

For a Bat Mitzvah

[*Likrat Shabbat*, Section II (blue pages): page 69]

“This is the day the Lord has made; Let us rejoice and celebrate on it.”

Prayer I

On this Shabbat when our daughter becomes a Bat Mitzvah, we have come with her and our loved ones to join in worship and to offer our prayer of thanksgiving.

We are grateful, O God, for the privilege of passing along the gift of life which You gave us, thus sharing with You in the miracle of creation. We are grateful for the years we have nurtured this life, for the unnumbered joys and challenges which these years have brought us. Praise to You, O Lord, for keeping us alive, for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this day.

Bless our daughter, O God; watch over her, protect her, guide her. Help her to continue to grow in body and mind, in soul and character. Keep her loyal to our people and to the teachings of our Torah. May her life be rich and rewarding. May all her deeds bring pride to us, honor to the house of Israel, and glory to Your name.

Amen.

Prayer II

We thank You, O God, for the joyous fulfillment we feel as our daughter reaches the threshold of womanhood.

How privileged we feel that she is our daughter, and that she is bound to us by bonds of love, of memory, and of hope!

Praise to You, O Lord our God, who has kept us alive, and sustained us, and enabled us to reach this day.

O God, accept our thankfulness for the years that have come and gone; bless our hope for the years that are yet to be. May Your mercy and guidance accompany this Bat Mitzvah at all times, in a life marked by reverence for Torah and love of all Your children.

Amen.