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Why A Conceptual Translation?



The Amidah is the part of the service at which the community rises and every individual prays quietly and privately. It is the deepest and most relevant of all prayers and speaks to the innermost yearnings of a soul that is striving towards Godliness. It is the heart of every prayer service and, if one is going to say only one prayer, this is what it should be. Because of the depth of its meaning, however, its language is very difficult - even when translated into English. It is written for someone who is somewhat proficient in the art of prayer. Someone who is not, will struggle to relate to it. In order to help those who have difficulty finding meaning in this most important of prayers, we have made conceptual translations of all the high holy day Amidahs. Within these Amidahs are many of the most relevant ideas contained within the Amidah proper.

The purpose of this is for a person to be able to say the same concepts as the Amidah, but in a language and style that should be more relateable. Hopefully, this interpretation will enable people to pray and truly mean what they are saying. It should be significantly easier to do this than with the direct Amidah translation printed in the machzor.

When the congregation arrives at the silent Amidah, one should have plenty of time not only to read, but also try to feel the ideas contained in these prayers.

Morning Or Evening Service On Rosh Hashana

 Continue Here:

You chose us from all the nations to bring a message to the world. You have consistently expressed your love for us and given us an opportunity for real meaning. And in an ultimate show of confidence, your destiny in this world you have tied in with ours. You gave us this day of Judgement, a day of Shofar blowing, of serious focus, remembering that you brought us out of Egypt so we could make a difference in this world, not live empty lives. Focus on us today in a positive way - for goodness, for blessing, for salvation, for life and vitality. Have mercy upon us and forgive us for our eyes are turned only to you. Oh God, you are the infinite being, the ultimate reality of this universe. Although we so often become distracted by the physical world, we nevertheless know that it is only an expression of you and your will. When we think of your greatness, we feel humbled. And yet the illusion seems so real. And you seem so distant and unrelateable at times. Please God, purify our hearts in a way that we can allow you to enter them and remain forever. For we know that you are the only truth of this universe and the confusion we feel is so debilitating. **You are the source of all goodness, oh God, who gives us Rosh Hashana as an opportunity for meaning and inner focus.**