

## Lesson #9

### A. Aleinu pg 183

- Ascribed to Rav, a Babylonian Rabbi in the third century, but may have been composed centuries earlier and was already part of the ritual in the Second Temple
- Originally composed for the Rosh Hashanah Musaf, the Aleinu has been included since the 12<sup>th</sup> Century in every daily service. In the Middle Ages Jewish Martyrs facing persecution and death would say the Shema and in addition the Aleinu.
- The Aleinu prayer ends every service.

#### **Part I: The first paragraph deals with Israel's distinct character and acceptance of the One Universal G-d.**

- § Lines 1-5 is a solemn introduction "*Aleinu....HaKadosh Baruch Hu*"
- § Line 4: "*Ve Anachnu Kor'im (bend knee) U'Mishtachavim (bow forward - but not below waist level) U'Modim, Lifnei (rise).....*"
- § Lines 6-9 The substance of the Assertion "*She Hu Noteh Shamayim.....El LeVavecha*".
- § Line 10 The Summary of the Assertion "*Ki Adonai....Ein Od*".

#### **Part II: The Hope that one day all men will worship the One Universal G-d.**

- § Lines 11-18 "*Al Kein Ne'kaveh (therefore we hope) Adonai Yimloch L'Olam Va'ed*".
- § Line 19 The summary of the hope "*Ve'Ne'emar.... U'Shemo Echad*".

Notice the use of the suffix ...Nu. We encounter Aleinu, Asanu, Shamanu, Chelkeinu, in the first three lines. The sound of Nu permeates the atmosphere of the prayerbook and the synagogue. It is an assertion of our mutual interdependence. The life, faith, the prayers and the hopes of individual Jews are intertwined with those of the community.

#### Ritual:

At the words: V'Anachnu Kor'im (bend knees) Umishtachavim (bow forwards, not below waist level) U'modim, Lifnei melech (straighten up) .....

### B. Adon Olam pg 187

Poetic hymn to G-d. Composed by Solomon Ibn Gabirol (1021-1058 CE) in Spain.

- Lines 1-6 Expresses the Jewish concept of G-d. G-d is timeless, infinite and omnipotent.
- Lines 7-10 Expresses how a person of faith relates to G-d, the trust we place in G-d.  
(Notice line 7 ends with 'Tzara'-distress. Compare Yiddish word 'Tzures', 'Tzores')

Last line: "*G-d is with me, I shall not fear*" Psalm 118:6 (one of the passages in the Hallel, Siddur Sim Shalom pg 136, line 8).