

In the *Ashamnu* prayer that we just said, we recite a list of sins in alphabetical order. In this English version of the prayer each letter of the alphabet was used at least once. Can you find each one?

Did you ever hear anyone say, "I've tried everything from A to Z"? Since A is the start of the alphabet and Z is the finish, this expression means that a wide range of things have been done. By using the whole alphabet in the Hebrew, we admit that we have done every possible wrongdoing from *alef* to *tav*, A to Z — maybe not each of us individually, but as a community. By saying "we have sinned," we hold ourselves responsible for what happens in our communities.

Yom Kippur can bring forgiveness for the wrongs we have done to God, but it cannot bring forgiveness for the wrongs we have done to family and friends. We must seek out those with whom we've quarreled or those we have hurt and ask their forgiveness.

We must be forgiving to all who have hurt or angered us during the past year. Why? Because...

- we realize that we all are human. Everyone makes mistakes.
- we don't want anyone to feel guilty because of us.
- we accept the commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves.

עַל חַטָּא שְׁחַטְאֵנוּ לְפָנֶיךָ בְּאִנּוּס וּבְרָצוֹן,
 וְעַל חַטָּא שְׁחַטְאֵנוּ לְפָנֶיךָ בְּבִלִי דַעַת.
 עַל חַטָּא שְׁחַטְאֵנוּ לְפָנֶיךָ בְּזִלְזוּל הוֹרִים וּמוֹרִים,
 וְעַל חַטָּא שְׁחַטְאֵנוּ לְפָנֶיךָ בְּחִזּוּק יָד.
 עַל חַטָּא שְׁחַטְאֵנוּ לְפָנֶיךָ בְּטִמְאַת שְׂפָתַיִם.
 וְעַל כָּלֵם אֱלוֹהֵי סְלִיחוֹת, סִלַּח לָנוּ, מְחַל לָנוּ, כְּפָר־לָנוּ.

A THOUGHT ON SAYING THAT WE HAVE DONE WRONG

Our God and God of our ancestors, let our prayers reach You and not be ignored. We are not so bold or foolish to think that we have been perfect and have not made mistakes.. To be honest, we must admit we have missed the mark, sinned.

"*Kol Yisrael areivim zeh lazeh* — All Jews are responsible for one another." We confess our sins as a group to show that we all must take responsibility for each other.

We stand, confess our wrongdoings and ask for God's forgiveness.

אֲשַׁמְנוּ, בְּגַדְנוּ, גָּזַלְנוּ, דִּבַּרְנוּ דָּפִי. הֶעֵוִינוּ, וְהִרְשַׁעְנוּ,
 זָדַנוּ, חָמְסְנוּ, טַפְּלָנוּ שָׂקַר. יַעֲצֵנוּ רַע, כּוֹזְבֵנוּ, לָצַנוּ,
 מָרַדְנוּ, נִאֲצֵנוּ, סָרְרְנוּ, עֹוִינוּ, פִּשְׁעֵנוּ, צָרְרְנוּ, קִשְׁיֵנוּ עֲרָף.
 רִשְׁעֵנוּ, שַׁחַתְנוּ, תַּעֲבֵנוּ, תַּעֲוִינוּ, תַּעֲתָעֵנוּ.

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| We have been cruel. | We have mocked. |
| We have teased. | We have gossiped. |
| We have lied. | We have acted wickedly. |
| We have acted violently. | We have quarrelled. |
| We have cheated. | We have been unjust. |
| We have boasted exceedingly. | We have acted selfishly. |
| We have been false. | We have not remembered Zion. |

We remain standing.

Ashamnu, bagadnu, gazalnu, dibarnu dofi; he'evinu, v'hirshanu, zadnu, h́amasnu, tafalnu shaker; ya'atznu ra, kizavnu, latznu, maradnu, ni'atznu, sararnu, avinu, pashanu, tzararnu, kishinu oref; rashanu, shihatnu, ti'avnu, ta'inu, titanu.