

הַרִינִי מִכוּוֹן בְּהִצְבָּעֲתִי | בַּתְּפִילַּתִּי הַיּוֹם  
לְדַרְשׁ שְׁלוֹם בְּעֵד הַמְּדִינָה הַזֹּאת כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב:  
"וְדַרְשׁוּ אֶת שְׁלוֹם הָעִיר אֲשֶׁר הִגַּלְתִּי אֶתְכֶם שָׁמָּה  
וְהִתְפַּלְלוּ בְעֵדָה אֵל ה' כִּי בְשְׁלוֹמָה יִהְיֶה לָכֶם שְׁלוֹם."  
יְהִי רְצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ ה' שֶׁהַהִצְבָּעוֹת נִמְנוּ נְאֻמָּנוֹת  
וְתִמְנָה הַצְּבָעֲתִי כְּאִלּוּ קִיַּמְתִּי הַכְּתוּב הַזֶּה בְּכֹל עֲצָמָתִי.  
תֵּתֵן לִב שׁוֹמֵעַ לְמִי שְׁאֲנוּ בּוֹחֲרִים הַיּוֹם  
וְטוֹב יִהְיֶה בְּעֵינֶיךָ שֶׁתִּשָּׂא עֲלֵינוּ מְשָׁלָה טוֹבָה  
לְמַעַן הִבִּיא מִשְׁפָּט וְשְׁלוֹם לְכָל יוֹשְׁבֵי הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת  
וְכָל יוֹשְׁבֵי תֵבֵל וְעַל יְרוּשָׁלַיִם  
וְלִכְבוֹד הַצֶּלֶם בְּכָל אָדָם וּבְכִרְיָאָה  
כִּי הַמְּלָכוֹת שֶׁלְּךָ הֵיא.  
כְּשֵׁם שֶׁהִשְׁתַּתְּפִּיתִי בּבְּחִירוֹת הַיּוֹם  
כֵּן זְכַנִּי לַעֲשׂוֹת מַעֲשִׂים טוֹבִים וְלִתְקַן עוֹלָם בְּכָל פְּעֻלָּי  
וּבְפַעּוּלָתִי ... שֶׁאֲנִי מִתְנַדֵּב לְקַיֵּם הַיּוֹם  
בְּעֵד כָּל הַבְּרִיאוֹת, בְּזִכְרוֹן בְּרִית מִי נֹחַ  
לְהִגֵּן וּלְבַל תִּשְׁחִית אֶרֶץ וּמְלוֹאָהּ.  
תֵּן לְכָל אַמּוֹת הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת הַכֹּחַ וְהַרְצוֹן  
לְרַדֵּף צְדָק וּלְבַקֵּשׁ שְׁלוֹם כְּאֲגָדָה אַחַת  
לְהַצְמִיחַ בְּכָל הָעוֹלָם חַיִּים טוֹבִים וְשְׁלוֹם,  
וְקַיֵּם לָנוּ הַכְּתוּב: "וַיְהִי נֶעַם אֲדֹנָי אֱלֹהֵינוּ עָלֵינוּ  
וּמַעֲשֵׂה יְדֵינוּ כּוֹנֵנָה עָלֵינוּ וּמַעֲשֵׂה יְדֵינוּ כּוֹנֵנָהוּ."

**Here I stand, intending through my vote | my prayer today**

to seek peace for this country, as it is written (Jer. 29:7):  
"Seek the peace of the city where I cause you to roam  
and pray for her to *YHVH (Adonai/God)*, for in her peace you all will have peace."  
May it be Your will, *YHVH*, that votes be counted faithfully,  
and may You count my vote as if I had fulfilled this verse with all my power.  
May You give a listening heart to whomever we elect today  
and may it be good in Your eyes to raise for us a good government  
to bring justice and peace to all living in this land  
and all the world, and to Jerusalem  
and to honor the image of God in all humanity and in Creation,  
for rulership is Yours.  
Just as I participated in elections today,  
so may I merit to do good works and to repair the world through all my efforts,  
and through the act of...[*fill in your pledge*]...which I pledge to do today  
on behalf of all living creatures, in remembrance of the covenant of Noah's waters  
to protect and to not destroy the earth and her plenitude.  
May You give to all the peoples of this country the strength and the will  
to pursue righteousness and to seek peace as a unified force  
in order to cause to flourish throughout the world good life and peace,  
and fulfill for us the verse: "May the pleasure of *Adonai* our God be upon us,  
and establish the work of our hands for us; make the work of our hands endure." (Ps.  
90:17)

If you can't pray in a voting booth, where can you pray? And where would you need more to pray? This prayer is not about casting a winning vote or supporting a party. It's a prayer that peace and justice may come through whomever is elected, to our country, to all humanity, to all Life. It's also more than that: you are invited to pledge to take action that embodies your ideals. This pledge is based on the custom of pledging to give *tsedakah*, charity, when going up to the Torah. What is your pledge on the occasion of "going up" to the voting booth? You can also use this prayer on Election Day, even if you've voted early.

~ Rabbi David Seidenberg (rebduvid86@gmail.com)

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