

A Prayer for Strength and Resolve
By Rav Shai Cherry

Eloheinu v'Elohei Avoteinu, Our God and God of our Ancestors,
Again, alas, our differences dissolve.
Adonai Echad, The God of Unity,
We come together in crisis and covenant.

Ro'eh Yisrael, Shepherd of Israel,
Your flock has been culled.
Sh'chinah, divine presence,
You've been exiled, Your presence diminished.

Magen Avraham, Shield of Abraham,
Give us the strength to protect ourselves.
HaMakom, the Place of God,
Our place, we have no other.

HaRachaman, Merciful One,
How can death and devastation be anything but merciless?
Avinu she'besamayim, Our Father in Heaven,
How can war, raining ruin on Your children, be a *mitzvah*?

Adonai Tzva'ot, Lord of Armies--not Hosts,
There is a time for war.
We must beat their swords into ploughshares,
Their spears into pruning hooks.

Pokeach Ivrim, the Giver of Vision,
May this reveal to all that for the wicked,
Our crime is not what we do, but who we are,
Not our policies, but our presence.

Tzur Yisrael, Rock of Israel,
May our devotion remain steadfast.
Israel's defenders require arms and voices.
May we persevere in providing arms and lifting our voices against all evil doers.

Shomer Yisrael, The Guardian of Israel; *Go'el Yisrael*, The Redeemer of Israel,
Great is peace, for the name of the Blessed Holy One is "Peace."
Spread over us the shelter of your Peace,
Over us, over all your people Israel, and over Yerushalayim.

Amen