

Death will come; we cannot enter in judgment with it.
Our question - "Why" - will always go unanswered.
But this does not mean that we are helpless in the face of death.
We can rob death of ultimate victory by living our lives,
so that when death comes
it takes us from a world
one corner of which is a little better
because we were there.

Psalm 16 (Recorded by Cantorial Soloist Jodi Rozental)

שׁוֹיִתִּי יי לְנֶגְדֵי תָמִיד כִּי מִיְמִינִי בַל-אֶמּוּט: לִכֵּן | שְׂמַח לְבִי וַיִּגַּל כְּבוֹדִי
אֶף-בְּשָׂרִי יִשְׁכֵּן לְבֶטֶח: כִּי | לֹא-תֵעָזֵב נַפְשִׁי לְשָׂאוֹל לֹא-תִתֵּן חֲסִידֶךָ
לְרָאוֹת שְׁחַת: יֵא תוֹדִיעֵנִי אֶרְחַח חַיִּים שְׁבַע שְׂמֵחוֹת אֶת-פָּנֶיךָ נְעֻמּוֹת
בִּימִינְךָ נֹצֵחַ:

Shiviti Adonai l'negdi tamid ki mini bal emot:

Lachaein samach libi v'yagel k'vodi af b'sari yishkon lavetcah:

Ki lo taazov nafshi lishol lo titein chasidcha lirot shachat:

*Todi-eini orach chayim sova s'machot et panecha n'imot bimincha
netzach:*

I am ever mindful of Adonai's presence; God is at my right hand; I shall never be shaken. So my heart rejoices, my whole being exults, and my body rests secure. For You will not abandon me to Sheol, or let Your faithful one see the Pit. You will teach me the path of life. In Your presence is perfect joy; delights are ever in Your right hand.

And the child asks, "Tell me of life."

And the sage answered:

Life, my child, is a mystery.

We do not ask to be born,

Nor do we even understand the meaning of birth - of creation.

We grow and we experience life's pleasures and pains.

We love, and slowly, oh so slowly,

We come to realize that we have become -

That we are.

At that moment

We humble ourselves before the mystery of life and quietly say:

Though I knew not,

I have been granted the most precious gift of all,

The gift of life.

And the child asked, "Tell me of death."

And the sage answered:

Death my child is a mystery.

It is the inevitable return of the gift of life,

The gift which came free to us.

We live as the trustee of that mysterious being,

Of that unexplainable becoming.

Yes, you and I are but the trustees of life.

We nurture it, we delight in it, we give of it to others.

And at the appointed time we sadly, yet with pride, return it from

whence it came.

The beauty, my child, is that what we are,

What we become,

Remains long after the gift has been returned.

It remains as a precious keepsake with our loved ones who live on.

Psalm 23 (Recorded by Cantorial Soloist Jodi Rozental)

מִזְמוֹר לְדָוִד יְיָ רֹעִי לֹא אֶחְסָר׃ בְּנֵאוֹת דְּשֵׁא יְרִבִּיצַנִי עַל־מִי מְנַחֹת
יְנַהֲלֵנִי׃ נַפְשִׁי יִשׁוּבֵב יִנְחֵנִי בְּמַעְגְּלֵי־צֶדֶק לְמַעַן שְׁמוֹ׃ גַּם כִּי־אֵלֶךְ בְּגִיא
צַלְמוֹת לֹא־אִירָא רָע כִּי־אֶתְהַ עֲמָדֵי שְׁבֻטְךָ וּמִשְׁעַנְתֶּךָ הִמָּה יִנְחַמְנִי׃
תְּעַרְךָ לְפָנָי | שְׁלַחַן נֶגֶד צִרְרֵי דִשְׁנַת בְּשֶׁמֶן רֹאשִׁי כֹּוֹסֵי רוּיָה׃ אַךְ טוֹב
וְחֶסֶד יִרְדְּפוּנִי כָל־יְמֵי חַיֵּי וְשִׁבְתִּי בְּבֵית־יְיָ לְאַרְךָ יָמִים׃

Mizmor l'David Adonai ro-i lo echsar. Binot desheh yarbitzeini al mei m'nuchot y'nachaleini. Nafshi y'shoviev yan'cheini b'maglei tzedek l'maan sh'mo. Gam ki eilech b'gei tzalmabet lo-ira ra ki atahimadi shivt'cha umishantecha heimah y'nachamuni. raaroch l'fanai shulchan neged tzor'rai dishanta vashemen roshi kosi r'vayah. Ach tov vachosed yird'funi kol y'mei chayai v'shavti b'veit Adonai l'orech yamim.

The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. God makes me lie down in green pastures, God leads me beside still waters, God refreshes my soul. God guides me along the right paths for God's name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, 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 anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely Your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Silent Prayers For Our Loved Ones

FOR A FATHER

The memory of your life, dear father, rises before me. I recall your devotion and sacrifice for my welfare, the many comforts with which you provided me. Untiring were your endeavors to direct me on the path of virtue and kindness, to enrich my mind and ennoble my heart.

You rejoiced in my achievements, guided me in my perplexities, and strengthened me in my trials and disappointments. The passing of years cannot dim the blessed memories you have left behind.

FOR A MOTHER

As I reflect here, dear mother, I feel the closeness of your spirit. You gave me life, guided my first steps, and nursed me through all the illness of childhood and youth. From your lips I heard the word of God and learned to keep the mitzvot. Many were your sacrifices through kindly deeds and love so freely given for my well being. What I have achieved is due to your influence; What I am, I have become through you.

FOR A SPOUSE/PARTNER

As I think of you, oh companion of my heart, I fondly recall the sacred bonds formed in God's presence, our love and companionship, the hardships and pleasures, trials and triumphs, joys and sorrows that we shared together. The delight of my life, you dispelled my fears, encouraged me when things went wrong, and stood by me when I needed you most. May the sweetest memories of our life together remain for a blessing and strength and all that is good and noble in me.

FOR A CHILD

Dearly beloved child, I recall the happiness that filled our home and the joys you afforded us during your lifetime. How I rejoiced in the blessings you brought us! How I delighted in your growth and planned for your future! Though death has cut short your life, the bond which unites us cannot be severed. Your memory is forever enshrined in my heart.

FOR A SIBLING

I recall the many hours we spent together in devoted comradeship, sharing the love and traditions of our home and family. Deep is my sorrow at your departure. Death has deprived us of many joys together. Your years were too few for those who loved you, but your kindness and understanding will never be forgotten. Love does not perish even in death.

FOR A FRIEND

We have shared many memories together, laughing, crying, and secret sharing. You were always on the other end of the telephone when I needed you, to just listen or to offer advice. To have had you as a friend means my life was filled with blessings. Though you are gone your life is still remembered and your love is still felt today and always.

A PRAYER

Adonai, Source of all life and love, I turn to You in help

In times of pain and sorrow.

Give me strength in this time of remembrance, As I seek to pay tribute to Your departed.

Help me to remember the words of our Bible: "The human soul is the light of Adonai."

In Your keeping, the souls of my departed still glow, "As brightly as the heavenly firmament,"

May this faith help me to dispel the darkness, When sadness descends upon me.

"By Your light may I see light,"

During this visit and at all times.

May the memory of my departed abide with me As a lasting benediction.

El Maleh Rachamim (Recorded by Cantorial Soloist Jodi Rozental)

אֵל מָלֵא רַחֲמִים שׁוֹכֵן בְּמְרוֹמִים, הַמְצִיא מְנוּחָה נְכוֹנָה תַּחַת כַּנְּפֵי
הַשְּׂכִינָה בְּמַעְלוֹת קְדוּשִׁים וְטְהוּרִים כְּזוֹהַר הַרְקִיעַ מְזַהֲרִים אֶת נְשָׁמוֹת
יְקָרָנוּ שֶׁהֵלְכוּ לְעוֹלָמָם בְּעָבוּר בְּעַל הַרְחָמִים, יִסְתִּירֵהֶם בְּסֶתֶר כְּנַפְיוֹ
לְעוֹלָמִים, וְיִצְרֹר בְּצְרוּר הַחַיִּים אֶת נְשָׁמָתָם ה' הוּא נִחְלָתָם, וְיִנּוּחֵוּ
בְּשָׁלוֹם עַל מִשְׁכָּבָם וְנֹאמַר אָמֵן

*El Malei Rachamim, Shochein bamoromim. Ham'tzei m'nuchah
n'chonah tachat kanfei haShechinah, im k'dkoshim ur'horim, kzohar
harakia mazhirim, l'nishmat yakireinu shehalachu l'olamam, Baal
harachamim, yastireim b'seter k'nafav l'olamim, V'yitz'ror bitz'ror
hachayim et nishmatam.
Adonai hu nachalatam, Baynauchu b'shalom al mishkavam. V'nomar:
Amen*

Fully compassionate God on high:

To our loved ones who have entered eternity grant clear and certain rest with You in the lofty heights of the sacred and pure whose brightness shines like the very glow of heaven. Source of mercy: Forever unfold them in the embrace of Your wings; secure their souls in eternity. Adonai: they are Yours. They will rest in Peace. Shalom.

MOURNERS KADDISH

יִתְגַּדַּל וְיִתְקַדַּשׁ שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא.
בְּעַלְמָא דִּי בְּרָא כְרַעוּתֵהּ וְיִמְלִיךְ מַלְכוּתֵהּ בְּחַיֵּיכוּן וּבְיוֹמֵיכוּן וּבְחַיֵּי דְכָל
בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּעַגְלָא וּבְזִמְן קָרִיב, וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן:
יְהֵא שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא מְבָרַךְ לְעָלַם וּלְעַלְמֵי עָלְמַיָּא:
יְתַבְרַךְ וְיִשְׁתַּבַּח וְיִתְפָּאֵר וְיִתְרוֹמַם וְיִתְנַשֵּׂא וְיִתְהַדָּר וְיִתְעַלֶּה וְיִתְהַלָּל
שְׁמֵהּ דְקַדְשָׁא. בְּרִיךְ הוּא.

Yitgadal v'yitkadash sh'mei raba:

*b'alma di-v'ra chirutei, v'yamlich malchutei b'chayeichon
uvyomeichon uvchayei d'chol beit yisrael, ba'agala uvizman
kariv, v'im'ru: "amen." Y'hei sh'mei raba m'varach l'alam ul'almei
almaya.*

*Yitbarach v'yishtabach, v'yitpa'ar v'yitromam v'yitnaseh,
v'yithadar v'yit'aleh v'yit'halal sh'mei d'kud'sha, b'rich hu,
l'eila min-kol-birchata v'shirata, tushb'chata v'nechemata
da'amiran b'alma, v'im'ru: "amen."*

*Y'hei shlama raba min-sh'maya v'chayim aleinu v'al-kol-yisrael,
v'im'ru: "amen."*

*Oseh shalom bimromav, hu ya'aseh shalom aleinu v'al kol-yisrael,
v'imru: "amen."*

*Exalted and hallowed be God's great name
in the world which God created, according to plan.*

*May God's majesty be revealed in the days of our lifetime
and the life of all Israel — speedily, imminently,*

To which we say: Amen.

Blessed be God's great name to all eternity.

Blessed, praised, honored, exalted,

extolled, glorified, adored, and lauded

be the name of the Holy Blessed One,

beyond all earthly words and songs of blessing, praise, and comfort.

To which we say: Amen.

*May there be abundant peace from heaven, and life, for us and all
Israel. To which we say: Amen.*

*May the One who creates harmony on high, bring peace to us and
to all Israel.*

To which we say: Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

Do not stand at my grave and weep

I am not there; I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow,

I am the diamond glints on snow,

I am the sun on ripened grain,

I am the gentle autumn rain.

When you awaken in the morning's hush

I am the swift uplifting rush

Of quiet birds in circled flight.

I am the soft stars that shine at night.

Do not stand at my grave and cry,

I am not there; I did not die.

- Mary Elizabeth Frye

עוֹשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמִרְמָיו הוּא יַעֲשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאָמְרוּ
אָמֵן:

Oseh shalom bimromav, hu ya'aseh shalom aleinu v'al kol-yisrael,
v'imru: "amen."

May the One who creates harmony on high, bring peace to us and to
all Israel. Amen.