

PRAYER FOR THE CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM / IBRAHIM

Rabbi Rachel Barenblat

For every aspiring ballerina huddled
scared in a basement bomb shelter

*For every toddler in his mother's arms
behind rubble of concrete and rebar*

For every child who's learned to distinguish
"our" bombs from "their" bombs by sound

*For everyone wounded, cowering, frightened
and everyone furious, planning for vengeance*

For the ones who are tasked with firing shells
where there are grandmothers and infants

*For the ones who fix a rocket's parabola
toward children on school playgrounds*

For every official who sees shelling Gaza
as a matter of "cutting the grass"

*And every official who approves launching projectiles
from behind preschools or prayer places*

For every kid taught to lob a bomb with pride
And every kid sickened by explosions

*For every teenager who considers
"martyrdom" his best hope for a future:*

May the God of compassion and the God of mercy
God of justice and God of forgiveness

*God Who shaped creation in Her tender womb
and nurses us each day with blessing*

God Who suffers the anxiety and pain
of each of His unique children

*God Who yearns for us to take up
the work of perfecting creation*

God Who is reflected in those who fight
and in those who bandage the bleeding --

*May our Father, Mother, Beloved, Creator
cradle every hurting heart in caring hands.*

Soon may we hear in the hills of Judah
and the streets of Jerusalem

*in the olive groves of the West Bank
and the apartment blocks of Gaza City*

in the kibbutz fields of the Negev
and the neighborhoods of Nablus

*the voice of fighters who have traded weapons
for books and ploughs and bread ovens*

the voice of children on swings and on slides
singing nonsense songs, unafraid

*the voice of reconciliation and new beginnings
in our day, speedily and soon.*

And let us say:

amen.