IDF this a.m (Jan. 9, '24) announced the deaths of 9 soldiers R"L, HY"D.





"Peace be upon you, ministering angels, angels of the Most High..."

שַׁלוֹם עַלֵיכָם מַלָּאַכֵי הַשַּׁרֵת מַלָּאַכֵי עַלִּיוֹן

We sing these words on Friday night as the Sabbath begins. We sing them with loved ones gathered around our table, their precious faces bathed in the soft light of the Sabbath candles.

We sing these words in the sanctity of our homes.

The father, son, and daughter stabbed to death this Shabbat surely sang these words too. In the last hour of their lives they lifted their voices together in holy song.

"Come in peace, angels of peace, angels of the Most High..."

בּוֹאַכֶם לָשַׁלוֹם מַלָּאַכֵי הַשַּׁלוֹם מַלָּאַכֵי עַלִּיוֹן

'Bring us the peace of the Sabbath' we implore the angels. We sense their presence in the hushed air around us. 'Come in, come closer' we urge them in song. We can almost feel them brushing past us.

The father, son, and daughter surely felt those angels too.

"Bless me with peace, angels of peace, angels of the Most High..."

ברכוני לשלום מלאכי השלום מלאכי עליון

We pray for tranquility and wholeness.

But of this I am certain. By the time your table is filled with children and grandchildren you offer this prayer for them, always for them.

In the last hour of his life, the father prayed for his family's well-being.

"Go in peace, angels of peace, angels of the Most High..."

צֵאתִכֶם לִשַּׁלוֹם מַלָּאֲכֵי הַשַּׁלוֹם מַלָּאַכֵי עֵלִיוֹן

Thus we conclude the song. If the angels came in peace, if they blessed us in peace, their holy work is complete. We bid them farewell as they make their way back to the Most High, Until next Shabbat.

So I am wondering — were the angels still in the room when the gates of hell opened and a terrorist emerged, lusting for Jewish blood? Did the angels witness that monster butcher the father, the son, and the daughter? Did the angels hear the screams of the gravely injured mother? Did they feel the terror of the children hiding in a bedroom? Did they smell the metallic tang emanating from a kitchen drenched in blood? Did they sense the quaking, the convulsion of cosmic order when the innocent are murdered?

And when, at last, they returned to the Most High, were the angels still weeping?¹
In memory of Yossi (70), Chaya (46) and Elad (36) Salomon HY"D.

Pirkei Avos 4:16

ַרַבִּי יַעֲקֹב אוֹמֵר, הָעוֹלֶם הַזֶּה דּוֹמֶה לִפְרוֹּזְדוֹר בִּפְנֵי הָעוֹלֶם הַבָּא. הַתְּקֵן עַצְמְךֶ בַפְּרוֹּזְדוֹר, כְּדֵי שֶׁתִּכָּנֵס לַשָּׁרַקְלִיו

Bereishis 43:24-34

ַנִיבָא הַאַישׁ אֶת־הַאַנַשִּׁים בַּיתַה יוֹסֶף וַיִּתֶּן־מַּיִם וַיִּרְחַצְוּ רַגְלֵיהֶם וַיִּתָן מִסְפְּוֹא לַחַמְרֵיהָם:

ַוַיּלִינוּ אֶת־הַמִּנְחֶה עַד־בְּוֹא יוֹסֶף בָּצָהֶרַיִם כִּי שָׁמְעוּ כִּי־שָׁם יִאֹכְלוּ לָחֶם:

ַ**וַיִּבָא יוֹסֵף הַבַּּיִתָה** וַיִּבִיאוּ לֶוֹ אֶת־הַמִּנְחָה אֲשֶׁר־בְּיָדֶם הַבְּּיְתָה וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲווּ־לְוֹ אָרְצָה:

ָוִישְׁאַל לָהֶם ֹ לְשָׁלוֹם וַיֹּאמֶר הֲשָׁלֶוֹם אֲבִיכֶם הַזָּקֶן אֲשֵׁר אֲמַרְתָּם הַעוֹדָנוּ חָי

וַנִישָּתַחוו] [וַיִשְּתַחוו] עוֹדַנוּ חַי וַיִּקְדוּ (וישתחו)

וַיּשַּׂא עֵינִִיו <u>ו</u>ֿיִּרְא אֶת־בִּנְיָמִין אָחִיוֹ בֶּן־אִמּוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר הֲזֶה אֲחִיכֵּם הַקַּטֹׁן אֲשֶׁר אֲמַרְתָּם אֵלֶי וַיֹּאמֵּר אֱלֹהִים יַחִנְךָ בִּנִי:

וַיָּבֶקּשׁ לָבְכָּוֹת וַיִּבָּא הַחַדְרֵה וַיִּבְּךָּ שַׁמַה: וַיָּבֶקּשׁ לִבְכָּוֹת וַיִּבָא הַחַדְרֵה וַיִּבְךָּ שַׁמַה:

ַוַּיְרְחָץ פָּנָיו וַיִּצָא וַיִּתְאַפַּׁק וַיִּאמֶר שִׂימוּ לָחֶם:

ַנִיּשִּׂימוּ לֶוֹ לְבַדָּוֹ וְלָהֶם לְבַדֶּם וְלַמִּצְרִّים הָאֹכְלַים אִתּוֹ לְבַדָּם כִּי゚ לֹא יוּכְלוּוְ הַמִּצְרִים לֶאֶכַּל אֶת־הָעִבְרִים ׁ לֶּחֶם כִּי־תוֹעֵבָה הָוא לְמִצְרֵיִם:

ָוַיּשְׁבַוּ לְפָּנָיו הַבְּכֹר בִּבְּכַרָתוֹ וְהַצָּעָיר בִּצְעָרָתוֹ וַיִּתְמְהָוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים אִישׁ אֶל־רֵעָהוּ:

וַיּשָּׂא מַשְּׂאֹת מֵאַת פָּנָיוֹ אֲלֵהֶם וַתִּרֶב מַשְּׂאָת בִּנְיָמֶן מִמַשְׂאָת כָּלֶּם חָמֲשׁ יָדֻוֹת וַיִּשְׁתָּוּ וַיִּשְׁכְּרָוּ עִמְוֹ:

Rashi

הביתה. מִפְּרוֹזְדּוֹר לִטְרַקְלִין

¹ http://blogs.timesofisrael.com/this-shabbat-the-angels-wept/