Thanksgiving

by Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi

In the days of the Pilgrims,

the Puritans,

when they arrived

at these safe shores,

יְסָבְלוּ רָעָב וָקוֹר suffered hunger and cold.

דְנָשְׁאוּ רְנָה וּתְפִּילָה They sang and prayed

to the Rock

ישועהם of their Salvation.

אמְדְתָּ לָהֵם And You,

standing by them

roused וְעוֹרֵרָתַּ חֵמְלַת

the caring הַתּוֹשָׁבִים

of the Natives for them:

יהאבילום מזון, who fed them,

turkey & corn

וְכָל מַעֲדָנִים and other delights.

Thus saved You

them from starvation,

יהֶרְאֵתָ לָהֶם דַרְבֵּי and they learned the ways

of peace שַׁלוֹם

with עָב

the inhabitants of the land.

על כֵּן בְּרִגְשֵׁי תוֹדָה Therefore feeling grateful

they dedicated

a day of Thanksgiving

each year שָׁנָה וְשָׁנַה

as a remembrance

for future generations,

וּמֵאֲכִילִים סְעוּדוֹת feeding unfortunates

feasts of thanks.

דוב אנו מוֹדִים לְּדְּ Thus do we thank You

for all the good

in our lives,

אל ההודאות God of kindness,

Lord of Peace,

thus we do thank You.