Why are you Sleeping? Elul SelihotDrisha Elul Zeman Session 1

I. Wake Up!

1.Rambam, Hilkhot Teshuva, Chapter 3 Halakha 4

Even though the sounding of the shofar on Rosh HaShanah is a decree, it contains an allusion. It is as if [the shofar's call] is saying:

Wake up you sleepy ones from your sleep and you who slumber, arise. Inspect your deeds, repent, remember your Creator. Those who forget the truth in the vanities of time and throughout the entire year, devote their energies to vanity and emptiness which will not benefit or save: Look to your souls. Improve your ways and your deeds and let every one of you abandon his evil path and thoughts.....

Because of this, it is customary for all of Israel to increase tzedakah, perform many good deeds, and be busy with mitzvot from Rosh HaShanah until Yom Kippur to a greater extent than during the remainder of the year. During these ten days, the custom is for everyone to rise [while it is still] night and pray in the synagogues with words of supplication until daybreak.

אַף עַל פִּי שֶׁתְּקִיעַת שׁוֹפָר בְּרֹאשׁ הַשְּׁנָה גְּזֵרַת הַכָּתוֹב רֶמֶז זֵשׁ בּוֹ כְּלוֹמֵר עוֹרוּ יְשֵׁנִים מִשְׁנַתְכֶם וְנִרְדָּמִים הָקִיצוּ מִתְּרְדֵּמִתְכֶם וְנִרְדָּמִים הָקִיצוּ בְּתְשׁוּבָה וְזִכְרוּ בּוֹרַאֲכֶם. אֵלוּ הַשּׁוֹכְחִים שְׁנָתָם בְּהֶבֶל וָרִיק אֲשֶׁר לֹא יוֹעִיל וְלֹא יצִיל, הַבִּיטוּ לְנַפְשׁוֹתֵיכֶם וְהֵיטִיבוּ דַּרְכֵיכֶם וּמַעַלְלֵיכֶם וְיַעֵזֹב כָּל אֶחָד מִכֶּם דַּרְכֵיכֶם וּמַעַלְלֵיכֶם וְיַעֵזֹב כָּל אֶחָד מִכֶּם טוֹבָה....

וּמִפְּנֵי עִנְיָן זֶה נָהֲגוּ כֶּל בֵּית יִשְּׂרָאֵל לְהַרְבּוֹת בִּצְדָּקָה וּבְּמֵעְשִׁים טוֹבִים וְלַעֲסֹק בְּמִצְוֹת מֵרֹאשׁ הַשָּׁנָה וְעַד יוֹם הַכְּפּוּרִים יֶתֶר מִכֶּל הַשְּׁנָה. וְנָהֲגוּ כֻּלָּם לָקוּם בַּלַּיְלָה בַּעֲשָׁרָה יָמִים אֵלוּ וּלְהִתְפַּלֵל בְּבָתֵּי כְּנַסִיּוֹת בְּדִבְרֵי תַּחֲנוּנִים וּבְּכִבּוּשִׁין עַד שִׁיֵּאוֹר הַיִּוֹם:

2."Ben Adam Mah Lekha Nerdam", Author Unknown

Recordings from various communal traditions:

https://www.nli.org.il/he/piyut/Piyut1song 010029600000005171/NLI

Human, why do you slumber? Come present words of petition. Pour out conversation, seek forgiveness from the Master of Masters.

Wash and purify, do not tarry, for the days will soon pass Quick! Seek assistance from the One who dwells on high. From blunders and wickedness, run, and the fear of disaster Please, pay attention to Israel who know Your name are faithful For Yours, God, is justice, and ours is embarrassment.

Stand up like a man and be strong to confess mistakes God will inquire with gravity to atone for wrongdoing Because wonders never cease from God And all declarations which are said before God they are called The Compassionate One will have mercy on us as a parent has mercy for children

For Yours, God, is justice, and ours is embarrassment.

בֶּן אָדָם מַה לְּדָּ נִרְדָּם קוּם קְרָא בְּתַחֲנוּנִים שְׁפֹּדְ שִׁיחָה דְּרשׁ סְלִיחָה מֵאֲדוֹן הָאֲדוֹנִים רְחַץ וּטְהַר וְאַל תְּאַחַר בְּטֶרֶם יָמִים פּוֹנִים וּמְהֵרָה רוּץ לְעֶזְרָה לִפְנִי שׁוֹכֵן מְעוֹנִים וּמְפֵּשַׁע וְגַם רֶשַׁע בְּרַח וּפְחַד מֵאֲסוֹנִים אָנָּא שְׁעֵה שִׁמְדְּ יוֹדְעֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל נֶאֱמָנִים לְדְּ אֲדֹנָי הַצְּדָקָה וְלָנוּ בֹּשֶׁת הַפָּנִים

עֲמֹד כְּגֶבֶר וְהִתְּגַּבֵּר לְהִתְּוַדּוֹת עַל חֲטָאִים יָהּ אֵל דְּרֹשׁ בְּכֹבֶּד רֹאשׁ לְכַפֵּר עַל פְּשָׁעִים כִּי לְעוֹלָם לֹא נֶעְלָם מִמֶּנוּ נִפְּלָאִים וְכָל מַאֲמָר אֲשֶׁר יֵאָמֵר לְפָנַיו הֵם נִקְרָאִים הַמְרַחֵם הוֹא יְרַחֵם עָלֵינוּ כְּרַחֵם אָב עַל בַּנִים

לְדָ אֲדֹנַי הַצְּדָקָה וְלָנוּ בֹּשֶׁת הַפָּנִים

Also see the selihot poem by Yehuda HaLevi, "<u>Yashen al Tiradem</u>" that builds on Yonah and these themes.

3. Sefer Yonah 1:6

וַיִּקְרַב אֵלָיו רַב הַּחֹבֵל וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ מַה־לְּדְ נִרְדָּם קוּם קְרָא אֶל־אֱלֹהֶידְ אוּלַי יִתְעַשִּׁת הָאֱלֹהִים לָנוּ וְלֹא נאבד:

The captain went over to him and cried out, "How can you be sleeping so soundly! Up, call upon your god! Perhaps God will be kind to us and we will not perish.

4.Zohar II 199b (Vayakhel 7)

Here we only have reliance because a text does not exceed the literal in regard to people's actions in this world. Yonah, who went down to the ship, is the soul of the person. It comes down to this world to be in a human's body. It is called Jonah [in Hebrew: Yonah-dove, but also deception] because once it partners with a body, it is a dove in this world, which is deceived by the body that refuses it, as it is written, "You shall not wrong one another." At that time a person walks in this world as a ship in the great sea that is about to break, as it is written, "The ship was about to break up." When a person in this world sins and thinks that they have fled from their Master and that there is no Divine Supervision (hashgacha) in this world, the Creator casts a strong storm wind, which is the sentence of the judgment...When the person is caught by a storm in the house where they ail, it is written, "And Jonah had gone below into the hold of the ship, lain down and fallen asleep." Even though a person is in the house where they are sick, the soul does not awaken to return to her Master to redeem his iniquities. It is written, "And the captain approached him." The captain is the good inclination, which leads everything. And it is written, "And said to him, 'How is it that you are sleeping? Get up, call on your God."" "It is no time to sleep because you are being sentenced for everything you did in this world, repent from your iniquities.

הַכַּא אִית לַן סָמֶדְ בָּעַלְמַא, עַל עוֹבַדְין דָּבְנֵי נַשַּׁא בָּהָאי עַלְמֵא. יוֹנַה דְּנַחַת ַלַסְפִינַה, דַּא אִיהִי נִשְּמִתַא דְּבַר נַשׁ, דְנַחָתָּא לְהַאי עָלְמָא לְמֶהֱוֵי בְּגוּפָא דְבַּר נַשׁ. אַמַאי אָתִקֹרֵי יוֹנַה. בְּגִין דְּכֵיוַן דָּאָשָׁתְּתַּפַת בָּגוּפַא, כָּדֵין אָיהִי יוֹנַה בָּהַאי עַלְמַא. כָּמַה דָאָתִּמַר, (ויקרא כ״ה:י״ז) וְלַא תוֹנוּ אִישׁ אֶת עֲמִיתוֹ. וּכְדֵין בַּר נַשׁ ַ אַזִיל בָּהַאי עַלְמֵא, כַּסְפִינַה בָּגוֹ יַמַא רַבַּא, דַּחַשִּׁיבַת לִאִתַּבְּרָא, כְּמַה דְאַתִּ אָמֵר (יונה א׳:ד׳) וְהַאֵנִיַּה חִשְּׁבַה לִהְשַּׁבֵר. וּבַר נַשׁ כַּד אָיהוּ בָּהַאי עַלְמַא חָטֵי, וְחַשִּׁיב דְּעַרַק מְקַמֵּי מַארֵיהּ. וְלַא אַשְׁגַּח בְּהַהוּא עַלְמֵא וּכָדֵין אַטִּיל קוּדְשָׁא בְּרִידְ הוּא רוּחַ סְעָרָה תַּקִיפַא. דַא אִיהִי גַּזִירַת דִינַא... בּיוַן דָּאָתְפַּס בַּר נָשׁ עַל יְדָא דְּהַהִּיא סערה בָּבָי מַרְעִיהּ, מַה כָּתִיב וְיוֹנַה יַרַד אַל יַרְכְּתֵי הַסְפִינַה וַיִּשְׁכַּב וַיַּרַדַם. אַף עַל גַּב דָּבַר נַשׁ בָּבֵי מַרְעֵיהּ, נִשְׁמְתַא לַא אָתָעַרַת לָאַתָּבָא קַמֵּי מַארֵיהּ, לִמְפְרַק חובוי. מַה כָּתִיב, וַיִּקְרַב אֱלַיו רַב הַחוֹבֶל. מַאן רַב הַחוֹבֶל. דַא יֵצֶר טוֹב, דָּאִיהוּ מַנְהִיג כּלַא. וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ מַה לְדְ נְרְדַם קוֹם קרא אַל אַלהֶידָ וְגוֹי. לַאוֹ שַעַתַא הוּא לִמִדְּמַדְ, דְּהָא סַלְּקִין לַדְ לִדִינַא, עַל כַּל מַה דַעַבְדַת בָּהָאי עַלְמֵא, תּוֹב מֶחוֹבַדְ.

5.Pardes HaHID"A, R. Hayyim David Azoualay, "Elul", 18th C. Jerusalem

One Should Awaken to Teshuva from Love

"I am to my Beloved and my Beloved is to me (*Shir HaShirim* 6:3)" The Hahamim explained that this is an acronym for Elul, because the Holy One Blessed Be desires/is accepting of Israel in this month, end quote. A person should awaken themselves in beginning to return (to do *teshuva*). This is alluded to by "I am to my Beloved" - when I awaken *myself* and connect with my

צריך להתעורר בתשובה מאהבה אני לדודי ודודי לי (שיר השירים ו:ג). פירשו ז"ל שהוא ראשי תיבות אלול, כי הקדוש ברוך מתרצה לישראל בחודש זה, עד כאן דבריהם. וצריך להתעורר האדם בתחילה בתשובה. וזה הרמן אני לדודי כשאני מתעורר ומתחבר עם דודי הקדוש ברוך הוא, אזי ודודי Beloved, the Holy One Blessed Be, then "My Beloved is to me", as it says "One who comes to purify themselves, we help them to do so (*Bavli Yoma* 38b). Additionally, in this month there is an awakening of *Rahamim*, Mercy. There is another allusion that one should return from love, and then their transgressions will immediately be atoned. The commentaries wrote that the four segments of atonement that Rabbi Yishmael taught in *Yoma* are for one who returns solely from fear. And what was said, "I am to my Beloved", is that teshuva should be from love, like the allegory of a woman who clings to her beloved from love, then "My Beloved is to me", immediately, I am with Him in no time at all.

לי, "יוהבא לטהר מסייעין אותו
(יומא לח:)". וביותר בחודש זה
שיש בו התעוררות הרחמים.
עוד רמז דצריך לשוב מאהבה דאז
תיכף מתכפרין עונותיו. שכתבו
המפרשים, שארבעה חלוקי כפרה
שדרש רבי ישמעאל ביומא (פו.) הם
לשב מיראה דוקא. וזה שאמר "אני
לדודי", התשובה צריך שתהא
מאהבה, כמשל האשה המתרפקת
על דודה מתוך אהבה, ואז ודודי לי
תיכף אני עמו ואין צריך שום זמן.
[חומת אנך, שה"ש, כיו]

All year round....

6.Shulhan Arukh Orah Hayyim, Siman 1

יתגבר כארי לעמוד בבוקר לעבודת בוראו שיהא הוא מעורר השחר:

One should strengthen oneself like a lion to get up in the morning to serve one's Creator, so that it is who awakens the dawn

7.Bemidbar 23:24

ָהֶן־עָם כְּלָבִיא יָקוּם וְכַאֲרִי יִתְנַשָּׂא לֹא יִשְׁכַּב עַד־יֹאכַל טֵרֶף וְדַם־חֲלָלִים יִשְׁתֶּה:

Lo, a people that rises like a lioness, Leaps up like a lion, Rests not till it has feasted on prey And drunk the blood of the slain.

8.Rav Shalom Messas, Nahalat Avot, 268 (Morocco, 19th c.)

"I saw written in a book, that in certain communities in Spain, the learned and pure women would wake up very early in the morning and go to their own designated synagogues, where they would conduct a prayer service. One of the women would lead as *shliha d'tsibbur* (designated prayer leader), and on the days of Torah reading, they would read from a Torah scroll. Some of the women wore Tefillin, and all of them were wrapped in a Tallit. They conducted such services on weekdays, Shabbat and holidays. Women are exempt from time-bound commandments, so these women voluntarily took upon these obligations. After services they

וראיתי על ספר, כי באיזה מקומות בספרד,
היו הנשים הכשרות המלומדות, קמות
בהשכמה גדולה לביהכ"נ שלהן, והיו
מתפללות בצבור, ואחת מהנה היו מקימות
לשליחא דצבורא, והיו מוציאות ס"ת, ויש
שהיו מניחות גם תפלין, וכל אחת היתה
עטופה טלית, וכן היו עושות גם בשבתות גם
בימים טובים, ואח"כ, היו חוזרין לבתיהן,
ומעוררין בעליהן, ובניהם, לעמוד להתפלל,
וזה היו עושין מצד החומרא על עצמן, מפני
שהנשים פטורית פטורות ממצות עשה שהזמן
גרמא, כדי שיהיו פנויים להכין הצריך
לבעליהם ולכן היו הן מקדימין להתפלל בעוד
בעלהן ישנים, ובזה יתיישב הכתוב על נכון,

went home to wake up their husbands and sons to
go and pray. This is 'the lioness waking up before
the lion'." (translation R. Daniel Bouskila)

הן עם כלביא יקום וכארי יתנשא, שנקט הכתוב זכר ונקבה, לביא וארי, והקדים לביא שהיא הנקבה, לארי שהוא הזכר, על הדרך שאמרנו, שאחד האיש ואחד האשה, היו קמים לעבודת בראם, ואשה קודמת לאיש

II. Waking up to Teshuva, Not being Weighed Down by the Past

1. R. Alan Lew, This is Real and You are Totally Unprepared, p. 64

SUDDENLY YOU ARE AWAKENED BY A STRANGE NOISE, a noise that fills the full field of your consciousness and then splits into several jagged strands, shattering that field, shaking you awake. The ram's born... will sound one hundred times on Rosh Hashanah, the same sound that filled the world when the Torah was spoken into being on Mount Sinai, is being blown to call you to wakeful-ness. You awake to confusion. Where are you? Who are you?

Then you remember. In exactly one month, one revolution of the moon, you will stand before God. What will God see that day? What will you see? This encounter can carry you significantly closer to the truth of your life. Standing in the light God, you can see a great deal more than you ordinarily might, but only to the degree that you are already awake, only in proportion to the time and energy you have devoted to preparing for this encounter.

So it is that the Mateh Moshe proclaimed, "Every person must prepare himself for thirty days beforehand with repentance and prayer and charity for the day when he will appear in judgment before God on Rosh Hashanah. Therefore, let every person scrutinize their actions. Let them exclude themselves for one hour every day and examine themselves," and Rabbi Chaim David Azulai declared, "During Elul [the month before Rosh Hashanah], one should devote less time to study and more time to fixed periods of introspection and self-evaluation," and the Kav Hayashar recorded that many men in his time observed silence between the advent of Elul and Rab Hashanah to effect the purification of their souls.

The born blows to usher in Elul, and it is blown every morning of the month of Elul as well, lest we forget and slip back, lest we surrender to the entropic pull of mindlessness. The Torah also stands ready to help keep us awake. As we move through the month of Elul, we also move through the Book of Deuteronomy, and each of the weekly Torah readings-Re'eh, Shoftim, Netzavim, Ki Tetze-whispers to us, "Wake up!" Each of these readings offers a subtle rhyme to the process of awakening to which the month of Elul has called us.

2.Micah 7:18-20

ה ה אל רחום אמן עולבר על פמוף. ב נשא עון. גועבר על יחוון אפים ארך ארך הרדית נְחַלָתוֹ. ה לא הָחֲוִיק לָעַד שָּׁעֹר. ד לִשְׁאָרִית נַחֲלָתוֹ. ה לא הָחֲוִיק לָעַד יוֹב חֹסר בּיִב חִסר בּיִב יִבְּחֲמֵנוּ. אַפּוֹ. וּ כִּי חָפֵץ חֶסֶד הוּא: וּ יָשׁוּב יְרַחֲמֵנוּ. מּ וְתַשְׁלִיךְ בִּמְצֵלוֹת יָם נושא עון נושר און נושא עון בּיל־חַטֹאתָם: י תִּמִן אֶמֶת לְיַעַלְב. יא חֶסֶד בָּל־חַטֹאתָם: י תִּמִן אֶמֶת לְיַעַלְב. יא חֶסֶד

(18) Who is a God like You, Forgiving iniquity And remitting transgression; Who has not maintained God's wrath forever Against the remnant of God's own people, Because God loves graciousness! (19) God will take us back in love; God will cover up our iniquities, You will hurl all our sins Into the depths of the sea. (20) You will keep faith with Jacob, Loyalty to Abraham, As You promised on oath to our ancestors In days gone by.

3.Adon HaSelihot with Alphabetic Acrostic Translation by Rabbi David DeSola Pool (1937)

3.Audit Haseimot with Alphabetic Acrostic Hans	tution by thubble business become to contain the training
Awesome God, Beneficent and good to all your creatures, Clothed in right, Declaring truth, God we have sinned before you; have mercy on us.	אֲדוֹן הַסְּלִיחוֹת. בּוֹחֵן לְבָבוֹת. גּוֹלֶה עֲמוּקוֹת. דּוֹבֵר צְדָקוֹת חָטָאנוּ לְפָנֶיךְ רַחֵם עָלֵינוּ:
Ever constant in comforts, Foreseeing, Glorious in wonders, Hearkening to prayers, God we have sinned before you; have mercy on us.	ָדְדּר בְּנִפְּלָאוֹת. נְתִּיק בְּנֶחְמוֹת זוֹכֵר בְּרִית אָבוֹת חוֹקֵר כְּלָיוֹת: חָטָאנוּ לְפָנֶיךְ רַחֵם עָלֵינוּ:
Invoking the generations, Judging in knowledge, Knowing all that is hidden, Lord of forgiveness. Moving o'er the skies, God we have sinned before you; have mercy on us.	טוֹב וּמֵטִיב לַבְּרִיּוֹת. יוֹדֵע כָּל־נִסְתָּרוֹת. כּוֹבֵשׁ עֲוֹנוֹת לוֹבֵשׁ צְדָקוֹת: חָטָאנוּ לְפָנֶיךְ רַחֵם עָלֵינוּ:
Nigh in trouble, overflowing in virtue, Pardoning sins, Quelling sinfulness, Remembering the covenant with the fathers, God we have sinned before you; have mercy on us.	מֶלֵא זְכִיּוֹת. נוֹרָא תְהָלּוֹת. סוֹלֵח עֲוֹנוֹת עוֹנֶה בַּצָרוֹת: חָטָאנוּ לְפָנֶיךְ רַחֵם עָלֵינוּ:
Searcher of inmost feelings, Tester of hearts, Uncovering the depths, Venerated in praises, Working salvation, God we have sinned before you; have mercy on us.	פּוֹעֵל יְשׁוּעוֹת. צוֹפֶה עֲתִידוֹת. קוֹרֵא הַדּוֹרוֹת. רוֹכֵב עֲרָבוֹת שׁוֹמֵע תְּפָלוֹת תְּמִים דֵּעוֹת: חָטָאנוּ לְפָנֶיךְ רַחֵם עָלֵינוּ:

Recordings:

https://pizmonim.org/book.php#S20

https://www.nli.org.il/he/piyut/Piyut1song 010008500000005171/NLI

Selihot in Jerusalem