

## Al Het: Seeking Atonement for the Climate Crisis

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Holy One of Blessing:

You are the Eternal, the Mystery and the Beyond.

You are the Present and the Here and Now.

You are the Web of Life.

You are Love.

You recognize the wrongs we do,  
both purposeful and unintentional:  
the ones we choose and the ones we are compelled to do,  
the revealed and the hidden--  
in Your presence all is revealed and known.

May it be Your will, Beloved One,  
to grant forgiveness for all of our sins,  
to be merciful for all of our injustices,  
and let us atone for all we have done wrong.

עַל חַטָּא שְׁחַטְאֵנוּ לְפָנֶיךָ

*Al chet she-chatanu lefanecha*

**We take communal responsibility for the wrongs that we have done**

For the wrong we have done before You by failing to hear within ourselves the sounds of the Earth crying.

For the wrong we have done before You through our shortsightedness.

For the wrong we have done before You by allowing our sense of overwhelm to numb us into inaction.

For the wrong we have done before You by forgetting how much we love life.

For the wrong we have done before You by poisoning the air we breathe and the water we drink.

For the wrong we have done before You by failing to mitigate our greenhouse gas emissions.

For the wrong we have done before You through environmental racism, often locating toxic power plants and other sources of pollution in the neighborhoods where the majority of residents are people of color.

For the wrong we have done before You by empowering political leaders and company executives who focus on building power and wealth rather than protecting the common good.

For the wrong we have done before You by granting climate deniers a platform for shaping public opinion in the United States.

For the wrong we have done before You by failing to take responsibility for our country's oversized contribution to destabilizing the climate.

For the wrong we have done before You by industrialized farming practices that both mistreat animals and contribute to warming the planet.

For the wrong we have done before You by destroying food supplies and habitats for countless species of animals.

For the wrong we have done before You by stripping and burning the Amazon.

For the wrong we have done before You by carrying on with business as usual as we stand at the brink of human-created climate catastrophe.

**For all of these wrongs, Beloved One who forgives,  
please forgive us, pardon us, help us atone!**

**וְעַל כָּלֵם אֱלֹהֵי סְלִיחוֹת סְלַח לָנוּ מְחַל לָנוּ כַּפֵּר לָנוּ**

*v'al kulam elo-ah selichot, selach lanu, mechal lanu, kaper lanu*

**Do not forsake us,  
do not cast us away, you who brought us into being,  
and do not cause us the destruction that our wrongs demand.**

**May we live ever more gently  
on this beautiful blue-green planet that we call home.  
May we care for all who are displaced by the changing climate.  
May we transform our ways so that future generations  
may live in peace and prosperity.**