

# Aleinu-עלינו

Source Sheet by Alex Hamilton

We rise to our duty to praise the Ruler of all, to acclaim the Creator. God made our lot unlike that of other people, assigning to us a unique destiny. We bend the knee and bow, acknowledging the Supreme Sovereign, the Holy One, exalted, who spread out the heavens and laid the foundations of the earth, whose glorious abode is in the loftiest heights. This is our God; there is no other. In truth, God alone is our Ruler, as it is written in the Torah: "Know this day and take it to heart that Adonai is God in heaven above and on earth below; there is no other." Thus it is written in Your Torah: "Adonai reigns for ever and ever." Such is the prophetic assurance: "Adonai shall be acknowledged Ruler of all the earth. On that day Adonai shall be One and God's name One."

עֲלֵינוּ לְשַׁבַּח לְאֲדוֹן הַכֹּל. לְתֵת  
גְּדֻלָּה לְיוֹצֵר בְּרֵאשִׁית. שְׁלֹא  
עָשָׂנוּ כְּגוֹיֵי הָאָרְצוֹת. וְלֹא שָׁמְנוּ  
כְּמִשְׁפְּחוֹת הָאָדָמָה. שְׁלֹא שָׁם  
חֻלְקֵנוּ כְּהֵם וְגוֹרְלֵנוּ כְּכֹל  
הַמּוֹנֵם: וְאַנְחֵנוּ כּוֹרְעִים  
וּמִשְׁתַּחֲוִים וּמוֹדִים לְפָנֵי מֶלֶךְ  
מְלִכֵי הַמַּלְכִּים הַקְּדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ  
הוּא: שֶׁהוּא נוֹטֵה שָׁמַיִם וְיוֹסֵד  
אָרֶץ. וּמוֹשֵׁב יְקָרוֹ בְּשָׁמַיִם  
מִמַּעַל. וְשֹׁכֵן עֵזָו בְּגִבְהֵי  
מְרוֹמִים: הוּא אֱלֹהֵינוּ אֵין עוֹד.  
אָמֵת מְלַכְנוּ. אָפֶס זֹלָתוֹ.  
כְּכַתוּב בְּתוֹרָתוֹ. וַיִּדְעַת הַיּוֹם  
וְהִשְׁבַּת אֶל לְבַבָּךְ. כִּי ה' הוּא  
הָאֱלֹהִים בְּשָׁמַיִם מִמַּעַל וְעַל  
הָאָרֶץ מִתַּחַת. אֵין עוֹד: כְּכַתוּב  
בְּתוֹרָתְךָ. ה' יִמְלֹךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד:  
וְנֹאמַר. וְהָיָה ה' לְמֶלֶךְ עַל כָּל  
הָאָרֶץ. בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא יִהְיֶה ה'  
אֶחָד וְשֵׁמוֹ אֶחָד:

## Words to Know

Everything	הַכֹּל
The earth	הָאָדָמָה
Skies	שָׁמַיִם
Truth	אֱמֶת
Today	הַיּוֹם

## Commentaries

The Aleinu gives us a list of ideas. In this part we are asked to express our gratitude for the special role of the Jewish people in history. In another part of this prayer, we look forward to the day when the different types of people will recognize that all God loves all people, and this will make a perfect society. This means that God will not just be the God of the Jewish People, but the God of the whole world. When that happens, all the religions of the world will come together, and then God will truly be one.

**--Adapted from Siddur Lev Shalem, The Rabbinical Assembly**

This prayer, beginning in the 1800's, became viewed as the prophet Isaiah's vision that Jews would be a "light unto the nations." This is a call for justice. Today this is called *Tikkun Olam* or repairing the world, where we partner with God to make peace. The great scholar Maimonides said this prayer means there will be peace and no one will make war.

**--Adapted from Siddur Lev Shalem, The Rabbinical Assembly**

## Discussion Question

What in your life would you want to thank God for?

*Source Sheet created on Sefaria by Alex Hamilton*