

The Blessings of Peace

Great is peace, for the only vessel that can contain blessings is peace.

Great is peace, for all the prayers conclude with pleas for peace.

Great is peace, for we must seek it even in time of war.

Great is peace, for it is the reward of the righteous.

Great is peace, for it is bestowed upon those who love the Torah.

Great is peace, for it is bestowed upon the humble.

Great is peace, for it is bestowed upon those who act justly.

Great is peace, for it is equal to all of the work of creation.

Great is peace, for even those who dwell on high need peace, as it is said, עֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמִרְוֵמֶיךָ "God imposes peace in God's heights" (Job 25:2). If in a place where there is no hatred and envy, enmity or malice, peace is needed, how much more so in a place where all these qualities are lacking!

Great is peace, for the name of the Holy One is Peace.

—MIDRASH

SIFREI NUMBERS

(trans. Reuven Hammer, adapted)

Seventh B'rakhah: Prayer for Peace

Our God and God of our ancestors,
bless us with the threefold blessing of the Torah
written by Moses Your servant,
recited by Aaron and his descendants, the *kohanim*,
the consecrated priests of Your people:

May ADONAI bless and protect you.

So may it be God's will. Kein y'hi ratzon.

May ADONAI's countenance shine upon you
and grant you kindness.

So may it be God's will. Kein y'hi ratzon.

May ADONAI's countenance be lifted toward you
and grant you peace.

So may it be God's will. Kein y'hi ratzon.

Grant peace to the world: goodness and blessing, grace, love, and compassion to us and all the people Israel. Bless us, our creator, united as one in the light of Your countenance; by that light, ADONAI our God, You gave us a guide to life: the love of kindness, righteousness, blessing, compassion, life, and peace. May it please You to bless Your people Israel at every season and at all times with Your gift of peace.

May we and the entire House of Israel be called to mind and inscribed for life, blessing, sustenance, and peace in the Book of Life.

B'seifer hayyim b'rakhah v'shalom u-farnasah tovah, nizzakheir v'nikkateiv l'fanekha, anahnu v'khol am'kha beit yisra-el, l'hayyim tovim u-l'shalom.

Barukh atah ADONAI, who brings peace.

ON SHABBAT, WE CONTINUE WITH KADDISH SHALEM ON PAGE 94.