

קדיש יתום בלי מנין או אם לבד (אשכנז)

Abbreviated, Personal Mourner's Kaddish for when Praying Alone or Without a Minyan (Nusach Ashkenaz), by Isaac Gantwerk Mayer

When praying alone, Jews do not recite certain prayers that are known as “devarim she-bi-kdusha.” These texts, almost always call-and-response in structure, are only said when one has a minyan of ten eligible adults (in Orthodox practice, eligible men). This means that when praying alone, many beloved passages are skipped. One of these is the Kaddish.

The Kaddish prayer is used to mark major divisions in the service. (As an incredibly brief summary: the half-Kaddish marks a break before a service, the full Kaddish marks the end of a main service, the kaddish d’rabbanan marks a break after study, and the mourner’s kaddish does everything else.) The Kaddish is a classic doxology, a prayer that repeats the praises of God and serves as a summary and conclusion of what has been said before. It is in Aramaic, the language of the community, and it is call and response. Many a mourner is aware of the pain that can come when one shows up to say kaddish and they can’t make a minyan.

The Yemenite Baladi community has a custom of reciting a passage they call the Brikh Shmeh d’Kudsha Brikh Hu when praying without a minyan. It is an abbreviated form of the Kaddish without any of the call and response passages, and features singular terminology. It fulfills the same role of division and doxology as the regular Kaddish does, but on a smaller, more personal scale. Their text is based on their own version of the Kaddish, though, which differs substantially from other communities’ versions.

This text takes the basic idea of the Baladi-rite ‘Brikh Shmeh d’Kudsha Brikh Hu’ and adapts it for the Askenazi nusach of the Kaddish. It can be used when praying alone wherever a minyan would say the entire Kaddish. It could also be recited by a community in unison out loud when it can’t make a minyan, to show that even if we don’t have a full minyan, we still welcome mourners as part of our community.

Source (Hebrew)

Translation (English)

בְּרִיךְ שְׁמִיּה דְקוּדְשָׁא בְּרִיךְ הוּא
(על ימים נוראים: לְעִילָא, לְעִילָא מִן-כָּל בְּרַכְתָּא שִׁירְתָּא
תְּשַׁבְּחָתָא וְנַחֲמָתָא דְאַמִּירָן בְּעֵלְמָא:

Blessed is the Name of the blessed Holy One,
(during the Ten Days: high,) high above all blessings and songs,
praises and comforts that we say in this world.

תְּתַקַּבַּל צְלוֹתִי וּבְעוֹתֵי
עִם צְלוֹתְהוֹן וּבְעוֹתְהוֹן דְּכָל-בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל
קָדָם אָבָא דְּבִשְׁמַיָּא:

May my blessings and pleas be received
with the blessings and pleas of all the house of Israel
before my Parent who is in heaven.

יְהֵא שְׁלָמָא רַבָּא מִן שְׁמַיָּא
וְחַיִּים עָלַי וְעַל כָּל-יִשְׂרָאֵל:
עֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמִרוֹמָיו
הוּא יַעֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם עָלַי
וְעַל כָּל-יִשְׂרָאֵל:

May there be great peace from heaven
and life upon me and upon all of Israel.
May the Maker of peace above
make peace upon me
and upon all Israel.

אָמֵן וְאָמֵן
בֵּן יְהִי רְצוֹן:

Amen and amen,
thus may it be Your will.

קדיש יתום בלי מנין או אם לבד (אשכנז)

Source (Hebrew)

Translation (English)

בְּרִיךְ שְׁמִיּה דְקוּדְשָׁא בְּרִיךְ הוּא
(על ימים מראים: לְעֵילָא, לְעֵילָא מִן כָּל בְּרַכָּתָא שִׁירָתָא
תְּשַׁבְּחָתָא וְנַחֲמָתָא דְאָמִירָן בְּעֵלְמָא:

Blessed is the Name of the blessed Holy One,
(during the Ten Days: high,) high above all blessings and songs,
praises and comforts that we say in this world.

תְּתַקַּבַּל צְלוֹתִי וּבְעוֹתִי
עִם צְלוֹתֵיהוֹן וּבְעוֹתֵיהוֹן דְּכָל-בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל
קִדְּם אָבָא דְּבִשְׁמַיָּא:

May my blessings and pleas be received
with the blessings and pleas of all the house of Israel
before my Parent who is in heaven.

יְהֵא שְׁלָמָא רַבָּא מִן שְׁמַיָּא
וְחַיִּים עָלַי וְעַל כָּל-יִשְׂרָאֵל:
עֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמְרוֹמָיו
הוּא יַעֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם עָלַי
וְעַל כָּל-יִשְׂרָאֵל:

May there be great peace from heaven
and life upon me and upon all of Israel.
May the Maker of peace above
make peace upon me
and upon all Israel.

אָמֵן וְאָמֵן

Amen and amen,

כֵּן יְהִי רְצוֹן:

thus may it be Your will.