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Compiled by Rabbi Stephen Weiss.



27501 Fairmount Boulevard
Pepper Pike, Ohio 44124

Tel. 216-831-6555
bnaijeshurun@bnaijeshurun.org
www.bnaijeshurun.org

We Remember You

At the rising of the sun and at its going down, _____, we remember you.

*At the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,
we remember them.*

At the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring,
we remember you.

*At the shining of the sun and in the warmth of summer,
we remember you.*

At the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of autumn,
we remember you.

*At the beginning of the year and at its end,
we remember you.*

As long as we live, they too will live; for they are now a part of
us, as we remember you.

*When we are weary and in need of strength,
we remember you.*

When we are lost and sick at heart,
we remember you.

*When we have joy we crave to share,
we remember you.*

When we have decisions that are difficult to make,
we remember you.

*When we have achievements that are based on them,
we remember you.*

As long as we live, they too will live; for they are now a part of
us, as we remember you.

Rabbi Sylvan Kamens
Rabbi Jack Reimer
(adapted)

Memorial Prayer

I haven't forgotten you, even though it's been some time now since I've seen your face, touched your hand, heard your voice. You are with me all the time.

I used to think you left me. I know better now. You come to me. Sometimes in fleeting moments I feel your presence close by. But I still miss you.

And nothing, no person, no joy, no accomplishment, no distraction, not even God, can fill the gaping hole in your absence has left in my life.

But, mixed together with all my sadness, there is a great joy for having known you.

I want to thank you for the time we shared, for the love you gave, for the wisdom you spread.

Thank you for the magnificent moments and the ordinary ones, too. There was beauty in our simplicity. Holiness in our unspectacular days.

And I will carry the lessons you taught me always.

Your life has ended, but your light can never be extinguished.

It continues to shine upon me even on the darkest nights and illuminates my way.

I light this candle in your honor and in your memory.

May God bless you as you have blessed me with love, with grace and with peace.

Rabbi Naomi Levy
(A selection from her book, *Talking to God*)

These are the Stones

Our tradition teaches us that when we want to mark a special place we put a stone to remember. Our ancestor Jacob lay his head on a stone to rest. He wrestled with an angel in his sleep and when he awoke he said, "This place is blessed. I shall call it Beth El, the House of God."

And he took a stone to mark the place.

We are told that Rachel, the most beloved wife of Jacob, our ancestral mother, died on the way back from Haran. Jacob buried her in Bethlehem (Beit Lechem). Today, barren women come to pray at Rachel's tomb.

A stone marks the place.

Moshe ben Maimon, the Rambam, made the journey from Medieval Spain to Egypt and was buried in the holy land, in Tiberius on the shores of the Kinneret. We visit the grave and we form links with our ancestors and all of Jewish history.

A stone marks the place.

In the old Jewish cemetery in Prague there are many stones. Some are hundreds of years old. It is a small cemetery and the headstones are close together, some even on top of each other.

Many stones mark the places of Jews who lived in that land.

In the walls of the cemeteries of Warsaw and Cracow there are remnants of headstones. The Nazis desecrated the cemeteries and used the stones to pave streets and create roadways. Caring Gentiles and returning survivors of the Shoah dug up the stones and built a wall of the remnants.

In the cemeteries of Prague, Warsaw and Cracow and a hundred other places in Eastern and Middle Europe, could be the stones of our families. Who knows? What we know is that stones mark the places.

On Mt. Herzl there are many gravestones, including those of Theodor Herzl, Golda Meir and Yizhak Rabin. They gave their lives so that we could live freely as Jews.

The stones mark their places.

Today we gather to unveil a stone for _____. In keeping with our tradition, this stone will mark the place. Whenever we come to visit we will search for a small stone to place here to indicate that we have come. We will take time to remember, we will ask forgiveness and we will say Kaddish. And when we place a small stone and place it on the larger one, we will be linked to _____ and to our history and to the Jewish people everywhere.

And when we are gone, this stone will mark the place. Our descendants will remember and be linked to our history, too.

Composed by Janice and Marvin Alper

Reflections

Death for us is a mixture of moods:

fear of abandonment, separation,
being left alone, brooding anger,
fists shaken against the sky, voices shouted against the grave.

regrets over things that could have been,
that should have been,
but that were not.

bittersweet nostalgia,
ugly scenes transmuted into memories of mere mischief.

sharp quarrels softened by the passing of time,
words of stone, smoothed by perspective,
tears, salt of self-pity, brine of resentment.
and remembrance of that gray day,
of a tear in the cloth, of a handful of earth,
and now this moment
when together we cling to courage
we who have the right to mourn
for others and for ourselves.

It is the dignity of the soul to hold onto the past;
It is the dignity of the spirit to take hold of the future,

To love again and to forgive others and ourselves,
To rise from grief,
To sew the torn garment,
To live, to love, even to laugh again,

And at the same time to remember –
Always to remember,
Always.

Rabbi Harold Schulweis

A Gift of Memory

The earth has covered only that which was mortal.

Of those to whom we have said our farewell.

We shall not see again here on earth

The familiar glowing face, the warm illuminated eyes, nor hear

The sound of their welcome footsteps as they come home.

We shall not sit again face to face,

Across the family table, or side by side

In the home of a friend or in worship or raptly

Listening to a great melody from singer or symphony.

We shall not feel once more the kiss

That evoked from us our deepest response.

Yet death has failed and must surrender

To memory, which gives a reprieve to those doomed by it.

For the beloved who is gone

Lives and will always live through the years

Not in some distant corner of our being to be uncovered only

In a rare moment or by a sudden surge of recall.

The beloved has become a presence not merely accompanying

Us as of yore, but indwelling and inseparable,

Rooted so deep that life cannot carry us far from the cherished

And now hallowed center of memory and love,

Your hand, O Death, has been stayed.

You can no longer inflict oblivion,

Or doom to full disappearance those who were life of our life.

They live and move with us, in spheres beyond Your dominion.

We thank You, O God, of life and love,

For the resurrecting gift of memory

Which endows Your children fashioned in Your image

With the God-like sovereign power

To give immortality through love.

Blessed be You, O God,

Who enables Your children to remember.

Rabbi Morris Adler

Kaddish

*Yit-gadal v'yit-kadash sh'mey raba,
B'alma di v'ra hirutey, v'yam-lih mal-hutey,
B'ha-yey-hon uv-yomey-hon uv-ha-yey d'hol beyt yisrael,
Ba-agala u-vizman kariv, v'imru amen.*

Y'hey sh'mey raba m'varah l'alam ul-almey alma-ya.

*Yit-barah v'yish-tabah v'yit-pa-ar v'yit-romam v'yit-na-
sey,
V'yit-hadar v'yit-aleh v'yit-halal sh'mey d'kud-sha,
B'rih hu, l'eyla (ul-eyla) min kol bir-hata v'shirata,
Tush-b'hata v'ne-hemata da-amiran b'alma, v'imru amen.*

*Y'hey sh'lama raba min sh'ma-ya
V'ha-yim aleynu v'al kol yisrael, v'imru amen.*

*Oseh shalom bi'm-romav, hu ya-aseh shalom
Aleynu v'al kol yisrael, v'imru amen.*

יִתְגַּדֵּל וְיִתְקַדֵּשׁ שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא. בְּעֵלְמָא דִּי בְרָא
כְרַעוּתָהּ, וְיִמְלִיךְ מַלְכוּתָהּ בְּחַיִּיכוֹן וּבְיוֹמֵיכוֹן וּבְחַיֵּי
דְכָל בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל. בְּעֵגְלָא וּבְזִמְן קָרִיב וְאִמְרוּ אָמֵן:

יְהֵא שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא מְבָרַךְ לְעַלְמֵי וְלְעַלְמֵי עֵלְמֵי:

יִתְבָּרַךְ וְיִשְׁתַּבַּח, וְיִתְפָּאֵר וְיִתְרוֹמֵם וְיִתְנַשֵּׂא וְיִתְהַדָּר
וְיִתְעַלֶּה וְיִתְהַלָּל שְׁמֵהּ דְקַדְשָׁא בְרִיךְ הוּא לְעֵלְמָא
(בְּעֵשִׂי"ת וְלְעֵלְמָא מְכַל) מִן כָּל בְּרַכְתָּא וְשִׁירְתָּא,
תְּשַׁבַּחְתָּא וְנַחֲמְתָּא, דְאִמְרוּן בְּעֵלְמָא, וְאִמְרוּ אָמֵן:

יְהֵא שְׁלָמָא רַבָּא מִן שְׁמֵי וְחַיִּים עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל
יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְאִמְרוּ אָמֵן:

עֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמְרוֹמָיו הוּא יַעֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ וְעַל
כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְאִמְרוּ אָמֵן:

Psalm 23

A Psalm of David

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

God makes me to lie down in green pastures;

God leads me beside the still waters.

God restores my soul;

God guides me in straight paths for His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through 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 runs over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;

And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

מִזְמוֹר לְדָוִד

יְהוָה רֹעִי לֹא אֶחְסָר:

בְּנֵאֻת דָּשָׂא יִרְבִּיצֵנִי עַל־מֵי מְנַחֹת יִנְהַלֵּנִי:

נַפְשִׁי יִשׁוּבֵב יִנְחֵנִי בְּמַעְגְלֵי־צֶדֶק לְמַעַן שְׁמוֹ:

גַּם כִּי־אֵלֶךְ בְּגִיא צַלְמוֹת לֹא־אִירָא רָע כִּי־אַתָּה עִמָּדִי

שְׁבִטָּךְ וּמִשְׁעֲנֵתֶךָ הִנְמָה יִנְחַמֵּנִי:

תִּעְרָךְ לְפָנַי שִׁלְחֹן נֶגֶד צַרְרֵי דַשְׁנָתָ בְּשֶׁמֶן רֹאשִׁי כֹּוֹסֵי רוּחָה:

אֵךְ טוֹב וַחֲסֵד יִרְדְּפוּנִי כָּל־יְמֵי חַיִּי וְשַׁבְּתִי בְּבֵית־יְהוָה

לְאַרְךָ יָמַיִם:

El Malei Rahamim

El Maleh (For a man)

אֵל מֵלֵא רַחֲמִים שׁוֹכֵן בְּמְרוֹמִים. הַמְצִיא מְנוּחָה
נְכוֹנָה תַּחַת פְּנֵי הַשְּׂכִינָה. בְּמַעְלוֹת קְדוּשִׁים
וְטַהוֹרִים כְּזֹהַר הַרְקִיעַ מְזַהְרִים אֶת נְשֹׁמֵת
_____ בֶּן _____ שְׁהַלֵּךְ לְעוֹלָמוֹ
בְּגוֹן עֵדוֹן תִּהְיֶה מְנוּחָתוֹ. אֲנִי בְּעַל הַרְחָמִים יִסְתַּיְרֶהוּ
בְּסִתְרֵי כְּנָפָיו לְעוֹלָמִים. וַיִּצְרֹר בְּצְרוֹר הַחַיִּים אֶת נְשֹׁמָתוֹ.
י-י הוּא נִחְלָתוֹ: וַיְנַוֵּחַ בְּשָׁלוֹם עַל מְשֻׁכְבוֹ. וְנֹאמֵר אָמֵן:

El Maleh (For a woman)

אֵל מֵלֵא רַחֲמִים שׁוֹכֵן בְּמְרוֹמִים. הַמְצִיא מְנוּחָה
נְכוֹנָה תַּחַת פְּנֵי הַשְּׂכִינָה. בְּמַעְלוֹת קְדוּשִׁים
וְטַהוֹרִים כְּזֹהַר הַרְקִיעַ מְזַהְרִים אֶת נְשֹׁמֵת
_____ בַּת _____ שְׁהִלְכָה לְעוֹלָמָהּ.
בְּגוֹן עֵדוֹן תִּהְיֶה מְנוּחָתָה. אֲנִי בְּעַל הַרְחָמִים יִסְתַּיְרֶהּ
בְּסִתְרֵי כְּנָפָיו לְעוֹלָמִים. וַיִּצְרֹר בְּצְרוֹר הַחַיִּים אֶת נְשֹׁמָתָהּ.
י-י הוּא נִחְלָתָה וְתַנּוּחַ בְּשָׁלוֹם עַל מְשֻׁכְבָּהּ. וְנֹאמֵר אָמֵן:

MEMORIAL PRAYER (for a man)

O God who is full of compassion, keep in Your loving care the soul of our beloved _____ who has been called back to You. Shelter his soul in Your presence for with You is eternal life. Remember all the goodness which he brought about in his lifetime. Bestow upon him the bliss that is treasured up for the righteous in the world to come.

O Lord who heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds, grant Your consolation to all who mourn _____'s passing. Strengthen them in their grief. Fill their hearts with reverence and love of You that in memory of _____, they may serve You through deeds of lovingkindness. Thus will his soul be bound up in the bond of eternal life, together with the souls of all the righteous that are in Your keeping. Amen.

MEMORIAL PRAYER (for a woman)

O God who is full of compassion, keep in Your loving care the soul of our beloved _____ who has been called back to You. Shelter her soul in Your presence for with You is eternal life. Remember all the goodness which she brought about in her lifetime. Bestow upon her the bliss that is treasured up for the righteous in the world to come.

O Lord who heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds, grant Your consolation to all who mourn _____'s passing. Strengthen them in their grief. Fill their hearts with reverence and love of You that in memory of _____, they may serve You through deeds of lovingkindness. Thus will her soul be bound up in the bond of eternal life, together with the souls of all the righteous that are in Your keeping. Amen.

Shall I Cry Out in Anger?

Shall I cry out in anger, O God,
Because Your gifts are mine but for a while?
*Shall I forget the blessing of health
The moment it gives way to illness and pain?*
Shall I be ungrateful for the moment of laughter,
The seasons of joy, the days of gladness and festivity?
*When a fate beyond my understanding takes from me
Friends and kin whom I have cherished, and leaves me
Bereft of shining presences that have lit my way
Through years of companionship and affection,*
When tears cloud my eyes and darken the world,
And my heart is heavy within me,
Shall I blot from the mind the love
I have known and in which I have rejoiced?
*Shall I grieve for a youth that has gone
Once my hair is gray and my shoulders bent,
And forget days of vibrancy and power?*
Shall I, in days of adversity, fail to recall
The hours of joy and glory You once granted me?
*Shall the time of darkness put out forever
The glow of the light in which I once walked?*
Give me the vision, O God, to see and feel
That imbedded 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 I have loved, though now beyond my view,
Have given form and quality to my life,
And they live on, unfailingly feeding
My heart and mind and imagination.*

Rabbi Morris Adler

At the Grave of a Grandparent

O heavenly Father, as I stand here at the grave of my _____, I am grateful to You for all the precious memories of his (her) life and for all that he (she) meant to my parents and me. May the example of his (her) goodness and devotion live on as an incentive to kindly deeds and righteous living. I pray that the soul of my _____ be bound up in the bond of eternal life, together with the souls of all the righteous that are in Your keeping. Amen.

At the Grave of Other Relatives

O heavenly Father, as I stand here at the grave of my _____, I fondly recall the hours we shared in family fellowship. Help me to emulate all that was good, true and righteous in his (her) life. In memory of this dear one, may I endeavor to live uprightly in accordance with Your teachings. May the soul of _____ be bound up in the bond of eternal life, together with the souls of all the righteous that are in Your keeping. Amen.

At the Grave of a Friend

Standing here over the grave of _____, I thank You, O heavenly Father, for the blessings You sent me through my companionship with him (her). I recall the happy hours of fellowship and the common aims and endeavors we shared together. May I ever cherish the memory of _____'s loyalty, sincerity, devotion and understanding heart. Though I shall nevermore see his (her) smile nor hear his (her) voice nor delight in his (her) friendship, may the ennobling influence of _____'s life ever remain with me. Grant that his (her) soul be bound up in the bond of eternal life, together with all the souls that are united in You. Amen.

At the Grave of a Sister

O heavenly Father, as I stand here at the grave of my dear sister, I fondly recall the happy years we spent together, sharing the love and traditions of our home and family. Her years on earth were too few for those who loved her. Though You have called her back to You, I shall ever hold sacred the memories of her kindness and sincerity, her love and devotion. O Lord, grant that the recollections of her life stimulate me to righteous living. I put my trust in You who is the source of all life and my strength in time of sorrow. Though a link has been severed from our family chain, help me, O God, to be more closely united with the dear ones who remain. May the soul of my beloved sister be bound up in the bond of eternal life, together with the souls of all the righteous that are in Your keeping. Amen.

At the Grave of a Brother

O heavenly Father, as I stand here at the grave of my dear brother whom You have called back to You, I fondly recall the years we spent together in happy fellowship. Strengthen me in my sorrow, for his departure has left a void in my heart. May the example of his goodness ever inspire me to consecrate my efforts and talents to every good and noble endeavor. Though a link has been severed from our family chain, help me, O God, to be more closely united with the dear ones who remain. May the soul of my beloved brother be bound up in the bond of eternal life, together with the souls of all the righteous that are in Your keeping. Amen.

At the Grave of a Husband

O heavenly Father, standing here at the grave of the companion of my heart, I fondly recall our sacred bonds formed in Your presence, the love and friendship he brought into my life, and all the hardships and pleasures, trials and triumphs, joys and sorrows we shared together. The delight of my life, he helped to dispel my fears, and in time of need, encouraged me and stood at my side. I pray, O Lord, that these precious memories of our happy years together, may ever be an abiding influence for good and an incentive to noble and sanctified living.

Father of all, grant that the soul of my beloved be bound up in the bond of eternal life, together with the souls of all the righteous that are in Your keeping. Amen.

At the Grave of a Son

Almighty Father, standing here at the grave of my beloved child, I tenderly recall the joys that he afforded me during his lifetime. How I delighted in his physical and mental growth! How I planned for his future! Though few and brief were the years wherein I rejoiced with my beloved son, many indeed were the blessings he brought into our home. The passing of years can never fill the void in my heart, nor can time assuage the pain of my bereavement. Though he is no longer in our midst, his memory shall forever be enshrined in my heart.

O merciful God, Giver of life, You have recalled what is Your own, and have taken him into Your loving care and keeping. Though my heart still grieves, I have faith that You know what is best for Your children. Strengthened by that faith, and cherishing the sacred memory of my child, may I, who have known the joys of parenthood, bring love and cheer into the lives of others. I pray that the soul of my dearly beloved child may be bound up in the bond of eternal life, together with all the precious souls that are united in You, our Creator and Father. Amen.

At the Grave of a Wife

O, heavenly Father, standing here at the grave of the companion of my heart, I fondly recall our sacred bonds formed in Your presence, the love and friendship she brought into my life, and all the hardships and pleasures, trials and triumphs, joys and sorrows we shared together. The delight of my life, she helped to dispel my fears, and in time of need, encouraged me and stood at my side. I pray, O Lord, that these precious memories of our happy years together, may ever be an abiding influence for good and an incentive to noble and sanctified living.

Father of all, grant that the soul of my beloved be bound up in the bond of eternal life, together with the souls of all the righteous that are in Your keeping. Amen.

At the Grave of a Daughter

Almighty Father, standing here at the grave of my beloved child, I tenderly recall the joys that she afforded me during her lifetime. How I delighted in her physical and mental growth! How I planned for her future! Though few and brief were the years wherein I rejoiced with my beloved daughter, many indeed were the blessings she brought into our home. The passing of years can never fill the void in my heart, nor can time assuage the pain of my bereavement. Though she is no longer in our midst, her memory shall forever be enshrined in my heart.

O merciful God, Giver of life, You have recalled what is Your own, and have taken her into Your loving care and keeping. Though my heart still grieves, I have faith that You know what is best for Your children. Strengthened by that faith, and cherishing the sacred memory of my child, may I, who have known the joys of parenthood, bring love and cheer into the lives of others. I pray that the soul of my dearly beloved child may be bound up in the bond of eternal life, together with all the precious souls that are united in You, our Creator and Father. Amen.

At the Grave of a Father

Eternal God, as I stand here at the grave of my beloved father, the years of his unselfish devotion come vividly to mind. I recall all the sacrifices he made for my welfare and the many comforts with which he provided me. Ever untiring were his endeavors to direct me on the path of virtue and kindness, to enrich my mind and ennoble my heart. He rejoiced in my achievements. He guided me in all perplexities and strengthened me in trials and disappointments. The passing of years can never dim the blessed memories of his life.

O Creator of all, in whose keeping are the souls of both the living and the dead, grant that the memory of my father's life so inspire me that I shall put to noblest use my time and capabilities. May his example stir me loyally to uphold the heritage which he transmitted to me. May his soul be bound up in the bond of eternal life, together with the souls of all the righteous that are in Your keeping. Amen.

At the Grave of a Mother

Eternal God, here standing at the grave of my beloved mother, I feel the closeness of her spirit and my heart is filled with tender emotion as I recall the years of her devoted care and lovingkindness. For it was she who gave me life, who tended and watched over me, who guided my first step, and who taught me of Your love and Your protecting care. I am grateful for every blessing You bestowed on me through my mother – for her kindly deeds, her understanding heart, her sacrificial devotion, her love so freely given. Indeed, whatever I have achieved is due to her teaching and influence, and what I am, I have become through her.

Gracious God, in tribute to the memory of my mother, may I ever continue to emulate her virtues, and be faithful to the traditions she imparted to me. Grant that all the cherished recollections of her life ever remain to me an inspiration and a benediction. I pray that the soul of my dear mother be bound up in the bond of eternal life, together with the souls of all the righteous that are in Your keeping. Amen.

The Riches of a Good Name (for a woman)

Honor a woman for what she is;
But honor her more for what she does.

*Honor not a woman for her possessions;
Honor her for the right use she makes of them.*

If one is blessed with wisdom as well as riches;
Her wisdom will guide her to share her blessings with others

*Riches often make themselves wings,
Like an eagle that flies toward heaven;*

For riches are not everlasting;
Even the crown of royalty does not endure forever.

*Man heaps up riches,
And knows not who shall gather them.*

Store up for yourself a treasure of righteousness and love,
And it will be your most priceless possession.

*Better than the fragrance of precious oil
Is the fragrance of a good name.*

A good name is to be chosen above wealth,
And character rather than silver and gold.

*Blessed is the one
Who bequeaths a good name to her descendants.*

There are three crowns:
The crown of Torah, the crown of priesthood, and the
crown of royalty,

But the crown of a good name excels them all.

*Even a long life ends too soon,
But a good name endures forever.*

Blessed is she whose noble deeds remain her memorial
After her life on earth is ended.

*The righteous need no monuments;
Their good deeds are their memorials.*

When a woman departs this world,
Neither silver nor gold nor precious stones accompany her;
She is remembered for her love of learning and her good deeds.

*Happy is the woman who is rich in Torah and in good deeds,
For she shall be honored in life,
And be remembered long afterwards for her goodness.*

The Riches of a Good Name (for a man)

Honor a man for what he is;

But honor him more for what he does.

Honor not a man for his possessions;

Honor him for the right use he makes of them.

If one is blessed with wisdom as well as riches;

His wisdom will guide him to share his blessings with others

Riches often make themselves wings,

Like an eagle that flies toward heaven;

For riches are not everlasting;

Even the crown of royalty does not endure forever.

Man heaps up riches,

And knows not who shall gather them.

Store up for yourself a treasure of righteousness and love,

And it will be your most priceless possession.

Better than the fragrance of precious oil

Is the fragrance of a good name.

A good name is to be chosen above wealth,

And character rather than silver and gold.

Blessed is the one

Who bequeaths a good name to his descendants.

There are three crowns:

The crown of Torah, the crown of priesthood, and the
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After his life on earth is ended.

The righteous need no monuments;

Their good deeds are their memorials.

When man departs this world,

Neither silver nor gold nor precious stones accompany him;

He is remembered for his love of learning and his good deeds.

Happy is the man who is rich in Torah and in good deeds,

For he shall be honored in life,

And be remembered long afterwards for his goodness.

Teach Us to Number Our Days

Lord, You have been our dwelling-place in all generations.

From when the mountains were brought forth,

From when the earth was made,

You have been, as You will always be, God everlasting.

You return mortal beings to the earth,

Saying: “Return, O children of humanity.”

The days of our years are but seventy,

Or by reason of strength, even eighty;

And though most of them are spent in toil and trouble,

Life is soon gone by and we are no more.

Teach us to number our days correctly,

That we may get us a heart of wisdom.

Is it our desire to live well,

To have a long life filled with joy?

Then let us keep our tongue from evil

And our lips from speaking guile.

Depart from evil and do good;

Seek peace and pursue it.

In the way of righteousness is life;

In the pathway thereof there is no death.

He has told you, O mortal, what is good,

And what the Lord requires of you:

Only to do justly, love mercy,

And walk humbly with your God.

Let not the wise glory in their wisdom,

Nor the strong glory in their might;

Let not the rich glory in their riches;

But let those that glory, glory in this:

That they understand and know You, O Lord,

That You practice mercy, justice and righteousness,

For in these things do You delight.

Psalm 112

Hallelujah.

Happy is the man who fears the Lord,
who is ardently devoted to God's commandments.

God's descendants will be mighty in the land,
a blessed generation of upright men.

Wealth and riches are in his house,
and his beneficence last forever.

A light shines for the upright in the darkness;
he is gracious, compassionate, and beneficent.

All goes well with the man who lends generously,
who conducts his affairs with equity.

He shall never be shaken;
the beneficent man will be remembered forever.

He is not afraid of evil tidings;
his heart is firm, he trusts in the Lord.

His heart is resolute, he is unafraid;
in the end he will see the fall of his foes.

He gives freely to the poor;
his beneficence lasts forever;
his horn is exalted in honor.

A Woman of Valor

Selected from Proverbs, 31

A woman of valor who can find?
Her price is far above rubies.

The heart of her husband trusts in her,
And he shall be greatly blessed.

She brings him happiness and no harm,
All the days of her life.

She watches the ways of her household,
And eats not the bread of idleness.

She gives food to her household,
And a portion to her maidens.

Strength and dignity are her raiment,
And she laughs at the time to come.

She stretches out her hand to the poor,
And she reaches forth her hands to the needy.

She opens her mouth with wisdom,
And the law of lovingkindness is on her tongue.

Her children rise up and call her blessed,
Her husband praises her and says:

“Many daughters have done worthily,
But you excel them all.”

Charm may be false and beauty fade,
But a woman that reveres God, shall be praised.

Give her due credit for her achievements,
And let her works praise her in the gates.

The Upright Man

Blessed is the man that walks not in the counsel of the wicked,

Nor stands in the way of sinners,

Nor sits in the seat of the scornful.

But his delight is in the Law of the Lord,

And in God's Law he meditates day and night.

He shall be like a tree planted by streams of water,

That brings forth fruit in its season,

And whose leaf does not wither;

And in whatever he does, he shall prosper.

Blessed is the person who reveres the Lord,

That delights greatly in God's commandments.

He shall not be afraid of evil tidings;

His heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

Who shall ascend the mountain of the Lord,

And who shall stand in God's holy place?

He that has clean hands and a pure heart;

Who has not taken God's name in vain,

And has not sworn deceitfully.

He shall receive a blessing from the Lord,

And righteousness from the God of his salvation.

Lord, who shall sojourn in Your tabernacle?

Who shall dwell upon Your holy mountain?

He that walks uprightly,

And works righteousness,

And speaks truth in his heart;

Who has no slander upon his tongue,

Nor does evil to his fellow man,

Nor heaps insult upon his neighbor;

In whose eyes a vile person is despised,

But he honors them that revere the Lord;

He that keeps his word and changes not;

Nor takes a bribe against the innocent.

He that does these things

Shall endure.

Blessed are they that keep justice,

That do righteousness at all times.

My Help Comes From The Lord

I will lift up my eyes to the mountains;
From where shall my help come?

*My help comes from the Lord
Who made heaven and earth.*

Trust in the Lord at all times;
Pour out your heart before him.

*In all your ways, acknowledge God,
And He will direct your paths.*

The Lord is our refuge and strength,
An ever-present help in trouble.

*The Lord is near to all who call upon Him,
To all who call upon Him sincerely.*

The Lord redeems the souls of His servants;
None of them that trust in Him shall be forsaken.

*His compassions and His mercies-
They have been from of old.*

The Lord heals the broken-hearted,
Binding up their wounds.

*The Lord in His holy dwelling-place
Is the Father of the orphan,
And the Advocate of the widow's cause.*

Though my flesh and my heart fail,
The Lord is my strength and my portion forever.

*The Lord is my light,
Illuminating my darkness.*

The Lord is my Shepherd;
I shall not want.

*He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters.*

He restores my soul;
He guides me in straight paths for His name's sake.

*Though I walk through 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.*

Let Your Heart Take Courage

Cast your burden upon the Lord,
And the Lord will sustain you.

*In the Lord I do trust;
I shall not be afraid.*

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
Whom shall I fear?

*The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
Of whom shall I be afraid?*

O Lord of hosts,
Happy is the person that trusts in You.

*Show me Your ways, O Lord;
Teach me Your paths.*

The Lord is near to the broken-hearted,
And saves those who are contrite in spirit.

*Turn to me, O Lord, and be gracious to me,
For I am lonely and forlorn.*

Pour out your heart before God;
God is our refuge.

*My troubles are increased;
O bring me out of my distress.*

The Lord upholds all who fall,
And raises up all who are bowed down.

*Though I am fallen, I shall rise again;
Though I dwell in darkness, You shall be my light.*

God gives power to the weary,
And adds new strength to the weak.

*You who has made me experience grievous troubles,
Will revive me and raise me again from the depths.*

Be strong and let your heart take courage,
All who wait for the Lord.

*They that hope in You, O Lord,
Shall renew their strength.*

The Soul Returns To God

Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
And do not rely upon your own understanding.

*The spirit of God has made us,
And the breath of the Almighty has given us life.*

The Lord has given us understanding and insight,
And has taught us what is good and what is evil.

*God has revealed to us what is good;
And enables us to choose between right and wrong.*

God has given us a mind,

That we may use our blessings wisely;

God has given us a heart and free will,

That we may consider our ways and live according to God's will.

Consider three things and you will not sin:

Know that above you is a seeing eye, a hearing ear,

And all your deeds are recorded in a book on high.

This world is like a vestibule before the world to come;

Prepare yourself in the vestibule that you may enter the eternal hall.

Despite yourself, you were born;

Despite yourself, you will die;

Despite yourself, you will give an accounting

Before the Sovereign of all Sovereigns.

The wicked are considered dead even in their lifetime;

The righteous are considered alive even after they have died.

The dust returns to the earth as it was,

But the spirit returns to God who gave it.

O Lord, the soul which You gave me is pure;

You created it, You fashioned it.

You breathed life into me;

You preserve that life within me.

You will take it from me,

But You will restore it to me in the life to come.

You are mighty forever;

You call the dead to immortal life.

Who is like You, Almighty God,

Who decrees death and bestows eternal life,

And causes Your divine help to spring forth?



We gather here to dedicate this stone to the memory of our beloved _____. As we stand here together, we gain a clearer insight into the meaning of life. The earth receives, without distinction of wealth, fame or position, the mortal remains of all the living. The dust covers alike rich and poor, old and young, proud and humble. Here, all greed, hatred, cruelty and vainglory end. Why then, do we deal treacherously, one person against another? Knowing well that life is fleeting, why do we squander our precious time in pettiness and frivolity?

Here, we are once more reminded of our frailty. Whatever human hands have fashioned must in time return to dust. All material things disappear. Iron rusts, wood decays, rock corrodes, the flesh deteriorates. But our spiritual achievements are immortal. God's love and faith, goodness and righteousness leave their imprint on the hearts of others even as others have left their lasting imprint on our lives.

Dear God, we pray that these moments of reflection help us to realize that the only possessions that endure are our deeds of lovingkindness, which reveal the true self. Grant that we live each day wisely, fulfilling the precepts of Your Torah. In tribute to _____, may we so live that we find grace in Your sight and merit the esteem of others. Amen.

Unveiling Service

for

B'nai Jeshurun Congregation

