### **Heretics**

For the slanderers let there be no hope,

and may all wickedness perish in an instant.

May Your enemies swiftly be cut down.

May You swiftly uproot, crush, cast down and humble the

arrogant swiftly and in our days.

Blessed are You, 'ה', who destroys enemies and humbles the

arrogant.

וְלַמַּלְשִׁינִים אַל תְּהִי תִקְוָה וְכָל הָרִשְׁעָה כֶּרְגַע תּאבֵד וְכָל אֹיְבֶיךָ מְהֵרָה יִכַּרְתוּ

וְהַזֵּדִים מְהֵרָה תְעַקֵּר וּתְשַׁבֵּר וּתְמַגֵּר וְתַכְנְיעַ

בִּמְהֵרָה בְיָמֵינוּ

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה׳ שׁוֹבֵר איְבִים וּמַכְנִיעַ זֵדִים

#### From the Genizah

May there be no hope for apostates

if they do not return to Your Torah.

And may the Christians and heretics instantly perish.

May they be erased from the book of life,

and may they not be written with the righteous.

Blessed are You, 'ה, who humbles the insolent.

למשומדים אל תהי תקוה אמ לא ישובו לתורלך והנצרים והמינים כרגע יאבדו ימחו מספר החיים

ועם צדיקים אל יכתבו

ברוך אתה ה' מכניע זדים

#### Malachi 3:19

For, look, the day is coming, burning like a kiln,

when all the **arrogant** and all the **evildoers** shall be straw.

And the day that is coming shall set them ablaze, said 'ה of Armies,

shall not leave them root or branch.

#### מלאכי ג״

ְכִּי־הָנֵּה הַיּוֹם ׁ בָּא בּעֵר כַּתַּנְּוּר וְהָיּוּ כָל־זֵ**דִּים** וְכָל־עֹשֻׂה **רִשְׁעָה** לֵּשׁ וְלָהַט אֹתָם הַיָּוֹם הַבָּא אָמֵר ה׳ צְבָאוֹת אֵשֵׁר לֹא־יַעָזָב לַהֵם שָׁרֵשׁ וִעַנַף:

Heretics

# **Four Groups**

Word	Root	Definition	Possible meanings
וְלַמַּלְשִׁינִים	לשן	to slander	those hand over Jews to non-Jewish authorities
הָרִשְׁעָה	רשע	to act wickedly	wickedness
אֹיְבֶרִיךָ	איב	to hate	your enemies
וְהַזֵּדִים	זוד	to act presumptuously	the insolent / those violating Jewish law

# May You swiftly uproot, crush, cast down and humble the arrogant swiftly and in our days.

The fierceness indicates how Jews have reacted to fragmentation within our community. This is the fierceness with which people react when their own people turn against them. We have a long history here, going back to temple days, to Jewish communities in the Golah, to secularists versus haredim in Israel today.

Paraphrasing comments of Gloria Levi

## **Some History**

## **Babylonian Talmud Berakhot 28b**

The Sages taught: Shimon HaPakuli (Shimon the flax worker) arranged the eighteen blessings before Rabban Gamliel in order in Yavne. Rabban Gamliel said to the Sages: Is there any person who knows to institute the blessing of the heretics. Shmuel HaKatan stood and instituted it.

## תלמוד בבלי ברכות כ״ח ב

תָּנוּ רַבָּנַן: שִׁמְעוֹן הַפָּקוֹלִי הִסְדִּיר שְׁמוֹנֶה עֶשְׂרֵה בְּרָכוֹת לִפְנֵי רַבָּן גַּמְלִיאֵל עַל הַפֵּדֶר בְּיַבְנֶה. אָמַר לָהֶם רַבָּן גַּמְלִיאֵל לַחֲכָמִים: כְּלוּם יֵשׁ אָדָם שֶׁיּוֹדֵע לְתַקֵּן בִּרְכַּת הַמִּינִים? עָמַד שְׁמוּאֵל הַקָּטָן וְתִקְנָהּ.

Elbogen compared the Palestinian fragment [from the Cairo genizeh] with the *Amidah* text the Jews have now. If the blessing on heretics was added later it ought to be the one that was missing from the ancient fragment with eighteen blessings. But it wasn't. Not only was it present; it reflected an older wording from a time before medieval [Jewish] censors. Among the groups singled out for God's wrath were *nostrim*, that is, "Nazareans", Jewish converts to Christianity in the first century. Blessing 15 (on Jerusalem) and Blessing 16 (on the coming of the Messiah) were combined in one blessing with a common synoptic line (the *chatimah*): "Blessed are You ... God of David who builds Jerusalem."

Lawrence Hoffman, My People's Prayer Book, The Amidah

Heretics

# **Hope or No Hope**

#### Jeremiah 31:15-16

Thus said 'ה:

Hold back your voice from weeping and your eyes from tears, for there is a reward for your labour -- said 'ה -and they shall come back from the enemy's land, and there is **hope** for your future -- said '--

and the children shall come back to their place.

# ירמיהו לא״

ּכְּה אָמַר ה׳ מְנְעִי קּוֹלֵךְ מִבָּׁכִי וְעִינַיִךְ מִדְּמְעֻה כִּי יֵשׁ שָׁכֶר לִפְעַלָּתֵךְ ה׳ וְשָׁבוּ מֵאֶרֶץ אוֹיֵב: וְיֵשׁ־**תִּקְוָה** לְאַחָרִיתַךְ נְאֻם־ה׳ וְשָׁבוּ בָנָים לִגְבוּלָם:

### **Babylonian Talmud Berakhot 16b**

After Rabbi Elazar concluded his prayer, he said the following: May it be Your will, 'o our God, to cause to dwell in our lot love and brotherhood, peace and friendship. And may You make our borders rich in disciples and cause us to ultimately succeed, (that we will have a good) end and hope. And may You set our portion in the Garden of Eden, and may You establish for us a good companion and a good inclination in Your world. And may we rise early and find the aspiration of our hearts to fear Your name, and may the satisfaction of our souls come before You, for the best.

# תלמוד בבלי ברכות ט"ז ב

ַרַבִּי אֶלְעָזָר בָּתַר דִּמְסַיֵּים צְלוֹתֵיהּ אָמַר הָכִי: ״יְהִי רְצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ ה׳ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, שֶׁתְּשַׁכֵּן בְּפוּרֵינוּ אַהֲבָה וְאַחְוָה וְשָׁלוֹם וְרֵיעוּת. וְתַרְבֶּה גְּבוּלֵנוּ בְּתַלְמִידִים וְתַצְלִיחַ סוֹפֵנוּ אַחֲרִית וְתִקְּוָה. וְתָשִׁים חֶלְקֵנוּ בְּגַן עֵדֶן, וְתַקְנֵנוּ בְּחָבֵר טוֹב וְיֵצֶר טוֹב בְּעוֹלָמֶךְ. וְנַשְׁכִּים וְנִמְצָא יִחוּל לְבָבֵנוּ לְיִרְאָה אֶת שְׁמֶךְ, וְתָבֹא לְפָנֶיךְ קוֹרַת נַפְשָׁנוּ לְטוֹבָה״

#### **Seder Olam 3**

But those who separated themselves from the ways of the community, like the minim and the meshumadim and those who hand over others (to the government) and those who are evil ... hell is locked before them and they are judged in it forever and ever.

# דדר עולם רבה ג״

אבל מי שפירשו מדרכי צבור כגון המינים והמשומדין והמסורות והחניפין ... גיהנם ננעלת בפניהם ונידונין בתוכה לעולמי עולמים

Heretics

### **Proper or Not?**

# Babylonian Talmud Berakhot 7a

A certain heretic who was in Rabbi Yehoshua ben Levi's neighborhood would upset him (by incessantly challenging the legitimacy of) verses. One day, (Rabbi Yehoshua ben Levi) took a rooster and placed it between the legs of the bed and looked at it. He thought: When the moment arrives, I will curse him. When the moment arrived, (Rabbi Yehoshua ben Levi) slept. He said: Conclude from the fact that I nodded off that it is not proper conduct to do so (to curse people, even if they are wicked). "His mercy is over all His creations" (Psalms 145:9) is written (even with regard to sinners).

# תלמוד בבלי ברכות ז' א

הַהוּא מִינָא דַּהָוָה בְּשִׁבְבוּתֵיהּ דְּרַבִּי יְהוֹשֶׁעַ בֶּן לֵוִי,
בְּוֹה קָא מְצַעֵר לֵיהּ טוּבָא בִּקְרָאֵי. יוֹמָא חַד שְׁקַל
תַּרְנְגוֹלָא, וְאוֹקְמֵיהּ בֵּין כַּרְעֵיהּ דְּעַרְסָא, וְעַיִּין בֵּיהּ,
סְבַר: כִּי מָטָא הַהִּיא שַׁעְתָּא, אֶלְטְיֵיהּ. כִּי מְטָא הַהִּיא
שַׁעְתָּא — נָיִים. אֲמַר: שְׁמַע מִינַהּ, לָאו אוֹרַח אַרְעָא
לְמֶעְבָּד הָכִי. ״וְרַחֲמָיו עַל כָּל מַעֲשָׂיו״ כְּתִיב.
לְמֶעְבַּד הָכִי. ״וְרַחֲמָיו עַל כָּל מַעֲשָׂיו״ כְּתִיב.

#### Abudraham on the Amidah

One could answer: "it is not proper conduct to do this" -- this is concerning a curse that involves death. Or perhaps with a group it is different. Or perhaps "it is not proper conduct to do this" concerned a case when one is vexed. But in our prayers, for the honour of God, we are intending, since they are denying God.

## אבודרהם עמוד

ויש לומר דכי קאמר ״לאו אורח ארעא למעבד הכי״ הני מילי בקללה שבא לידי כליון. אי נמי צבור שאני. ואי נמי דמשום צערו ״לאו אורח ארעא למעבד הכי״ כדאמרינן התם דהוא מצער ליה. אבל בתפילותינו לכבוד הבורא אנו מתכוונים מפני שכופרין בו. כך בחידושי דב״ש.

#### Babylonian Talmud Berakhot 28b - 29b

Rabban Gamliel says: Each and every day a person recites eighteen. Rabbi Yehoshua says: essence of eighteen. Rabbi Akiva says: If he is fluent in his prayer, he recites eighteen, and if not the essence of eighteen.

These 18, but there are 19!

The Sages taught: Shimon HaPakuli (Shimon the flax worker) ordered the eighteen blessings before Rabban Gamliel in order in Yavne. Rabban Gamliel said to the Sages: Is there any person who knows to fix the blessing of the *minim*. Shmuel HaKatan stood up and fixed it.

The next year, he forgot/discarded it and he contemplated it for two or three moments, but they did not remove him.

# תלמוד בבלי ברכות כ״ח ב - כ״ט א

מִשְנָה: רַבָּן גַּמְלִיאֵל אוֹמֵר: בְּכָל יוֹם וְיוֹם מִתְפַּצֵּל אָדָם שְׁמֹנֶה עֶשְׂרֵה. רַבִּי יְהוֹשֶׁעַ אוֹמֵר: מֵעֵין שְׁמוֹנֶה עֶשְׂרֵה. רַבִּי עֲקִיבָא אוֹמֵר: אִם שְׁגוּרָה תְּפִלָּתוֹ בְּפִיו — מִתְפַּצֵּל שְׁמוֹנֶה עֶשְׂרֵה, וְאִם לָאו — מֵעֵין שְׁמוֹנֶה עֵשָׂרֵה.

ָהָנֵי תַּמְנֵי סְרֵי?! תְּשַׁסְרֵי הָוְיָן! תָּנוּ רַבָּנַן: שָׁמְעוֹן הַפָּקוֹלִי הִסְדִּיר שְׁמוֹנֶה עֶשְׂרֵה בְּרָכוֹת לִפְנֵי רַבָּן גַּמְלִיאֵל עַל הַפֵּדֶר בְּיַבְנֶה. אָמַר לָהֶם רַבָּן גַּמְלִיאֵל לַחֲכָמִים: כְּלוּם יֵשׁ אָדָם שִׁיּוֹדֵעַ לְתַקֵן בִּרְכַּת הַמִּינִים? עָמַד שְׁמוּאֵל הַקָּטָן וְתִקְנָהּ.

לְשָׁנָה אַחֶרֶת שְׁכָחָהּ, וְהִשְׁקִיף בָּהּ שְׁתַּיִם וְשָׁלשׁ שָׁעוֹת, וְלֹא הֶעֱלוּהוּ.

**Heretics** 

#### Zohar 1:105a

Rebbe said: It is forbidden for a person to pray that evil people depart from this world, for if the Holy One had removed Terach from the world when he was an idol worshiper, Avraham our father would not have come into the world, and the tribes of Israel, and King David, and the King Moshiach would not have come to the world, and Torah would not have been given, and all those tzadikim and hasidim and prophets would not have come to the world.

# ספר הזהר א׳:ק׳׳ה א

ואָמַר רַבִּי אָסוּר לוֹ לָאָדָם לְהִתְפַּלֵּל עַל הָרְשָׁעִים שָׁיִּסְתַּלְּקוּ מִן הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁאִלְמָלֵא סִלְקוֹ הַקָּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּךְ הוּא לְתֶרַח מִן הָעוֹלָם כְּשֶׁהָיָה עוֹבֵד עֲבוֹדָה זָרָה, לֹא בָּא אַבְרָהָם אָבִינוּ לָעוֹלָם, וְשִׁבְטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לֹא הָיוּ, וְהַמֶּלֶךְ דָּוִד וּמֶלֶךְ הַפָּשִׁיחַ, וְהַתּוֹרָה לֹא נִתְּנָה, וְכָל אוֹתָם הַצַּדִּיקִים וְהַחֲסִידִים וֹהַנְּבִיאִים לֹא הָיוּ בָּעוֹלָם.

#### **Siddur Lev Chadash**

Let those who plan evil have no hope of success, may all who go astray find their way back to You, and let all tyranny soon end.

We praise You, 'ה', whose will it is that evil shall vanish from the earth.

# סדר לב חדש

וְלָרִשְׁעָה אַלֲ־תְּהָע תִקְוָה, וְהַתּוֹעִים אֵלֶיךָ יָשׁוּבוּ, וּמַלְכוּת זָדוֹן מְהֵרָה תַּעֲבִיר. בּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה׳, הַמַּעֲבִיר רֶשַׁע מִן־הָאָרֶץ.