



We are a people set apart.

Maybe by design. Sometimes by choice. Often not.

It is a burden and a blessing—to look upon our world through a window—from the outside peering in.

Aleinu. It is on us...

At our best, we translate our story as “Other” into a responsibility.

We wear it as an obligation... *I’taken olam*—to perfect the world.

To usher creation toward its most beautiful form for all its creatures.

To welcome strangers through doors that were too often closed for us.

To affirm the dignity of all though ours is sometimes doubted.

Too often, this vision seems out of reach. We look upon the world with the suspicion we feel projected onto us. We struggle to transcend the trauma of being set apart.

So we pray.

- › We pray that power is not wielded with cruelty against any people who find themselves set apart.
- › We pray that our pain does not harden our hearts but cracks them open instead.
- › We pray to erase all that is wicked—in the world and in ourselves.
- › We pray to remember humanity’s shared origin and our shared destiny.

B’yom Hahu—on that day, God will be one and God’s name will be one.

Aleinu