

In the *Ashamnu* prayer that we just said, we recite a list of sins in alphabetical order. In this English version of the prayer each letter of the alphabet was used at least once. Can you find each one?

Did you ever hear anyone say, "I've tried everything from A to Z"? Since A is the start of the alphabet and Z is the finish, this expression means that a wide range of things have been done. By using the whole alphabet in the Hebrew, we admit that we have done every possible wrongdoing from *alef* to *tav*, A to Z — maybe not each of us individually, but as a community. By saying "we have sinned," we hold ourselves responsible for what happens in our communities.

*Yom Kippur* can bring forgiveness for the wrongs we have done to God, but it cannot bring forgiveness for the wrongs we have done to family and friends. We must seek out those with whom we've quarreled or those we have hurt and ask their forgiveness.

We must be forgiving to all who have hurt or angered us during the past year. Why? Because...

- we realize that we all are human. Everyone makes mistakes.
- we don't want anyone to feel guilty because of us.
- we accept the commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves.

עַל חַטָּא שְׁחַטְאָנוּ לְפָנֶיךָ בְּאָנָס וּבְרָצוֹן,  
וְעַל חַטָּא שְׁחַטְאָנוּ לְפָנֶיךָ בְּבִלִי דַעַת.  
עַל חַטָּא שְׁחַטְאָנוּ לְפָנֶיךָ בְּזִלְזוּל הוֹרִים וּמוֹרִים,  
וְעַל חַטָּא שְׁחַטְאָנוּ לְפָנֶיךָ בְּחִזּוֹק יָד.  
עַל חַטָּא שְׁחַטְאָנוּ לְפָנֶיךָ בְּטִמְאַת שְׁפָתַיִם.  
וְעַל כָּלֵם אֱלוֹהֵי סְלִיחוֹת, סִלַּח לָנוּ, מְחַל לָנוּ, כְּפָר־לָנוּ.