

Poem

Hear, O Lord (prayer for days of awe)

Hear, O Lord, Israel, your people, Israel is
 one
 And you shall love Israel your people
 With all your heart
 And with all your soul
 And with all your might
 And these sons who are being killed for
 you daily shall be
 upon your heart
 And you shall teach them diligently in your
 heavens
 And you shall talk of them:
 When you sit in your house
 And when you walk by the way
 And when you lie down and when you rise
 And you shall bind them as a sign upon
 your hand (phosphorescent blue numbers)
 and they shall be as
 frontlets
 between your eyes (like the sniper's shot)
 And you shall write them (in blood) on the
 doorposts of your house
 And on your gates.

שְׁמַע אֲד-נִי, יִשְׂרָאֵל

מילים: Zelda Mishkowsky

שְׁמַע אֲד-נִי, יִשְׂרָאֵל עִמָּךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶחָד
 וְאַהֲבֵת אֶת יִשְׂרָאֵל עִמָּךְ
 בְּכָל לִבְבְּךָ
 וּבְכָל נַפְשְׁךָ
 וּבְכָל מְאֹדְךָ
 וְהֵיוּ הַבָּנִים הָאֵלֶּה אֲשֶׁר נֶהְרָגִים עֲלֶיךָ כָּל הַיּוֹם
 עַל לִבְבְּךָ
 וְשִׁנְנָתָם בְּרַקִּיעֶיךָ
 וְדִבַּרְתָּ בָּם:
 בְּשִׁבְתְּךָ בְּבֵיתְךָ
 וּבִלְכַתְּךָ בַּדֶּרֶךְ
 וּבְשֹׁכְבְּךָ וּבְקוּמְךָ
 וּקְשַׁרְתָּם לְאוֹת עַל
 יָדְךָ (סְפָרוֹת כַּחֲלוֹת זְרָחַנְיּוֹת) וְהֵיוּ לְטוֹטְפוֹת בֵּין
 עֵינֶיךָ (כְּמוֹ פְּגִיעַת הַצֵּלְפִּים)
 וּכְתַבְתָּם (בָּדָם) עַל-מַזְזוֹת בֵּיתְךָ
 וּבְשַׁעְרֶיךָ

Eliaz Cohen is a well-known Israeli poet who lives in Kibbutz Kfar Etzion. In 2006 he received the Prime Minister's Prize in poetry.



Discussion Questions:

1. Who is the speaker addressing in this poem and what does he demand?
2. This poem was written twenty years ago during the second intifada. How does it apply to October 7th?