

*Eichah / Lament for the Earth: Tisha B'Av 2010 on US Capitol steps*  
*By Tamara Cohen*

Eicha: Alas, she sits in danger.  
Earth, home to multitudes,  
like a beloved, deep in distress.

Deep waters, source of life --  
Endangered and imprisoned.

Bitterly she weeps in the night  
Her rivers wet with tears.  
Of all her friends, none to comfort her;  
All her allies have betrayed her.

Butterflies  
flee their homes;  
Polar bears  
can find no rest.  
Because our greed has heated Earth.

Farms poisoned, cities threatened.  
Planet scorched, burning in drought and famine.  
Lives shortened, dreams narrowed.  
The young of every species,  
captive to our conceit.

Earth's children – now her enemies;  
Despite destruction, we sleep at ease.  
The Breath of Life grieves  
our transgressions.

Hashivenu Yahn elecha v'nashuva, hadesh yameinu kekedem.  
Let us return, help us repent,  
You Who Breathe all Life;  
Breathe us, Breathe us,  
Breathe us into a new path--  
Help us, Help us,  
Help us Turn to a new way of living  
Make–new, Make -new,  
Our world of life intertwining –  
Splendor, beauty, joy in our love for each life-form.