The Short Kaddish Prayer In Place of Kaddish When There is no Minyan

Born out of the distress of mourners who came to the synagogue to say kaddish in memory of their loved one, and to their disappointment there was no “tenth for a minyan.” This was also a disappointment to all those who did come to the synagogue and because of the one who did not attend, they could not make minyan. Once, a disappointed mourner turned to Rabbi Dov Baer Edelstein and asked him if he could craft something in place of the kaddish when there is no minyan. The mourner’s disappointment touched the Rabbi’s heart and this is the result. From then on, Rabbi Edelstein received many expressions of appreciation from mourners who would return to their homes with the satisfaction that they had fulfilled their obligation on behalf of their loved one.

Rabbi Dov Baer Edelstein is a survivor of Auschwitz. He went on to become a Conservative/masorti rabbi, served the Jewish community in the United States and retired in Israel. Rabbi Edelstein wrote the prayer, entitled “In Place of Kaddish when there is no Minyan.” I received his prayer in a handout from a colleague, together with the story in Hebrew below. I translated the story into English and added vowels to the Hebrew prayer. May those who recite it be comforted in their mourning and may the souls of their loved ones be elevated on high.

--Rabbi Pam Frydman * *****

For a male

Eyl, elohay haRuchot, Asher b'yad'kha nafshot haKhayyim v'haMayteem, p'nay haYom b'khesed u'v'rakhamim el tefilati l'zaycher yikirati. Zachor nah et col hakhesed v'haTov shehAsah b'olam haKhayyim. Ten lo menucha n'khonah takhat canfay haShinah, uTzurir biTzurir haKhayyim et nishmato. Yitgadal v'yitkadow sh’mei raba. Oseh shalom bimromav, hu ya’aseh shalom aleinu v’al kol Yisrael, v’imru amen.
For a woman

Eyl, elohay haRuchot, Asher b'yad'kha nafshot haKhayyim v'haMayteem,
p'nay haYom b'khesed u'v'rakhamim el tefilati l'zaycher yikirati.
Zachor nah et col hakhesed v'haTov shehAstah b'olam haKhayyim.
Ten lah menucha n'khonah takhat canfay haShinah, uTzrur biTzrur haKhayyim et nishmatah. Yitgadal v'yitkadash sh'mei raba. Oseh shalom bimromav, hu ya’aseh shalom aleinu v'al kol Yisrael, v'imru amen.

God of spirits, in whose hands rest the souls of the living and the dead, graciously and mercifully accept my prayer in memory of my loved one(s).

Remember all of the good and kindly deeds that he/she/they did when among the living, grant him/her/ them peaceful rest under the wings of the Almighty, and bind his/her/their soul in the binds of life.

Exhaulted and sanctified be God's great name. The one who makes peace in the supernal realm, may God also make peace for all of the people of Israel, and say: Amen

For Both Men and Women

Eyl, elohay haRuchot, Asher b'yad'kha nafshot haKhayyim v'haMayteem,
p'nay haYom b'khesed u'v'rakhamim el tefilati l'zaycher yikirati.
Zachor nah et col hakhesed v'haTov shehAstah b'olam haKhayyim.
Ten lah menucha n'khonah takhat canfay haShinah, uTzrur biTzrur haKhayyim et nishmatah. Yitgadal v'yitkadash sh'mei raba. Oseh shalom bimromav, hu ya’aseh shalom aleinu v'al kol Yisrael, v'imru amen.

God of spirits, in whose hands rest the souls of the living and the dead, graciously and mercifully accept my prayer in memory of my loved one(s).

Remember all of the good and kindly deeds that he/she/they did when among the living, grant him/her/ them peaceful rest under the wings of the Almighty, and bind his/her/their soul in the binds of life.

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