

(What it means to be) Free (L. Karol – Copyright 2/8/2013)  
Updated 5/21/2016

It's not where we come from  
It's not the color of our skin  
or just the faiths we live by  
That make us American  
It's how we treasure one another  
It's what we do, the way we live  
It's working for equality  
That makes us American

CHORUS:

So bless this land with justice  
Bless the people with compassion  
Make us proud of what we can be  
We are neighbors, we are dreamers  
Still learning together  
What it means to be free, what it means to be free

It's not the closing of our borders  
It's not the fear of the unknown  
It's not hatred in our hearts  
That makes us American.  
It's looking out for each other  
It's holding out a helping hand  
It's a pioneering spirit  
That makes us American. CHORUS

Will this land of opportunity  
still fulfill its promise?  
Wise voices leading us to change  
make us American  
We're a rainbow of community when all is said and done  
Our nation's founders put it best - Out of many One  
CHORUS

L'chulam (Larry Karol - Copyright 2017)  
Based on Pirkei Avot 4:3 and a quote by Martin Buber

With your hands, you could touch the sky  
As you grow, feel the years rush by  
With your strength, you'll go far one day  
With your lips, wise words to say  
You are here to be all you can be  
Lift up your eyes to see all you can see

לְכֹל דָּבָר יֵשׁ מְקוֹם לְכוֹלָם יֵשׁ שָׁעָה,  
L'chol Davar yaysh makom - L'chulam yaysh shaah  
[Everything has a place, all people have their time]  
There's not a soul in time or space  
Who will ever take your place

Take your hopes and give them wings  
Lead your mind to learn everything you can  
Take your heart and teach it love  
Set your sights on the shining stars above

You are here to be all you can be  
Lift up your eyes to see all you can see

לְכֹל דָּבָר יֵשׁ מְקוֹם לְכוֹלָם יֵשׁ שָׁעָה,  
L'chol Davar yaysh makom - L'chulam yaysh shoah  
There's not a soul in time or space who will ever take your place

אַל תְּהִי בֹז לְכֹל אָדָם, וְאַל תְּהִי מַפְלִיג לְכֹל דָּבָר  
Al t'hi vaz l'chol adam v'al t'hi maflig l'chol davar  
[Do not despise anyone or call anything useless]  
There are treasures to be found wherever you are

לְכֹל דָּבָר יֵשׁ מְקוֹם לְכוֹלָם יֵשׁ שָׁעָה,  
L'chol Davar yaysh makom - L'chulam yaysh shaah  
There's not a soul in time or space who will ever take your place  
There's not a soul in time or space who will ever take your place

Or Lay'sharim - Light for the Upright (Psalm 112) -  
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Don't be afraid of darkness around you  
Open your eyes to see a glimmer of light  
Don't seek refuge in a shelter of silence  
Your words will return in the stillness of night  
There's a place for compassion  
To bring the world justice  
There's a reason to give and hold out your hand  
For it's not by strength and not by power  
By spirit, this world will stand! (Zechariah 4:6)

CHORUS:

Zarach bachoshech or lay'sharim - Darkness cannot drive out darkness  
Chanun v'rachum v'tzadik - Only love can drive out hatred  
(Light rises in the darkness for the upright; gracious, merciful and just Psalm  
112:4)

There are stories to bring us together  
If we could imagine every sight, every sound  
There are moments to speak  
and others to listen  
Can't you hear the walls tumbling down?  
There's a place for compassion  
To bring the world justice  
There's a reason to give and hold out your hand  
For it's not by strength and not by power  
But by spirit that this world will stand - CHORUS

Haam ha-holchim bachoshech Ra-u or gadol  
(The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light -  
Isaiah 9:1)  
Share your wisdom, sing your song  
From the depths of your heart and your soul  
CHORUS

(Included is a paraphrase of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s statement:  
Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.  
Hatred cannot drive out hatred; only love can do that.)

Hak'shivah (Listen to my prayer) - Psalm 61 - Larry Karol

שְׁמַעַה אֱלֹהִים רִנָּתִי הִקְשִׁיבָה תְּפִלָּתִי  
CHORUS: Shim'ah Elohim rinati - Hak'shivah t'filati  
[Hear my cry, O God; attend to my prayer]

מִקְצֵה הָאָרֶץ | אֲלֵיךְ אֶקְרָא בְּעֵטֶף לִבִּי  
בְּצוּר־יְרוּסִים, בְּצוּר־יְרוּסִים מִמְּנֵי תִנְחַנֵּי  
Mik'tzay ha-a-retz eilecha ek-ra ba-a-tof libi  
B'tzur yarom, b'tzur yarum mimeni tan-cheini - CHORUS  
[From the end of the earth I will cry to you, when my heart is faint;  
lead me to the rock that is too high for me]

אֲגוּרָה בְּאֶהְלֶךְ עוֹלָמִים אֲחֶסֶה בְּסֶתֶר כְּנָפֶיךָ  
אֲגוּרָה בְּאֶהְלֶךְ עוֹלָמִים אֲחֶסֶה בְּסֶתֶר כְּנָפֶיךָ שְׁלֵחַ  
Agurah b'o-hol-cha olamim echeseh v'seiter k'nafecha  
Agurah b'o-hol-cha olamim echeseh v'seiter k'nafecha - selah  
CHORUS  
[I will abide in your tent for ever; I will trust in the shelter of your wings. Selah]

From the end of the earth, I'll cry to You  
Place your love and your truth beside me  
From the moment I wake, I will sing Your praise forever, forever  
CHORUS  
Hak'shivah t'filati

In Your Hand (B'yadcha) - Larry Karol - Based on Psalm 31  
Will you raise me up when I stumble and fall?  
When uncertain times overtake me, will you hear me call?  
When I face my fears alone, grant me space to make my stand  
When my strength eludes me, Shine your light in my eyes  
Take my spirit in Your hand

Chorus:

בְּיָדְךָ אֶפְקֵיד רִוְחִי יְהוָה בְּךָ חָסִיתִי

B'yadcha afkid ruchi Adonai v'cha chasiti

הָאֵירָה פָּנֶיךָ עָלַי עַבְדְּךָ וְהוֹשִׁיעֵנִי

Hairah fanecha al avdecha v'hoshiaynee

(Into Your hand I commend my spirit; Eternal One, I trust in You;  
Shine Your face upon your servant and save me).

Through the seasons of my life, Your truth has been my guide  
When cries of anger and hatred surround me, You sustain my hope, my pride  
When all these changes are too hard to bear, lead me out of my despair  
When your mercy has finally found me, hold my soul, my heart in your care

CHORUS

Yosheiv b'seiter elyon (Psalm 91) - Larry Karol - 6/9/2016

CHORUS

Yosheiv b'seiter elyon b'tzeil shaddai yit-lonan

יֵשֵׁב בְּסֵתֶר עֲלִיוֹן בְּצֶל שְׁדַי יִתְלוֹן

Omar ladonai machsi u-m'tzudati

אֲמַר לַיהוָה מַחְסֵי וּמְצוּדָתִי

Elohai ev-tach bo

אֱלֹהֵי אֲבֹטַח-בּוֹ:

[Whoever resides in the secret place of the Most High, abides in the shadow of Shaddai, Almighty God. This I say to Adonai: "You are my haven and my fortress, My god in whom I trust.]

B'ev-rato yasech lach v'tachhat k'nafav tech'seh

בְּאֲבֹרָתוֹ יִסְךְ לְךָ וְתַחַת כְּנָפָיו תִּחָסֶה

Tzinah v'socheirah amito

צִנָּה וְסִחְרָה אֲמִתּוֹ:

[God grants people refuge beneath the divine wings by covering them with a divine pinion,

the God whose truth is both shield and armor.]

CHORUS

יִפֹּל מִצְדָּךָ אֶלֶף וּרְבָבָה מִיְמִינֶךָ

Yipol mi-tzid'cha elef u-r'vavah miy'minecha

אֶלֶיךָ לֹא יִגַּשׁ, אֶלֶיךָ לֹא יִגַּשׁ

Eilecha lo yigash - eilecha lo yigash

[A thousand will fall by your side, perhaps even ten thousand are your right side, but the plague shall not touch you at all.]

CHORUS

Shelter me, My God, I will trust in You

You are my refuge and my shield forever

CHORUS

אֱלֹהֵי אֲבֹטַח-בּוֹ: Elohai ev-tach bo