

Tashlich



תַּשְׁלִיחַ

For hundreds of years, Jews have gathered by the water's edge on the afternoon of Rosh Hashanah to symbolically cast off our sins through the ritual of *Tashlich*. We strive to begin our new year with humility, self-scrutiny, and renewal.

This is the season for *Teshuva*, literally “turning”: we turn back to God and to our highest selves.

“Turn, Turn, Turn” - Pete Seeger

לְכָל זְמַן וְזֵמַן לְכָל־חַפֵּץ תַּחַת הַשָּׁמַיִם

“A season is set for everything, a time for every experience under heaven” - Ecclesiastes 3:1

🎵🎵**CHORUS** 🎵🎵: **To everything (turn, turn, turn)**

There is a season (turn, turn, turn)

And a time for every purpose, under heaven

A time to be born, a time to die

A time to plant, a time to reap

A time to be hurt, a time to heal

A time to laugh, a time to weep

🎵🎵**CHORUS** 🎵🎵

A time to build up, a time to break down

A time to dance, a time to mourn

A time to cast away stones, a time to gather stones together

🎵🎵**CHORUS** 🎵🎵

A time to gain, a time to lose

A time to rain, a time of sow

A time for love, a time for hate

A time for peace, I swear it's not too late

Today we come to Central Park to perform the ritual of *Tashlich*, symbolically discarding our wrongdoings of the past year. We'll also have the option of a new (and growing!) *Tashlich* ritual of cleaning pollutants from our environment: just as we are responsible for our individual wrongdoings, we are responsible to cleanse our community of all sin. As we collect waste and deposit it in proper receptacles, so do we remember and leave behind the mistakes and regrets that we have accumulated since last Rosh Hashanah.

Responsively:

Let us discard our acts of deception, so that we will neither mislead in word or deed, nor pretend to be what we are not.

Let us discard vain ambitions that prompt us to strive for goals which bring neither true fulfillment nor genuine contentment.

Let us discard our stubbornness, so that we will neither persist in foolish habits nor fail to acknowledge our need to change.

Let us discard our envy, so that we will neither be consumed by desire for what we lack nor take for granted the blessings that are already ours.

Let us discard our selfishness, so that we will enrich our lives through wider concerns, and reach out in compassion to other human beings.

Let us discard our indifference, so that we will be sensitive to the suffering of others and responsive to the needs of people everywhere.

Let us discard our pride and arrogance, so that we will be open to new ideas, and grow through acknowledgment of hard truths.

We give physical form to the difficult process of repentance. Piece by piece, we work together to turn from wrongdoing, repair ourselves, and repair the world. Though we know sins cannot be discarded as easily as waste, every step of teshuva brings us closer to a more perfect world, a world of ultimate peace.

🎵 **Oseh Shalom** 🎵

Group disperses to perform *Tashlich*

Words that can be said privately while doing *Tashlich* (either scattering birdseed or picking up trash):

*Hashiveinu Adonai eilecha
Venashuva
Chadeish yameinu kekedem*

הַשִּׁיבֵנוּ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ
וְנָשׁוּבָה
חַדֵּשׁ יָמֵינוּ כְּקֶדֶם

Cause us to return to You, God,
And we will return.
Renew our days as of old.
