
עֲנֵנוּ.	עֲנֵנוּ כּוֹבֵשׁ כְּעֶסֶים	עֲנֵנוּ יְהוָה
עֲנֵנוּ.	עֲנֵנוּ לּוֹבֵשׁ צְדָקוֹת	עֲנֵנוּ אֱלֹהֵינוּ
עֲנֵנוּ.	עֲנֵנוּ מְלֹךְ מַלְכֵי הַמְּלָכִים	עֲנֵנוּ אָבִינוּ
עֲנֵנוּ.	עֲנֵנוּ נוֹרָא וְנִשְׁגָב	עֲנֵנוּ בּוֹרְאֵנוּ
עֲנֵנוּ.	עֲנֵנוּ סוֹלֵחַ וּמוֹחֵל	עֲנֵנוּ גּוֹאֲלֵנוּ
עֲנֵנוּ.	עֲנֵנוּ עוֹנֶה בְּעַת צָרָה	עֲנֵנוּ דוֹרְשָׁנוּ
עֲנֵנוּ.	עֲנֵנוּ פּוֹדֶה וּמַצִּיל	עֲנֵנוּ הָאֵל הַנְּאֻמָּן
עֲנֵנוּ.	עֲנֵנוּ צַדִּיק וְיֹשֵׁר	עֲנֵנוּ וְתִיק וְחֹסֵד
עֲנֵנוּ.	עֲנֵנוּ קְרוֹב לְקוֹרְאָיו	עֲנֵנוּ זֶךְ וְיֹשֵׁר
עֲנֵנוּ.	עֲנֵנוּ רַחוּם וְחַנוּן	עֲנֵנוּ חַי וְקַיִם
עֲנֵנוּ.	עֲנֵנוּ שׁוֹמֵעַ אֶל אֲבִיוֹנִים	עֲנֵנוּ טוֹב וּמְטִיב
עֲנֵנוּ.	עֲנֵנוּ תוֹמֵךְ תְּמִימִים	עֲנֵנוּ יוֹדֵעַ יִצְרָר

Mi She'Anah מי שְׁעָנָה

May the One who answered Abraham our father on Mount Moriah	answer us.	הוא יַעֲנֵנוּ.	מי שְׁעָנָה לְאַבְרָהָם אֲבִינוּ בְּהַר הַמֹּרִיָּה
May the One who answered Sarah our mother at the door of the tent ¹	answer us.	הוא יַעֲנֵנוּ.	מי שְׁעָנָה לְשָׂרָה אִמֵּנוּ בְּפֶתַח הָאֹהֶל
May the One who answered Isaac their son when he was bound on the altar	answer us.	הוא יַעֲנֵנוּ.	מי שְׁעָנָה לְיִצְחָק בְּנֵם בְּשֹׁנְעָקָד עַל גְּבֵי הַמִּזְבֵּחַ
May the One who answered Hagar and Yishma'el in the desert of Be'er Sheva ²	answer us.	הוא יַעֲנֵנוּ.	מי שְׁעָנָה לְהָגָר וְיִשְׁמָעֵאל בְּמִדְבַּר בְּאֵר שֶׁבַע
May the One who answered Rebecca when she went seeking ³	answer us.	הוא יַעֲנֵנוּ.	מי שְׁעָנָה לְרִבְקָה בְּלִכְתָּהּ לְדָרוֹשׁ
May the One who answered Jacob in Beit Eil	answer us.	הוא יַעֲנֵנוּ.	מי שְׁעָנָה לְיַעֲקֹב בְּבֵית אֵל
May the One who answered Rachel and Leah in Padan Aram ⁴	answer us.	הוא יַעֲנֵנוּ.	מי שְׁעָנָה לְרַחֵל וְלֵאָה בְּפָדָן אַרָם
May the One who answered Tamar when they brought her out to be burned ⁵	answer us.	הוא יַעֲנֵנוּ.	מי שְׁעָנָה לְתָמָר כְּשֶׁהוֹצִיאוּהָ לְשׂוּרָף
May the One who answered Joseph in prison	answer us.	הוא יַעֲנֵנוּ.	מי שְׁעָנָה לְיוֹסֵף בְּבֵית הָאֲסוּרִים
May the One who answered Shifra and Pu'ah in Egypt ⁶	answer us.	הוא יַעֲנֵנוּ.	מי שְׁעָנָה לְשִׁפְרָה וּפּוּעֵה בְּמִצְרַיִם
May the One who answered Yokheved and Miriam on the bank of the Nile ⁷	answer us.	הוא יַעֲנֵנוּ.	מי שְׁעָנָה לְיוֹכְבֵד וּמִרְיָם עַל־שֵׁפֶת הַיַּאֲר
May the One who answered our ancestors at the Sea of Reeds	answer us.	הוא יַעֲנֵנוּ.	מי שְׁעָנָה לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ עַל יַם סוּף
May the One who answered Moses at Horev	answer us.	הוא יַעֲנֵנוּ.	מי שְׁעָנָה לְמֹשֶׁה בְּחֹרֵב
May the One who answered Aaron with the censer	answer us.	הוא יַעֲנֵנוּ.	מי שְׁעָנָה לְאַהֲרֹן בְּמַחְתָּה
May the One who answered Pinhas when he rose up from amidst the people	answer us.	הוא יַעֲנֵנוּ.	מי שְׁעָנָה לְפִנְחָס בְּקוֹמוֹ מִתּוֹךְ הָעֵדָה
May the One who answered Joshua at Gilgal	answer us.	הוא יַעֲנֵנוּ.	מי שְׁעָנָה לְיְהוֹשֻׁעַ בְּגִלְגָל
May the One who answered Deborah at Mount Tavor ⁸	answer us.	הוא יַעֲנֵנוּ.	מי שְׁעָנָה לְדִבּוֹרָה בְּהַר־תְּבוֹר
May the One who answered Ruth when she went down to the threshing floor ⁹	answer us.	הוא יַעֲנֵנוּ.	מי שְׁעָנָה לְרוּת בְּרִדְתָּהּ לְגֹרֶן
May the One who answered Hannah in Shiloh ¹⁰	answer us.	הוא יַעֲנֵנוּ.	מי שְׁעָנָה לְחַנָּה בְּשִׁילָה
May the One who answered Samuel in Mitzpah	answer us.	הוא יַעֲנֵנוּ.	מי שְׁעָנָה לְשִׁמוּאֵל בְּמִצְפָּה
May the One who answered David and Solomon his son in Jerusalem	answer us.	הוא יַעֲנֵנוּ.	מי שְׁעָנָה לְדָוִד וּשְׁלֹמֹה בְּנוֹ בִירוּשָׁלַיִם
May the One who answered Elijah on Mount Carmel	answer us.	הוא יַעֲנֵנוּ.	מי שְׁעָנָה לְאֵלִיָּהוּ בְּהַר הַכְּרִמָּל
May the One who answered Elisha in Jericho	answer us.	הוא יַעֲנֵנוּ.	מי שְׁעָנָה לְאֵלִישָׁע בִּירִיחוֹ
May the One who answered Jonah in the belly of the fish	answer us.	הוא יַעֲנֵנוּ.	מי שְׁעָנָה לְיוֹנָה בְּמֵעֵי הַדָּגָה
May the One who answered Hezekiah in his illness	answer us.	הוא יַעֲנֵנוּ.	מי שְׁעָנָה לְחִזְקִיָּהוּ בְּחֻלּוֹ
May the One who answered Hananiah, Misha'el, and Azariah in the burning furnace	answer us.	הוא יַעֲנֵנוּ.	מי שְׁעָנָה לְחַנְּנִיָּה מִישָׂאֵל וְעִזְרִיָּה בְּתוֹךְ כְּבֹשֶׁן הָאֵשׁ
May the One who answered Daniel in the lions' den	answer us.	הוא יַעֲנֵנוּ.	מי שְׁעָנָה לְדַנְיָאֵל בְּגוֹב הָאֲרִיּוֹת
May the One who answered Mordechai and Esther in the fortress city Shushan	answer us.	הוא יַעֲנֵנוּ.	מי שְׁעָנָה לְמֹרְדֵכַי וְאֶסְתֵּר בְּשׁוּשַׁן הַבְּרִיה
May the One who answered Ezra in exile	answer us.	הוא יַעֲנֵנוּ.	מי שְׁעָנָה לְעִזְרָא בְּגוֹלָה
May the One who answered all the righteous, the pious, the perfect, and the upright	answer us.	הוא יַעֲנֵנוּ.	מי שְׁעָנָה לְכָל־הַצְּדִיקִים וְהַתְּמִימִים וְהַיְשָׁרִים

1. Genesis 18. 2. Genesis 21. While Hagar and Yishma'el are generally not invoked in Jewish prayer, the exception to this is on the High Holidays, when they are the centerpiece of the Torah reading on the first day of Rosh HaShanah. During the medieval period, many *piyutim* (liturgical poems) about Hagar were composed and recited as part of the Torah service. 3. Genesis 25. 4. Genesis 29-30. 5. Genesis 38. 6. Exodus 1. 7. Exodus 2. 8. Judges 4. 9. Ruth 3. 10. I Samuel 1.