

# צדוק הדין

TZIDDUK HA-DIN

*Funeral Service  
and Service for the Consecration  
of a Memorial*

liberal  judaism



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## Meditations

Thus says the Eternal God: A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more. Thus says the Eternal God: Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears. There is hope for your future, says the Eternal God.

Jeremiah

Rabbi Simeon said: There are three crowns: the crown of learning, the crown of priesthood, and the crown of royalty; but the crown of a good name excels them all.

Pirkey Avot

### Give us the Vision

Shall we cry out in anger, O God,  
Because Your gifts are ours but for a while?  
Shall we be ungrateful for the moments of laughter,  
The seasons of joy, the days of gladness and festivity,  
When tears cloud our eyes and darken the world  
And our heart is heavy within us?  
Shall we blot from mind the love  
We have known and in which we have rejoiced  
When a fate beyond our understanding takes from us  
Friends and kin whom we have cherished, and leaves us  
Bereft of shining presences that have lit our way  
Through years of companionship and affection?

Give us the vision, O God, to see and feel  
That embedded deep in each of Your gifts  
Is a core of eternity, undiminished and bright,  
An eternity that survives the dread hours  
Of affliction and misery.

Those we have loved, though now beyond our view,  
Have given form and quality to our being.  
They have led us into the wide universe  
We continue to inhabit, and their presence  
Is more vital to us than their absence.

Rabbi Morris Adler

The death of those close to our hearts grieves and humbles us. It devastates our lives, lives that once were filled with the warmth of their presence. It reminds us that we must all die, even the most humble and righteous among us. And yet we know that life does not end at the grave; the soul lives on.

How, then, do we accept the reality of death? By remembering the goodness of our loved ones and by shaping our lives after their example. For the memory of the righteous is truly a blessing, an inspiration for all our days. May our lives be worthy of their memory, always.

From *Siddur V'taheir Libeinu*, Congregation Beth El of the Sudbury River Valley

## A Parable of the Dubner Maggid

A king once owned a large, beautiful, pure diamond of which he was justly proud, for it had no equal anywhere. One day the diamond accidentally sustained a deep scratch.

The king called in the most skilled diamond cutters and offered them a great reward if they could remove the imperfection from his treasured jewel. But none could repair the blemish and the king was sorely distressed.

After some time a new stone cutter came to the king and promised to make the diamond even more beautiful than it had been before. The king was impressed by his confidence and entrusted the stone to his care. And the man kept his word. With superb artistry he engraved a lovely rosebud around the imperfection and he used the scratch to make the stem.

We can emulate that diamond cutter. When life bruises us and wounds us, we can use even the scratches to create something of beauty and worth.

### Accept the Judgment

Accept the judgment, O humbled heart,  
Accept the judgment this time, too,  
Without struggle, without wrath.

High in the north, snow covered fields  
Conceal the grain ripening  
Secretly, silently.

O humbled heart, bear your wintry fate  
And be like those seeds  
That wait for summer.

Rachel

## Is It Really the End?

Is it really the end? The path is still clear,  
The mists of life still beckon from afar  
The sky is still blue, the grass is green;  
Autumn is coming.

I shall accept the judgment. My heart harbours no  
complaint.  
How red were my sunsets, how clear my dawn!  
And flowers smiled along my path  
As I passed.

Rachel

## A Woman of Valour

A woman of valour, who can find? She is more precious  
than fine pearls.

Her husband trusts in her, and so he lacks nothing;  
She does him good, never harm, all the days of her life.

She perceives that her labour is rewarding; her candle  
burns on into the night.

She reaches out to those in need, and extends her hands  
to the poor.

She is clothed in strength and dignity, and she faces the  
future cheerfully.

She speaks with wisdom; the law of kindness is on her  
lips.

Her children rise up and bless her; her husband sings her  
praises.

Many daughters have done valiantly, but you excel them  
all.

After Proverbs 31

## In the Rising of the Sun

In the rising of the sun and in its going down,  
we remember them.

In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,  
we remember them;

In the opening of buds and in the rebirth of spring,  
we remember them;

In the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of autumn,  
we remember them;

In the beginning of the year and when it ends,  
we remember them;

When we are weary and in need of strength,  
we remember them;

When we are lost and sick at heart,  
we remember them;

When we have joys we yearn to share,  
we remember them;

So long as we live, they too shall live  
for they are now a part of us, as  
we remember them.



## Funeral Service

Eternal God, what are we,  
that You take notice of us?  
What are we, that You  
consider us? We are like a  
breath, our days are as a  
passing shadow.

We are strangers before  
You, sojourners as all our  
ancestors were; our days on  
earth are as a shadow, and  
there is no abiding.

From Psalm 90

Eternal One, You have  
been our refuge in all  
generations.

Before the mountains  
were born, or earth and  
universe brought forth,  
from eternity to eternity  
You are God.

A thousand years in Your  
sight are but as yesterday  
when it is past, or as a  
watch in the night.

יְהוָה, מִה־אָדָם וַתִּדְעֵהוּ;  
בֶּן־אָנוּשׁ וַתַּחַשְׁבֵהוּ?  
אָדָם לְהֶכֶל דָּמָה,  
יָמָיו כְּצֵל עוֹבֵר.

כִּי גֵרִים אָנַחְנוּ לְפָנֶיךָ,  
וַתּוֹשֵׁבִים כְּכֹל־אֲבוֹתֵינוּ,  
כְּצֵל יָמֵינוּ עַל־הָאָרֶץ, וְאֵין  
מְקוֹנָה.

אֲדַנִּי, מֵעוֹן אַתָּה הָיִיתָ לָנוּ  
בְּדֹר וָדֹר.

בְּטָרַם הָרִים יִלְדוּ,  
וַתַּחֲוִלֵל אֶרֶץ וַתִּבֵּל,  
וַיַּעֲוִלֵם עַד־עוֹלָם אַתָּה  
אֵל.

כִּי אֶלְף שָׁנִים בְּעֵינֶיךָ  
כְּיוֹם אַתְּמוּל כִּי יַעֲבֹר,  
וְאַשְׁמֹרֶה בְּלִילָהּ.

You sweep us away; we are like a dream, like grass which springs up in the morning:

In the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

Our years come to an end like a sigh.

Whether our days be many or few, how little we achieve by our labours! Our lives soon end, and we depart.

So teach us to number our days, that we may acquire a heart of wisdom.

Satisfy us with Your kindness in the morning, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Gladden us according to the days You have afflicted us, and the years in which we have seen evil.

זָרַמְתָּם; שִׁנָּה יְהִיו,  
בַּבֶּקֶר כַּחצִיר יַחֲלֶף:

בַּבֶּקֶר יִצְיֵץ וְחֲלֶף,  
לְעֶרֶב יִמּוּלֵל וַיִּבֶשׁ.

כְּלִינוּ שָׁנֵינוּ כְּמוֹ-הֶגְהָה.

יְמֵי שְׁנוֹתֵינוּ בָהֶם שְׁבָעִים  
שָׁנָה, וְאִם בְּגִבּוֹרֵת שְׁמוֹנִים  
שָׁנָה, וְרַהֲבָם עֲמַל וְאוֹן,  
כִּי-גַז חִישׁ וַנִּעְפָּה:

לְמַנּוֹת יִמֵּינוּ כִּן הוֹדַע,  
וְנִבֵּא לְבָב חֲכָמָה.

שְׁבַעֲנוּ בַּבֶּקֶר חֲסֵדְךָ,  
וַנְרַנֶּנֶה וְנִשְׂמָחָה  
בְּכָל-יְמֵינוּ.

שִׂמְחָנוּ כִּימוֹת עֲנִיתָנוּ,  
שְׁנוֹת רָאִינוּ רָעָה.

Let Your servants behold  
Your works, and their  
children come to see Your  
glory.

Let Your favour, Eternal  
One, our God, rest upon us,  
and may our work have  
lasting value. O may the  
work of our hands endure.

From Psalm 91

Those who dwell in the  
shelter of the Most High  
shall abide in the shadow of  
the Almighty. They will say  
to the Eternal One: You are  
my refuge and my  
stronghold, my God in  
whom I trust. You cover me  
with Your wings, and  
shelter me under Your care.  
Your truth is my shield and  
my protection. I will not fear  
the terror of the night, or  
the dangers of the day. For  
You, Eternal One, are my  
refuge; O God Most High,  
You are my dwelling place.

יִרְאֶה אֱלֹהֵי עַבְדֶּיךָ פְּעֻלָּתוֹ,  
וְהִדְרֶיךָ עַל־בְּנֵיהֶם.

וְיִהְיֶה נֶעֱמַם אֲדֹנָי אֱלֹהֵינוּ  
עָלֵינוּ, וּמַעֲשֵׂה יְדֵינוּ  
כּוֹנֵנָה עָלֵינוּ. וּמַעֲשֵׂה  
יְדֵינוּ כּוֹנֵנָהוּ.

יֵשֵׁב בְּסִתְרֵךְ עֲלִיּוֹן בְּצִל  
שְׁדֵי יִתְלוֹנֵן.  
אָמַר לַיהוָה: "מַחְסֵי  
וּמְצוּדֹתַי אֱלֹהֵי  
אֲבֹטְחָבוּ."  
בְּאַבְרָתוֹ יִסָּךְ לְךָ  
וְתַחַת־כְּנָפָיו תִּחְסֶה.  
צָנָה וְסַחֲרָה אָמְתוֹ.  
לֹא תִירָא מִפֶּחַד לַיְלָה,  
מִחַץ יְעוֹף יוֹמָם,  
כִּי־אַתָּה יְהוָה מַחְסֵי עֲלִיּוֹן  
שְׁמֹתָ מְעוֹנָךְ.

## מִמַּעְמָקִים קָרָאתֶיךָ יְהוָה: אֲדַנִּי שְׁמַעָה בְּקוֹלִי.

Out of the depths we cry to You, O God—hearken to our voice. The mysteries of life and death are beyond our understanding. As the heavens are exalted above the earth, so are Your ways exalted above our ways, and Your thoughts above ours.

Teach us even when we walk through the valley of the shadow of death to trust in Your providence, and to reaffirm our faith in Your righteousness.

הַצּוֹר תָּמִים פָּעֵלוּ, כִּי כָל-דַּרְכָּיו מְשֻׁפָּט.  
אֵל אֱמוּנָה, וְאֵין עוֹל, צְדִיק וַיֵּשֶׁר הוּא.

הַצּוֹר תָּמִים בְּכָל-פְּעֵל,  
מִי יֹאמֶר לוֹ, "מָה תַפְעֵל?"

הַצּוֹר תָּמִים בְּכָל-מַעֲשֵׂה.  
מִי יֹאמֶר אֵלָיו, "מָה תַעֲשֵׂה?"

צְדִיק אַתָּה יי לְהַמַּת וּלְהַחִיֹּת,  
אֲשֶׁר בִּידְךָ פְּקֻדוֹן כָּל-רוּחוֹת.

אָדָם אִם בֶּן-שָׁנָה יִהְיֶה אוֹ אֶלֶף שָׁנִים יִחְיֶה  
מָה יִתְרוֹן לוֹ? כֹּלָּא הִיָּה יִהְיֶה

יִדְעֵנוּ, יי, כִּי צָדֵק מְשֻׁפָּטִיךָ,  
תִּצְדֵּק בְּדַבְּרֶךָ, וּתְזַכֶּה בְּשִׁפְטֶךָ,

וְאֵין לְהַרְהֵר אַחַר מִדַּת שִׁפְטֶךָ.  
צְדִיק אַתָּה, יי, וַיֵּשֶׁר מְשֻׁפָּטִיךָ.

You are righteous, O God our Rock, and all Your ways are just. You are a faithful God, righteous and just and without iniquity. Who may question Your work? Who can understand the mysteries of Your ways? In Your love You give us life, and in Your wisdom You bring death to all. But in life and death alike, our souls are in Your hand, for You are a God of infinite compassion. We are frail and weak, and our life on earth is only a span. But Your love for us never fails; it endures throughout eternity. Even in our sorrow we praise Your name, saying together:

Baruch Da-yan Ha-Emet.

ברוך דַּיַן הָאֱמֶת.

Let the true Judge be praised.

Unending is Your might, Eternal One; You are the Source of eternal life; great is Your power to redeem.

אַתָּה גְבוּר לְעוֹלָם, אֲדֹנָי,  
מְחַיֶּה מֵתִים אַתָּה, רַב  
לְהוֹשִׁיעַ.

In Your love You sustain the living; in Your compassion You grant us eternal life. Your support the falling and heal the sick; You free the captive and keep faith with those who sleep in the dust.

מְכַלְכֵּל חַיִּים בְּחַסֵּד,  
מְחַיֶּה מֵתִים בְּרַחֲמִים  
רַבִּים.

סוּמְךָ נוֹפְלִים וְרוֹפֵא  
חוֹלִים וּמַתִּיר אֲסוּרִים,  
וּמְקִיִּים אֲמוֹנָתוֹ לִישְׁנֵי  
עָפָר.

Who is like You, Source of all strength? Who is Your equal, sovereign Author of life and death, whose will it is that goodness shall prevail?

מִי כְמוֹךָ, בְּעַל גְּבוּרוֹת,  
וּמִי דוֹמֶה לָךְ, מֶלֶךְ יְמִית  
וּמְחַיֶּה וּמְצַמֵּיחַ יְשׁוּעָה?

Trusting in You, we see life beyond death.

וְנֶאֱמָן אֶתְּךָ לְהַחַיּוֹת  
מֵתִים.

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no evil shall touch them. To those without insight their death seems final, and their departure a calamity. But they are at peace, and though we may think they have been punished, their hope is full of immortality.

O God, full of compassion, exalted God, God of forgiveness, gracious and merciful, abundantly patient and full of love, grant perfect rest under the wings of Your presence, to the soul of . . . . . who has gone to his eternal home. Merciful God, remember his merits and righteous deeds which he performed on earth. Open for him the gates of righteousness and light, of compassion and grace. Shelter him for ever under your loving care, and let his soul be bound up in the bond of eternal life. May his destiny be with You, and may he rest in peace; and let us say: Amen.

אֵל מְלֵא רַחֲמִים, שׁוֹכֵן  
בְּמַרוּמִים, אֱלֹהֵי סְלִיחוֹת,  
חַנוּן וְרַחוּם, אֲרוּךְ אַפַּיִם  
וְרַב חֶסֶד, הַמַּצֵּא כַפָּרַת  
פְּשָׁע וְהַקְרֵב יֵשַׁע  
וּמְנוּחָה נְכוֹנָה תַּחַת כַּנְּפֵי  
הַשְּׂכִינָה אֶת־נַשְׁמַת . . . .  
שְׁהַלֵּךְ לְעוֹלָמוֹ. אָנָּה בְּעַל  
הַרְחָמִים זְכָרָה לּוֹ לְטוֹבָה  
כָּל־זְכוּיָתָיו וְצַדִּיקוֹתָיו  
בְּאַרְצוֹת הַחַיִּים. וּפָתַח לוֹ  
שַׁעְרֵי צֶדֶק וְאוֹרָה, שַׁעְרֵי  
חַמְלָה וְחַנּוּנִיָּה. בְּסֶטֶר  
כַּנְּפֵיךָ תִסְתַּיְרָהוּ  
לְעוֹלָמִים. וְצָרוּר בְּצָרוּר  
הַחַיִּים אֶת־נַשְׁמָתוֹ. יי  
הוּא נַחֲלָתוֹ, וַיָּנוּחַ בְּשָׁלוֹם  
עַל מִשְׁכְּבוֹ, וְנֹאמַר אָמֵן.

O God, full of compassion, exalted God, God of forgiveness, gracious and merciful, abundantly patient and full of love, grant perfect rest under the wings of Your presence, to the soul of . . . . . who has gone to her eternal home. Merciful God, remember her merits and righteous deeds which she performed on earth. Open for her the gates of righteousness and light, of compassion and grace. Shelter her for ever under your loving care, and let her soul be bound up in the bond of eternal life. May her destiny be with You, and may she rest in peace; and let us say: Amen.

אל מלא רחמים, שוכן  
במרומים, אלה סליחות,  
חנון ורחום, ארך אפים  
ורב חסד, המצא כפרת  
פשע והקרבת ישע ומנוחה  
נכונה תחת כנפי השכינה  
את־נשמת . . . . .  
שהלכה לעולמה. אנא  
בעל הרחמים זכרה לה  
לטובה כל־זכותיה  
וצדקותיה בארצות החיים.  
ופתח לה שערי צדק  
ואורה, שערי חמלה  
וחנינה. בסתר כנפיד  
תסתירה לעולמים. וצרור  
בצרור החיים את־נשמתה.  
יי הוא נחלתה, ותנוח  
בשלום על משכבה, ונאמר  
אמן.



Eternal God, You are my Shepherd; I shall not want. You make me lie down in green pastures. You lead me beside still waters. You restore my soul; You guide me in paths of righteousness for Your name's sake. Even when I walk in the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me. Your rod and Your staff: they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely, goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in Your house, Eternal God, for ever.

יְהוָה רֹעִי, לֹא אֶחְסָר.  
 בְּנֵאוֹת דְּשֵׁא יִרְבִּיצָנִי,  
 עַל־מֵי מְנַחֹת יִנְהַלֵּנִי.  
 נַפְשִׁי יִשׁוּבָב; יִנְחֵנִי  
 בְּמַעְגְלֵי־צֶדֶק לְמַעַן  
 שְׁמוֹ. גַּם כִּי־אֵלֶךְ בְּגֵיא  
 צַלְמוֹת לֹא־אִירָא רָע,  
 כִּי־אַתָּה עִמָּדִי: שִׁבְטֶךָ  
 וּמִשְׁעַנְתֶּךָ, הִמָּה יִנְחַמֵּנִי.  
 תַּעֲרֹךְ לִפְנֵי שְׁלַחַן נֶגֶד  
 צִרְרֵי, דִּשְׁנַת בִּשְׁמֶן  
 רֹאשִׁי, כּוֹסֵי רוּיָהּ. אֵךְ  
 טוֹב וַחֲסֵד יִרְדְּפוּנִי  
 כָּל־יְמֵי חַיִּי, וְשִׁבְתִּי  
 בְּבַיִת־יְהוָה לְאָרְךָ יָמִים.

We are mortal and our days are as grass. We flourish like a flower in the field: the wind passes over it and it is gone, and its place knows it no more: but God's love endures for ever. The dust returns to the earth as it was, but the spirit returns to God who gave it.

In humble submission to God's will, and with abiding gratitude for the life of . . . . ., we say together:

יִי נָתַן וַיִּי לָקַח, יְהִי שֵׁם יְיָ מְבֹרָךְ.

God has given, and God has taken away; may God's name be praised.

May he come to his rest in peace.

עַל מְקוֹמוֹ יָבֵא בְּשָׁלוֹם.

May she come to her rest in peace.

עַל מְקוֹמָהּ תָּבֵא בְּשָׁלוֹם.

Cast your burden upon God; let the Eternal One sustain you.

הַשְׁלִיךְ עַל-יְהוָה יְהִיבְךָ וְהוּא יְכַלְכְּלֶךָ.

For You, O God, are near to all who seek You; to all who seek You in truth.

קָרוֹב יְהוָה לְכָל-קֹרְאָיו לְכֹל אֲשֶׁר יִקְרָאֵהוּ בְּאֵמֶת.

As a father has compassion on his children, so I, the Eternal One, have compassion on those who revere Me.

כְּרַחֵם אָב עַל-בְּנָיִם רַחֵם יְהוָה עַל-יִרְאָיו.

As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you.

כְּאִשׁ אֲשֶׁר אָמוּ תִנְחַמְנֵנוּ כֵּן אֲנִכִי אֲנַחֵמְכֶם.

Be strong, and let your heart take courage: all who trust in God.

חֲזִקוּ וַיֵּאמֵן לְבַבְכֶם כֹּל-הַמֵּיחָלִים לַיהוָה.

I lift up my eyes towards  
the hills:

Where shall I look for help?

My help comes from the  
Eternal One,  
Maker of heaven and earth.

You will not lose your  
foothold,  
for your Guardian does  
not slumber.

The Guardian of Israel  
neither slumbers nor sleeps.

Your God watches over  
you,  
and is your shade close by.  
The sun will not hurt you  
by day,  
nor the moon by night.

The Eternal one shields  
you from evil,  
and shelters your soul.

The Everpresent God will  
guard your coming in and  
your going out,  
Now and always.

אָשָׂא עֵינַי אֶל־הַהָרִים:

מֵאֵינן יבֹא עֲזָרִי?

עֲזָרִי מֵעַם יְהוָה,

עֹשֵׂה שָׁמַיִם וָאָרֶץ.

אֵל־יִתֵּן לְמוֹט רַגְלִי,

אֵל־יָנוּם שֹׁמְרִי.

הִנֵּה לֹא יָנוּם וְלֹא יִישָׁן

שׁוֹמֵר יִשְׂרָאֵל.

יְהוָה שֹׁמְרִי,

יְהוָה צִלְּךָ עַל־יַד יְמִינֲךָ.

יוֹמָם הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ לֹא־יַכְכָּה,

וַיַּרְחַ בַּלַּיְלָה.

יְהוָה יִשְׁמְרֶךָ מִכָּל־רָע,

יִשְׁמַר אֶת־נַפְשֶׁךָ.

יְהוָה יִשְׁמַר־צֵאתְךָ

וּבואֶךָ,

מֵעַתָּה וְעַד־עוֹלָם.

Source of Eternity, we thank You for the hope of immortal life, and for the power to love, which is stronger than death. It keeps ever fresh our memories of those who have lived, and enshrines their spirits in our hearts. May our remembrance of . . . . . comfort, help and bless us, now and in the years to come. O God, in humble submission to Your will, and taught by our tradition to praise You in times of sorrow as well as in times of joy, we hallow Your name, saying:

*Continue with Kaddish*  
*Or*

Death is not the end. Those we love have passed through the gateway of the grave into the peace of eternal life. We know that all of us must tread the same path, though we do not know when the hour may come. Let us so live that the coming of that hour shall find us unafraid. May our deeds do honour to the memory of . . . . . as we turn from the contemplation of death to the tasks of life, saying:

Yitgaddal v'yitkaddash  
sh'meh rabba b'alma di v'ra  
chir'uteh, v'yamlich  
malchuteh b'chay-yeychon  
uv'yomeychon uv'chayyey  
d'chol beyt yisrael ba'agala  
uviz'man kariv v'im'ru:  
amen.

Y'he sh'meh rabba  
m'varach l'alam ul'almeiy  
almayya.

Yitbarach v'yishtabbach,  
v'yitpa'ar v'yitromam  
v'yitnasse, v'yit-haddar  
v'yit'alleh v'yit-hallal  
sh'meh d'kud'sha b'rich  
hu, l'ela min kol bir'chata  
v'shirata, tush-b'chata  
v'nechemata da'amiran  
b'alma, v'im'ru: amen.

Y'he sh'lama rabba min  
sh'mayya v'chayyim aleynu  
v'al kol yisrael, v'imru:  
amen.

Oseh shalom bim'romav  
hu ya'aseh shalom aleynu  
v'al kol yisrael v'al kol b'ney  
adam, v'im'ru: amen.

יִתְגַּדֵּל וְיִתְקַדֵּשׁ שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּה  
בְּעֻלְמָא דִּי-בְרָא כְרַעוּתֵיהּ,  
וְיִמְלִיךְ מַלְכוּתֵיהּ בְּחַיִּיכוּן  
וּבְיוֹמֵיכוּן וּבְחַיֵּי דְכָל-בֵּית  
יִשְׂרָאֵל, בְּעֻגְלָא וּבְזִמְן  
קָרִיב, וְאִמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

יְהֵא שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא מְבָרַךְ  
לְעָלְמָא וְלְעָלְמֵי עָלְמַיָּא.

יִתְבָּרַךְ וְיִשְׁתַּבַּח וְיִתְפָּאֵר  
וְיִתְרוֹמֵם וְיִתְנַשֵּׂא, וְיִתְהַדַּר  
וְיִתְעַלֶּה וְיִתְהַלֵּל שְׁמֵהּ  
דְּקוּדְשָׁא, בְּרִיךְ הוּא, לְעָלְמָא  
מִן-כָּל-בְּרַכְתָּא וְשִׁירְתָּא,  
תְּשַׁבְּחָתָא וְנַחֲמָתָא דְאִמְרִין  
בְּעֻלְמָא, וְאִמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

יְהֵא שְׁלָמָא רַבָּא מִן-שְׁמַיָּא  
וְחַיִּים עָלֵינוּ וְעַל-כָּל-  
יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְאִמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

עֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמְרוֹמָיו, הוּא  
יַעֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ וְעַל-  
כָּל-יִשְׂרָאֵל וְעַל כָּל-בְּנֵי-  
אָדָם, וְאִמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

Magnified and sanctified be the great name of the One by whose will the world was created. May God's rule become effective in your lives, and in the life of the whole House of Israel. May it be so soon, and let us say: Amen.

May God's great name be praised to all eternity.

Blessed and praised; glorified, exalted and extolled; lauded, honoured and acclaimed be the name of the Holy One, who is ever to be praised, though far above the eulogies and songs of praise and consolation that human lips can utter; and let us say: Amen.

May great peace descend from heaven, and abundant life be granted, to us and all Israel, and let us say: Amen.

May the Most High, Source of perfect peace, grant peace to us, to all Israel, and to all humanity, and let us say: Amen.

הַמְּקוֹם יִנְחֵם אֶתְכֶם בְּתוֹךְ שָׂר הָאֲבֵלִים.

May the Eternal God comfort you, and all who mourn.

## Consecration of a Tombstone or other Memorial

From Psalm 8

Eternal One, our God, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!

יְהוָה, אֲדַנְיָנוּ, מִה־אֲדִיר  
שִׁמְךָ בְּכָל־הָאָרֶץ!

You have stamped Your glory upon the Heavens!

אֲשֶׁר תָּנָה הוֹדְךָ  
עַל־הַשָּׁמַיִם!

When I look at the heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars that You have established,

כִּי־אֶרְאֶה שָׁמַיִךְ, מַעֲשֵׂי  
אֲצַבְעֹתֶיךָ, יְרֵחַ  
וְכּוֹכָבִים אֲשֶׁר כּוֹנְנָתָה,

What are we, that You are mindful of us, we mortals, that You care for us?

מִה־אֲנֹשׁ כִּי־תִזְכְּרֵנוּ,  
וּבֶן־אָדָם כִּי־תִפְקֹדֵנוּ?

Yet You have made us little less than divine, and crowned us with glory and honour!

וְתַחֲסֶרְהוּ מֵעַט מֵאֱלֹהִים,  
וְכָבוֹד וְהָדָר תַּעֲטֶרְהוּ!

From Psalm 103

Bless the Eternal One, O my soul, and let my inmost being praise Your holy name, O God. You forgive all our iniquities, and heal all our afflictions.

בְּרַכֵּי נַפְשִׁי אֶת־יְהוָה  
וְכָל־קִרְבֵי אֶת־שֵׁם  
קָדְשׁוֹ. הַסְּלִחַ לְכָל־עֲוֹנוֹתַי  
הֲרֹפֵא לְכָל־תַּחֲלָאִיכִי.

You redeem our life from destruction, and surround us with love and compassion. You are merciful and gracious, abundantly patient and full of love. You do not deal with us according to our sins, or requite us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is Your love for those who revere You. For You know our frailty, and remember that we are dust. We are mortal, and our days are as grass. We flourish like a flower in the field: the wind passes over it and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. But Your love, Eternal God, rests for ever on those who revere You, and Your righteousness extends to future generations if they keep Your covenant and live by your precepts. You make Your throne in the loftiest heights, and Your sovereignty rules over all. Let all Your creatures praise You, throughout the length and breadth of Your realm. Bless the Eternal One, O my soul.

הַגּוֹאֵל מִשַׁחַת חַיִּיכִי  
הַמְעַטְרְכִי חֶסֶד וְרַחֲמִים.  
רַחוּם וְחַנוּן יְהוָה, אַרְךָ  
אַפַּיִם וְרַב־חֶסֶד. לֹא  
כַחֲטָאֵינוּ עָשָׂה לָנוּ וְלֹא  
כַעֲוֹנוֹתֵינוּ גָמַל עָלֵינוּ. כִּי  
כַגְבוֹה שָׁמַיִם עַל־הָאָרֶץ  
גָּבַר חֶסְדּוֹ עַל־יְרֵאָיו.  
כִּי־הוּא יָדַע יִצְרָנוּ, זְכוֹר  
כִּי־עָפָר אֲנַחְנוּ. אֲנוֹשׁ  
כַּחֲצִיר יָמָיו, כַּצִּיץ  
הַשָּׂדֶה כֵּן יִצִּיץ. כִּי רוּחַ  
עָבְרָה־בוּ וְאֵינָנוּ  
וְלֹא־יִכְיָרוּנוּ עוֹד מִקְוָמוֹ.  
וְחֶסֶד יְהוָה מֵעוֹלָם  
וְעַד־עוֹלָם עַל־יְרֵאָיו  
וְצִדְקָתוֹ לְבָנֵי בָנִים.  
לְשִׁמְרֵי בְרִיתוֹ וּלְזִכְרֵי  
פְקָדָיו לַעֲשׂוֹתָם. יְהוָה  
בְּשָׁמַיִם הִכִּין כִּסְאוֹ  
וּמְלָכוּתוֹ בְּכָל־מְשָׁלָה.  
בָּרְכוּ יְהוָה כָּל־מַעֲשָׂיו  
בְּכָל־מְקוֹמוֹת מְמִשְׁלָתוֹ,  
בְּרַכִּי נַפְשִׁי אֶת־יְהוָה.



Unending is Your might,  
Eternal One; You are the  
Source of eternal life; great  
is Your power to redeem.

In Your love You sustain  
the living; in Your  
compassion You grant us  
eternal life. You support the  
falling and heal the sick;  
You free the captive and  
keep faith with those who  
sleep in the dust.

Who is like You, Source of  
all strength? Who is Your  
equal, sovereign Author of  
life and death, whose will it  
is that goodness shall  
prevail?

Trusting in You, we see  
life beyond death.

אַתָּה גְבוּר לְעוֹלָם, אֲדֹנָי,  
מַחֲיָה מֵתִים אֶתָּה, רַב  
לְהוֹשִׁיעַ.

מְכַלְכֵּל חַיִּים בְּחַסֵּד,  
מַחֲיָה מֵתִים בְּרַחֲמִים  
רַבִּים.

סוּמְךָ נוֹפְלִים וְרוֹפֵא  
חוֹלִים וּמַתִּיר אֲסוּרִים,  
וּמְקַיֵּם אַמּוֹנָתוֹ לִישׁוּנֵי  
עָפָר.

מִי כְמוֹךָ בְּעַל גְּבוּרוֹת,  
וּמִי דוֹמָה לָךְ, מֶלֶךְ יַמִּית  
וּמַחְיָה וּמַצְמִיחַ יְשׁוּעָה?

וְנֶאֱמַן אֶתָּה לְהַחְיֹת  
מֵתִים.

I lift up my eyes towards  
the hills:

Where shall I look for help?

My help comes from the  
Eternal One,  
Maker of heaven and earth.

You will not lose your  
foothold,  
for your Guardian does  
not slumber.

The Guardian of Israel  
neither slumbers nor sleeps.

Your God watches over  
you,  
and is your shade close by.  
The sun will not hurt you  
by day,  
nor the moon by night.

The Eternal one shields  
you from evil,  
and shelters your soul.

The Everpresent God will  
guard your coming in and  
your going out,  
Now and always.

אָשָׂא עֵינַי אֶל־הַהָרִים:

מֵאֵינן יבֹא עֲזָרִי?

עֲזָרִי מֵעַם יְהוָה,

עֹשֵׂה שָׁמַיִם וָאָרֶץ.

אֵל־יִתֵּן לְמוֹט רַגְלִי,

אֵל־יָנוּם שֹׁמְרִי.

הִנֵּה לֹא יָנוּם וְלֹא יִישָׁן

שׁוֹמֵר יִשְׂרָאֵל.

יְהוָה שֹׁמְרִי,

יְהוָה צִלְּךָ עַל־יַד יְמִינֲךָ.

יוֹמָם הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ לֹא־יַכְכָּה,

וַיַּרְחַ בַּלַּיְלָה.

יְהוָה יִשְׁמְרֶךָ מִכָּל־רָע,

יִשְׁמַר אֶת־נַפְשְׁךָ.

יְהוָה יִשְׁמַר־צֵאתְךָ

וּבֹאֲךָ,

מֵעַתָּה וְעַד־עוֹלָם.

Eternal God, You are my Shepherd; I shall not want. You make me lie down in green pastures. You lead me beside still waters.

You restore my soul; You guide me in paths of righteousness for Your name's sake.

Even when I walk in the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me. Your rod and Your staff: they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely, goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in Your house, Eternal God, for ever.

יְהוָה רֹעִי, לֹא אֶחְסָר.  
בְּנֵאוֹת דְּשֵׂא יִרְבִּיצָנִי,  
עַל־מֵי מְנַחֹת יְנַהֲלֵנִי.

נַפְשִׁי יִשׁוּב; יְנַחֲנֵי  
בְּמַעְגְּלֵי־צַדִּיק  
לְמַעַן שְׁמוֹ.

גַּם כִּי־אֵלֶךְ בְּגִיא צַלְמוֹת  
לֹא־אִירָא רָע, כִּי־אִתָּה  
עִמָּדִי: שִׁבְטְךָ וּמִשְׁעַנְתְּךָ,  
הִמָּה יְנַחֲמֵנִי.

תַּעֲרֹךְ לְפָנַי שִׁלְחַן נֶגֶד  
צִרְרֵי, דִּשְׁנַת בְּשֵׁמֶן  
רֹאשִׁי, כּוֹסֵי רוּיָהּ.

אֵךְ טוֹב וַחֲסֵד יְרַדְפוּנִי  
כָּל־יְמֵי חַיִּי,  
וְשָׁבְתִי בְּבֵית־יְהוָה  
לְאָרְךָ יָמִים.

O God, full of compassion, exalted God, God of forgiveness, gracious and merciful, abundantly patient and full of love, grant perfect rest under the wings of Your presence, to the soul of . . . . . who has gone to his eternal home. Merciful God, remember his merits and righteous deeds which he performed on earth. Open for him the gates of righteousness and light, of compassion and grace. Shelter him for ever under your loving care, and let his soul be bound up in the bond of eternal life. May his destiny be with You, and may he rest in peace; and let us say: Amen.

אֵל מְלֵא רַחֲמִים, שׁוֹכֵן  
בְּמַרְוָמִים, אֱלֹהֵי סְלִיחוֹת,  
חַנוּן וְרַחוּם, אֲרֹךְ אַפַּיִם  
וְרַב חַסֵּד, הַמְצִיא כַפָּרַת  
פְּשָׁע וְהִקְרַבְתָּ יֵשַׁע  
וּמְנוּחָה נְכוֹנָה תַחַת כַּנְּפֵי  
הַשְּׂכִינָה אֶת־נַשְׁמָת . . . .  
שְׁהַלֵּךְ לְעוֹלָמוֹ. אָנָּה בְּעַל  
הַרְחָמִים זָכְרָה לּוֹ לְטוֹבָה  
כָּל־זְכוּיָתָיו וְצַדִּיקוֹתָיו  
בְּאַרְצוֹת הַחַיִּים. וּפְתַח לוֹ  
שַׁעֲרֵי צֶדֶק וְאוֹרָה, שַׁעֲרֵי  
חַמְלָה וְחַנּוּנִיָּה. בְּסֶתֶר  
כַּנְּפֵיךָ תִסְתַּיְרֶהוּ  
לְעוֹלָמִים. וְצַרּוֹר בְּצַרּוֹר  
הַחַיִּים אֶת־נַשְׁמָתוֹ. יי  
הוּא נִחְלָתוֹ, וַיְנַוַח בְּשָׁלוֹם  
עַל מִשְׁכְּבוֹ, וְנֹאמַר אָמֵן.

O God, full of compassion, exalted God, God of forgiveness, gracious and merciful, abundantly patient and full of love, grant perfect rest under the wings of Your presence, to the soul of . . . . . who has gone to her eternal home. Merciful God, remember her merits and righteous deeds which she performed on earth. Open for her the gates of righteousness and light, of compassion and grace. Shelter her for ever under your loving care, and let her soul be bound up in the bond of eternal life. May her destiny be with You, and may she rest in peace; and let us say: Amen.

אֵל מְלֵא רַחֲמִים, שׁוֹכֵן  
בְּמִרוֹמִים, אֱלֹהֵי סְלִיחוֹת,  
חַנוּן וְרַחוּם, אֲרֹךְ אַפַּיִם  
וְרַב חֶסֶד, הַמְצִיא כַּפַּרְת  
פְּשַׁע וְהִקְרַבְתָּ יְשַׁע וּמְנוּחָה  
נְכוֹנָה תַּחַת כַּנְּפֵי הַשְּׂכִינָה  
אֶת־נַשְׁמַת . . . . .  
שֶׁהִלְכָה לְעוֹלָמָהּ. אָנָּה  
בְּעַל הַרְחָמִים זָכְרָה לָּהּ  
לְטוֹבָה כָּל־זְכוֹתֶיהָ  
וְצַדִּיקוֹתֶיהָ בְּאַרְצוֹת הַחַיִּים.  
וּפְתַח לָהּ שַׁעְרֵי צְדָק  
וְאוֹרָה, שַׁעְרֵי חַמְלָה  
וְחַיִּינָהּ. בְּסֵתֶר כַּנְּפִיךָ  
תְּסַתִּירָהּ לְעוֹלָמִים. וְצָרוּר  
בְּצָרוּר הַחַיִּים אֶת־נַשְׁמַתָּהּ.  
יְיָ הוּא נִחְלָתָהּ, וְתַנּוּחַ  
בְּשָׁלוֹם עַל מִשְׁכָּבָהּ, וְנֹאמַר  
אָמֵן.

Much time has passed since we said our last farewell to . . . . . We have not ceased to miss him/her, and though our sorrow has become gentler, this service reminds us of its first intensity. But we have not come here

simply to grieve, though we do that, but to remember and to give thanks. We know that our loved one abides in our hearts and in his/her continuing influence upon us. For so it has been said, **אֵין עוֹשֵׂין נַפְשׁוֹת לְצַדִּיקִים, דְּבַרְיָהֶם הֵן הֵן זְכוּרֹנָן**. The righteous require no monument, their words are their memorial. Yet it helps us to know that there is one place on earth for ever dedicated to his/her memory. We therefore consecrate this memorial as a visible symbol of his/her enduring presence among us.

*The inscription is read*

May it inspire those who come here in the years ahead to give thanks for his/her life, and to praise God's name saying:

*We continue with Kaddish*

*Or*

In the name of the family of . . . and in the presence of his/her family and friends, we consecrate this monument to his/her memory, as a token of our love and respect.

*The inscription is read*

**תְּהִי נִשְׁמָתוֹ/נִשְׁמָתָהּ צְרוּרָה בְּצִרוּר הַחַיִּים**

May his/her soul be bound up in the bond of eternal life.

*We continue with Kaddish*

*Or*

FOR A CHILD

To You, O Source of peace, we turn in our time of need. Give us strength and patience to bear our burden of sorrow. Help us to overcome our grief, that we may return to life and its tasks. Deepen our love for one another; teach us to

open our hearts to all who need us, and guide us on our path until we find abiding love that survives all loss and sustains us through every trial. Grant consolation, Eternal God, to sorrowing parents and to all who mourn. Heal our wounds, renew our hope and our faith. May the memory of our beloved . . . remain precious to us, and inspire us to labour for a world in which every life shall find its fulfilment.

*The inscription is read*

Yitgaddal v'yitkaddash  
sh'meh rabba b'alma di v'ra  
chir'uteh, v'yamlich  
malchuteh b'chay-yeychon  
uv'yomeychon uv'chayyey  
d'chol beyt yisrael ba'agala  
uviz'man kariv v'im'ru:  
amen.

Y'he sh'meh rabba  
m'varach l'alam ul'almeiy  
almayya.

Yitbarach v'yishtabbach,  
v'yitpa'ar v'yitromam  
v'yitnasse, v'yit-haddar  
v'yit'alleh v'yit-hallal  
sh'meh d'kud'sha b'rich  
hu, l'ela min kol bir'chata  
v'shirata, tush-b'chata  
v'nechemata da'amiran  
b'alma, v'im'ru: amen.

יִתְגַּדֵּל וְיִתְקַדֵּשׁ שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּה  
בְּעֵלְמָא דִּי-בְרָא כְרַעוּתָהּ,  
וְיַמְלִיךְ מַלְכוּתָהּ בְּחַיִּיכוּן  
וּבְיוֹמֵיכוּן וּבְחַיֵּי דְכָל-בֵּית  
יִשְׂרָאֵל, בְּעֵגְלָא וּבְזִמְן  
קָרִיב, וְאִמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

יְהֵא שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא מְבָרַךְ  
לְעָלַם וּלְעֵלְמֵי עֵלְמַיָּא.

יִתְבָּרַךְ וְיִשְׁתַּבַּח וְיִתְפָּאֵר  
וְיִתְרוֹמֵם וְיִתְנַשֵּׂא, וְיִתְהַדַּר  
וְיִתְעַלֶּה וְיִתְהַלֵּל שְׁמֵהּ  
דְּקוּדְשָׁא, בְּרִיךְ הוּא, לְעֵלְא  
מִן-כָּל-בְּרַכְתָּא וְשִׁירְתָּא,  
תְּשַׁבְּחָתָא וְנַחֲמָתָא דְאִמְרוּן  
בְּעֵלְמָא, וְאִמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

Y'he sh'lama rabba min  
sh'mayya v'chayyim aleynu  
v'al kol yisrael, v'imru:  
amen.

יְהֵא שְׁלָמָא רַבָּא מִן-שְׁמַיָּא  
וְחַיִּים עָלֵינוּ וְעַל-כָּל-  
יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

Oseh shalom bim'romav  
hu ya'aseh shalom aleynu  
v'al kol yisrael v'al kol b'ney  
adam, v'im'ru: amen.

עֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמְרוֹמָיו, הוּא  
יַעֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ וְעַל-  
כָּל-יִשְׂרָאֵל וְעַל כָּל-בְּנֵי-  
אָדָם, וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

Magnified and sanctified be the great name of the One by  
whose will the world was created. May God's rule become  
effective in your lives, and in the life of the whole House of  
Israel. May it be so soon, and let us say: Amen.

May God's great name be praised to all eternity.

Blessed and praised; glorified, exalted and extolled;  
lauded, honoured and acclaimed be the name of the Holy  
One, who is ever to be praised, though far above the  
eulogies and songs of praise and consolation that human  
lips can utter; and let us say: Amen.

May great peace descend from heaven, and abundant life  
be granted, to us and all Israel, and let us say: Amen.

May the Most High, Source of perfect peace, grant peace  
to us, to all Israel, and to all humanity, and let us say: Amen

Peace, peace to the far and  
the near, says the Eternal  
God.

שְׁלוֹם, שְׁלוֹם לְרַחוּק  
וְלִקְרוֹב אָמַר יְהוָה.



Eternal God: grant strength  
to Your people. Eternal God:  
bless Your people with peace.

יְהוָה עִזּוֹ לְעַמּוֹ יִתֵּן, יְהוָה  
יְבָרֵךְ אֶת־עַמּוֹ בְּשָׁלוֹם.

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## On visiting the Grave or other Memorial

EITHER

You are no longer at my side, for death has separated us. I cannot look to you to lighten my burdens or to give me the benefit of your strength, your wisdom, your faith. Yet what you meant to me does not wither or fade. I remember so much about you, and the many things we shared. There are times when the pain of missing you seems more than I can bear, yet there is much for which I must give thanks. For life and love, the happiness you gave me, the blessing that you were which I cherish in my heart. Rest in peace, my loved one, I will never forget you.

OR

Death has separated us from those we loved. We cannot look to them to lighten our burdens or give us the benefit of their strength, their wisdom or their faith. Yet what they meant to us does not wither or fade. We remember so much about them, and the many things we shared. There are times when the pain of missing them seems more than we can bear, yet there is much for which we must give thanks. For life and love and happiness, for the blessing that they were which we cherish in our hearts. May those we loved rest in peace, we shall never forget them.

## Notes to selected scriptural and modern passages

The texts and English translations have been taken from “Siddur Lev Chadash” and extra material translated in the style of that book.

- p.4 *Thus says the Eternal God...* Jer. 31:14-15a, 16a.  
*Rabbi Simeon said...* Avot 4:13  
*Give us the vision...* Rabbi Morris Adler, p53f., *The Bond of Life*, ed. Jules Harlow, The Rabbinical Assembly, 1983.
- p.5 *The death of those...* p.116, *Siddur V'taheir Libeinu*, Congregation Beth El of the Sudbury River Valley, 1979-80  
*A king once owned...* p.144, *A Treasury of Comfort*, ed. Sidney Greenberg, 1967
- p.6 *Accept the judgment...* Rachel (Rachel Bluwstein, 1890-1931), p5, *ibid*
- p.7 *Is it really the end?...* Rachel, p.79f., *ibid*.  
*A woman of Valour...* Based on Prov. 31:10-12, 18, 20, 25-26, 28-29.
- p.8 *In the rising of the sun...* p.13 of CCAR Rabbi's Manual, 1988.
- p.9 *Eternal One, You have been our refuge...* Ps. 90:1b-2, 4-6, 9b-10, 12, 14-16, 17.
- p.11 *Those who dwell in the shelter...* Ps. 91:1-2, 4-5, 9.
- p.14 *The souls of the righteous...* Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-4a.
- p.18 *Cast your burden...* Ps. 55:23a; 145:18; 103:13; Isa. 66:13; Ps. 31:25.
- p.23 *Eternal One, our God...* Ps. 8:2, 4-6  
*Bless the Eternal One...* Ps. 103:1-2, 8-11, 15-19, 22.



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