

When Death is Near

Sustainer of the living with loving-kindness, supporter of the fallen, healer of the sick, heal (____)'s soul. Look upon (____)'s pain and release him/her, delivering him/her in peace, cleansed of sin and transgression.

We are thankful for the daily miracles that have accompanied (____) morning, noon, and night.

May I/we, among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem, be comforted and blessed as I/we prepare to grieve for (____).

May the words of my/our mouth and the meditations of my/our heart(s) be acceptable unto you, Oh, Lord, our rock, and our redeemer.

Sh'ma Yisrael, Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai Echad

Hear, Oh Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One

(Excerpted from the *Amidah* and Psalm 19.)

After Death

I am grieving for (____), whom You gave life, but whom I am not yet ready to bid good-bye.

Though I know I must eventually live with the loss of my loved one, I now feel pain, and cry out to you with love.

Help me to reflect upon what was left unfinished, to say what I haven't said, and to hear what I have not yet heard. My heart is heavy with grief. Allow me, Dear God, to feel that (____) will understand and comprehend my sorrow. Please forgive me for what I didn't say, and for what I may have said intentionally or unintentionally that may have caused (____) pain. For all these times, I want to say out loud that I am sorry. Please release me, Dear God, from the pain of my transgressions.

Remembering the good times soothes me. May the love in my heart serve as atonement and reconciliation, bringing comfort to our souls.

I pray for the strength to live each day honoring (____)'s memory with *tzedakah* and deeds of loving-kindness

May God grant (____) his/her portion in *Gan Eden*, and give (____) shelter beneath His wings.

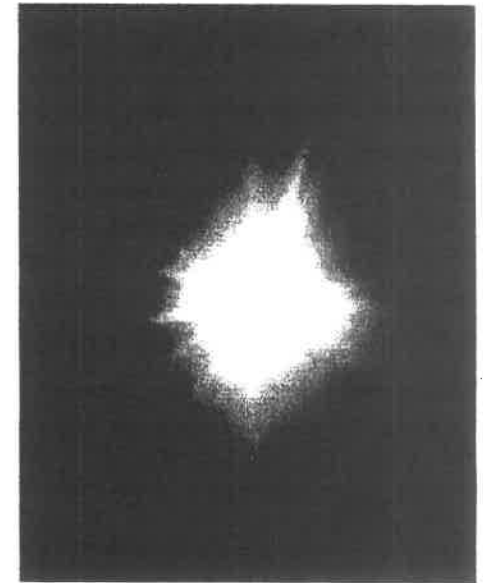
Original prayers by Rabbi Jack H. Bloom, Ph.D.

Revised by Tamara Gelbart Jaffe

 Charles E. Smith Life Communities

Pastoral Care Department (301) 816-7711

Preparing to Say Good-Bye



Prayers at the Bedside



Charles E. Smith
Life Communities

A Prayer for Healing

(Gathered at the Bedside)

May the One who blessed Abraham with seedlings as countless as the stars and as infinite as the sands bless us, the generations of the blessing.

May the One who comforted Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Ishmael and Isaac comfort us now, and hear us in our distress.

May we, too, be remembered with compassion, and be blessed to welcome the visiting angels in our midst.

May we be like Abraham when he knew grief. Abraham wept out loud and mourned for Sarah, he praised her and he buried her.

May the One who blessed Abraham, who promised Abraham: "You shall come to your ancestors in peace," grant that (_____) and each of us in our time shall come to our ancestors in peace.

As we are gathered together today, may we be gathered someday in *Gan Eden* (the Garden of Eden). May it be so, and let us say, Amen.

Psalm 121

(May be recited at any time)

I lift mine eyes to the mountains;

What is the source of my help?

My help comes from *Adonai*, Maker of heaven and earth.

God will not let your foot give way —your Protector will not slumber.

See, the Protector of Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps!

God is your Guardian.

God is your protection at your right hand.

The sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

God will guard you from all harm.

God will guard your soul, your going and your coming, now and forever.



Preparing to Say Good-Bye

We acknowledge before You, God of Israel, that (____)'s life is in Your hands. The soul You placed in him/her is pure. You have guarded and protected it all these days and years.

In Your hand are the souls of all who live and die, and the breath of every being.

Into Your hand we prepare to release (____)'s spirit.

We are thankful before You, Dear God, to have had treasured days with (____).

We are grateful for the opportunity you gave (____) to be a spark of light to the world and to us.

Comfort us, *Adonai*, and let (____) be remembered for the good as You prepare to gather him/her to his/her ancestors.

We ask that You grant (____) his/her portion in *Gan Eden*, and that you comfort us with Your love and compassion as we prepare to bid (____) good-bye.

***Sh'ma Yisrael, Adonai Eloheinu,
Adonai Echad.***

In Our Grief

I/we are grieving for (____) , whom You have given/gave life, but whom I am/was not yet ready to bid good-bye.

Though I know I must eventually live with the loss of my loved one, I now feel pain, and cry out to you with love.

Help me to reflect upon what was left unfinished, to say what I haven't said, and to hear what I have not yet heard. My heart is heavy with grief. Allow me, Dear God, to feel that (____) will understand and comprehend my sorrow.

Please forgive me for what I didn't say, and for what I may have said intentionally or unintentionally that may have caused you pain.

Please release me from the pain of my failures, for not forgiving (____) and myself when there were hurts between us. For all these times, I want to say out loud that I am sorry.

Remembering the good times soothes me. May the love in my heart serve as atonement and reconciliation, bringing comfort to our souls.

I pray for the strength to live each day honoring your memory with *tzedakah* and deeds of loving-kindness

May God grant you your portion in Gan Eden, and give you shelter beneath His wings.



Bring (____) Near

Sustainer of the living with lovingkindness, supporter of the fallen, healer of the sick, heal (____)'s soul. Look upon (____)'s pain and release him/her, delivering him/her in peace, cleansed of sin and transgression.

We are thankful for the daily miracles that have accompanied (____) morning, noon, and night.

May I/we, among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem, be comforted and blessed as I/we prepare to grieve for (____).

May the words of my/our mouth and the meditations of my/our heart(s) be acceptable unto you, Oh, Lord, our rock, and our redeemer.

Sh'ma Yisrael, Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai Echad

Hear, Oh Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One

Original prayers by Rabbi Jack H.
Bloom, Ph.D., revised by
Tamara Gelbart Jaffe



Charles E. Smith
Life Communities



Jewish Prayers for the Dying and Their Loved Ones

Mi Shebeirach for Those Gathered at the Bedside

May the One who blessed Abraham with seedlings as countless as the stars and as infinite as the sands bless us, the generations of the blessing.

May the One who comforted Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Ishmael and Isaac comfort us now, and hear us in our distress.

May we, too, be remembered with compassion, laughter, and miracles and be blessed to welcome the visiting angels in our midst.

May we be like Abraham when he knew grief. Abraham wept out loud and mourned for Sarah, he praised her and he buried her. And it is written of Abraham: "He was blessed with everything."

May the One who blessed Abraham, who promised Abraham: "You shall come to your ancestors in peace," grant that (____) and each of us in our time shall come to our ancestors in peace.

As we are gathered together today, may we be gathered someday in *Gan Eden*.

May it be so, and let us say, Amen.



Psalm 121

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heaven and earth.

God will not let your foot give way —
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See, the Protector of Israel neither
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God is your Guardian.

God is your protection at your right
hand.

The sun will not strike you by day, nor
the moon by night.

God will guard you from all harm.

God will guard your soul, your going
and your coming, now and forever.



מוֹמוֹר לְדוֹד יִי רְעִי לֹא אֲחֻסֶּר :
בְּנֹאוֹת דָּשָׁא יִרְבִּיצֵנִי עַל־מֵי מִנְחוֹת !
נִפְשִׁי יִשׁוּבֵב יִנְחֵנִי בְּמַעְגְלֵי צֶדֶק לִמְעַן שְׁמוֹ :
גַּם כִּי־אֵלֶךְ בְּגִיא צִלְמוֹת לֹא־אִירָא רַע כִּי־אֵתֵה
עַמְדֵי שְׁבִטָה וּמִשְׁעָנֶיךָ הִמָּה יִנְחֵמֵנִי :
תַּעֲרֹךְ לִפְנֵי שִׁלְחֹן נֹגֵד צִרְרֵי דְשִׁנָּה בְּשִׁמּוֹן רֹאשִׁי
כּוֹסֵי רִנָּה :
אֵךְ טוֹב וְחֹסֵד יִרְדְּמוּנִי כָּל־יְמֵי חַיִּי וּשְׁבַתִּי בְּבֵית יִי
לְאֶרֶץ יְמִים :

Psalm 23—A Psalm of David

The Lord is my/our shepherd, I/we shall not want.

He maketh (____) to lie down in green pastures,

He leadeth (____) beside the still waters. He re-
storeth (____'s) soul. He leadeth (____) in the
right paths for the sake of His name.

Though (____) walks through the valley of the
shadow of death, I/we fear no evil, for Thou art
with (____); Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort
him/her.

Thou hast set a table before (____) in the pres-
ence of thine enemies;

Thou hast anointed (____'s) head with oil — his/
her cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow him/her all
the days of his/her life, and he/she shall dwell in
the house of the Lord forever.



We acknowledge before You, God of
Israel, that (____'s) life is in Your hands.
The soul You placed in him/her is pure.
You have guarded and protected it all
these days and years.

In Your hand are the souls of all who live
and die, and the breath of every being.

Into Your hand we prepare to release
(____'s) spirit.

We are thankful before You, Dear God, to
have had treasured days with (____.)

We are grateful for the opportunity you
gave (____) to be a spark of light to the
world and to us.

Comfort us, *Adonai*, and let (____) be
remembered for the good as You prepare
to gather him/her to his/her ancestors.

We ask that You grant (____) his/her
portion in *Gan Eden*, and that you comfort
us with Your love and compassion as we
prepare to bid *l'hitraot* to (____).

***Sh'ma Yisrael, Adonai Eloheinu,
Adonai Echad.***

