

VIDUY וִידוּי END-OF-LIFE PRAYERS FOR JEWISH PATIENTS

The departure of the soul from the body at the end of one's life signifies an extremely profound transition, as the soul passes from the physical world and returns to be with G-d in the eternal world of the spirit.

Jewish tradition teaches that at the moment of passing, every positive thought, word, or deed that occurred during the person's life is concentrated into a pristine spiritual light. This light is revealed to the world and in the Heavenly spheres, where it continues to shine and have an effect on those above and below.

For the time of this sacred transition our Sages prepared a special set of prayers, called Viduy, "Confession." These prayers affirm our faith in G-d, evoke Divine mercy, and elicit great atonement.

PREPARING FOR THE VIDUY

- One should not delay reciting Viduy out of fear that it may be a bad omen. Many people have recited the Viduy and gone on to live many long years. In fact, saying the Viduy is helpful for one's recovery, as sincere repentance brings merit to the person and can nullify a severe decree from Heaven.
- Viduy may be recited on any day, even on Shabbat and Jewish holidays.
- It is best for Viduy to be recited with a clear mind. Therefore, one should say it before he becomes too weak. If one cannot speak, he may say the Viduy in his heart.
- Before reciting the Viduy one should endeavor to ask forgiveness from those whom he may have caused pain or hardship.
- There are various customs concerning the order and content of the Viduy prayers. The prayers in this booklet represent a common format of Viduy. One may also add prayers or Psalms as one wishes.
- If possible, one should try to recite the entire Viduy. If this is too difficult, then one should try to recite at least from Adon Olam onward. If one is even further pressed, then he should recite the verses from Shema Yisroel onward. The least one should do is say "Let my death be an atonement for my sins," and recite the verse of Shema.
- Once Viduy is recited, and death seems imminent, one should not leave the person alone. Those who remain with the person should recite Psalms for his recovery.

THE CONFESSIONAL PRAYER

מוֹדָה אֲנִי לְפָנֶיךָ, ה' אֱלֹקֵי, וְאֵלֹקֵי אֲבוֹתַי, שְׂרַפּוּאֲתִי בְיָדְךָ וּמִיתַתִּי בְיָדְךָ: יְהִי רְצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ, שֶׁתִּרְפָּאֵנִי רְפוּאָה שְׁלֵמָה, וְאִם אָמוּת, תִּהְיֶה מִיתַתִּי כְּפָרָה עַל כָּל חַטָּאִים וְעוֹנוֹת וּפְשָׁעִים שֶׁחָטָאתִי וְשָׁעוֹתִי וְשִׁפְשַׁעְתִּי לְפָנֶיךָ, וְתֵן חֶלְקִי בְּגַן עֵדֶן, וְזַכְנִי לְעוֹלָם הַבָּא הַצָּפוֹן לְצַדִּיקִים:

I acknowledge before You, Lord my G-d and the G-d of my fathers, that my recovery and my death are in Your hands. May it be Your will that You heal me with total recovery, but, if I die, may my death be an atonement for all the errors, iniquities, and willful sins that I have erred, sinned and transgressed before You, and may You grant my share in the Garden of Eden, and grant me the merit to abide in the World to Come which is vouchsafed for the righteous.

אֱלֹקֵינוּ וְאֵלֹקֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ, תְּבֹא לְפָנֶיךָ תְּפִלָּתֵנוּ, וְאֵל תִּתְעַלֵּם מִתְחַנְּנֵנוּ, שְׂאִין אֲנוּ עֲדֵי פָּנִים וְקָשִׁי עֵרְף לֹמֵר לְפָנֶיךָ ה' אֱלֹקֵינוּ וְאֵלֹקֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ, צַדִּיקִים אֲנַחְנוּ וְלֹא חָטָאנוּ, אֲבָל אֲנַחְנוּ וְאֲבוֹתֵינוּ חָטָאנוּ:

Our G-d and G-d of our fathers, may our prayers come before You, and do not turn away from our supplication, for we are not so impudent and obdurate as to declare before You, Lord our G-d and G-d of our fathers, that we are righteous and have not sinned. Indeed, we and our fathers have sinned.

אֲשַׁמְנוּ, בְּגַדְנוּ, גָּזַלְנוּ, דִּבְרַנּוּ דְפִי: הָעוֹיִנוּ, וְהִרְשַׁעְנוּ, זָדוֹנוּ, חֲמַסְנוּ, טָפְלֵנוּ שָׁקֵר: יַעֲצָנוּ רָע, כָּזְבָנוּ, לָצָנוּ, מִרְדָּנוּ, נֶאֱצָנוּ, סָרְרָנוּ, עוֹיִנוּ, פִּשְׁעָנוּ, צָרְרָנוּ, קִשְׁיֵנוּ עֵרְף: רִשְׁעָנוּ, שִׁחַתְנוּ, תַּעֲבָנוּ, תַּעֲבָנוּ: סָרְנוּ מִמִּצְוֹתֶיךָ וּמִמְשַׁפְּטֶיךָ הַטּוֹבִים וְלֹא שָׁוָה לָנוּ: וְאַתָּה צַדִּיק עַל כָּל הַבָּא עֲלֵינוּ, כִּי אָמַת עָשִׂית, וְאֲנַחְנוּ הִרְשַׁעְנוּ:

We have transgressed, we have acted perfidiously, we have robbed, we have slandered. We have acted perversely and wickedly, we have willfully sinned, we have done violence, we have imputed falsely. We have given evil counsel, we have lied, we have scoffed, we have rebelled, we have provoked, we have been disobedient, we have committed iniquity, we have wantonly transgressed, we have oppressed, we have been obstinate. We have committed evil, we have acted perniciously, we have acted abominably, we have gone astray, we have led others astray. We have strayed from Your good precepts and ordinances, and it has not profited us. Indeed, You are just in all that has come upon us, for You have acted truthfully, and it is we who have acted wickedly.

רְבוֹנוּ שֶׁל עוֹלָם, יְהִי רְצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ שִׁיְהִיה שְׁלוֹם מִנוּחֹתִי:

Master of the Universe, may it be Your will that my passing be in peace.

תהלים קכ"א – PSALM 121

שִׁיר לַמַּעֲלוֹת אֲשָׁא עֵינַי אֶל הַהָרִים מֵאֵין יבֹּא עֲזָרִי:
 עֲזָרִי מֵעַם ה' עֲשֵׂה שָׁמַיִם וָאָרֶץ:
 אֵל-יִתֵּן לְמוֹט רַגְלֶךָ אֵל יָנוּם שְׁמֹרֶךָ:
 הִנֵּה לֹא יָנוּם וְלֹא יִישָׁן שׁוֹמֵר יִשְׂרָאֵל:
 ה' שְׁמֹרֶךָ ה' צִלְךָ עַל-יַד יְמִינֶךָ:
 יוֹמָם הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ לֹא-יִכָּכֶה וְיָרַח בַּלַּיְלָה:
 ה' יִשְׁמְרֶךָ מִכָּל-רָע יִשְׁמַר אֶת-נַפְשְׁךָ:
 ה' יִשְׁמַר-צִאתְךָ וּבֹאֶךָ מֵעַתָּה וְעַד-עוֹלָם:

A Song of Ascents.

I lift my eyes to the mountains -- from where will my help come?
 My help will come from the Lord, Maker of heaven and earth.
 He will not let your foot falter; your guardian does not slumber.
 Indeed, the Guardian of Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps.
 The Lord is your guardian; the Lord is your protective shade at your right hand.
 The sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.
 The Lord will guard you from all evil; He will guard your soul.
 The Lord will guard your going and your coming from now and for all time.

תהלים ק"ל – PSALM 130

שִׁיר הַמַּעֲלוֹת מִמַּעַמְקִים קָרָאתִיךָ ה':
 ה' שְׁמַעֲהָ בְקוֹלִי תְהִיֵּינָה אֲזִינֶךָ לְקוֹל תְּחִנּוּנָי:
 אִם-עֲוֹנוֹת תִּשְׁמַר-קָה ה' מִי יַעֲמֵד:
 כִּי-עַמְּךָ הִסְלִיחָה לְמַעַן תִּוְרָא:
 קִוִּיתִי ה' קוֹתָה נַפְשִׁי וְלִדְבַר הוֹחֲלֹתִי:
 נַפְשִׁי לֵה' מִשְׁמָרִים לְבַקֵּר שְׁמָרִים לְבַקֵּר:
 יַחַל יִשְׂרָאֵל אֵל-ה' כִּי-עַם-ה' הַחֲסֵד וְהַרְבֵּה עֲמוֹ פְדוּת:
 וְהוּא יִפְדֶּה אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל מִכָּל עֲוֹנוֹתָיו:

A Song of Ascents.

Out of the depths I call to You, O Lord.
 My Lord, hearken to my voice; let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas.
 G-d, if You were to preserve iniquities, my Lord, Who could survive?
 But forgiveness is with You, that You may be feared.
 I hope in the Lord; my soul hopes, and I long for His word.
 My soul yearns for the Lord more than [night] watchmen
 [waiting] for the morning, wait for the morning.
 Israel, put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord there is
 kindness; with Him there is abounding deliverance.
 And He will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

תהלים צ"א – PSALM 91

יֵשֵׁב בְּסֹתֵר עֲלִיּוֹן בְּצֶל שִׁקִּי יִתְלוֹן:
 אָמַר לֵה' מַחְסִי וּמְצוּדָתִי אֱלֹקֵי אֲבֹתַי בּוֹ:
 כִּי הוּא יִצְלַח מִפֶּחַ יִקוּשׁ מִדְּבַר הָאוֹת:
 בְּאֲבָרְתוֹ | יִסֵּךְ לָךְ וְתַחַת כַּנְּפֵי תַחֲסֶה צִנֹּה וְסַחֲרָה אֲמַתּוֹ:
 לֹא־תִירָא מִפֶּחַד לַיְלָה מִחַץ יַעֲוִף יוֹמָם:
 מִדְּבַר בְּאִפֶּל יִהְיֶה לְךָ מִקֶּטֶב יִשׁוּד צְהָרִים:
 יִפֹּל מִצְדָּךְ | אֶלְךָ וּרְבֵבָה מִימִינְךָ אֵלֶיךָ לֹא יִגָּשׁ:
 רַק בְּעֵינֶיךָ תִּבְיֹט וְשִׁלְמַת רַשָּׁעִים תִּרְאֶה:
 כִּי־אֲתֶה ה' מַחְסִי עֲלִיּוֹן שְׁמֹת מְעוֹנֶךָ:
 לֹא־תֵאָנֶה אֵלֶיךָ רָעָה וְנִגְעָה לֹא־יִקְרַב בְּאֵהָלְךָ:
 כִּי מִלֵּאכֹוֹ יִצְוֶה־לְךָ לְשִׁמְרֶךָ בְּכֹל־דַּרְכֶיךָ:
 עַל־כַּפְּיָם יִשְׁאוּנֶךָ פִּן־תִּגַּף בְּאֲבָן רִגְלֶךָ:
 עַל־שַׁחַל וּפְתָן תִּדְרֹךְ תִּרְמַס כִּפִּיר וְתִנְיִן:
 כִּי בִי חֲשַׁק וְאִפְלֹטָהוּ אֲשַׁגְּבֶהוּ כִּי־יָדַע שְׁמִי:
 יִקְרָאנִי | וְאֶעֱנֶהוּ עִמּוֹ־אֲנִי בְּצָרָה אֲחַלְצֶהוּ וְאֲכַבְּדֶהוּ:
 אֶרְךְ יָמִים אֲשַׁבְּעֶהוּ וְאֶרְאֶהוּ בִישׁוּעָתִי:

You Who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, Who abides in the shadow of the Omnipotent,
 I say of the Lord Who is my refuge and my stronghold, my G-d in Whom I trust,
 that He will save you from the ensnaring trap, from the destructive pestilence.

He will cover you with His pinions and you will find refuge under
 His wings; His truth is a shield and an armor.

You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day,
 the pestilence that prowls in the darkness, nor the destruction that ravages at noon.
 A thousand may fall at your [left] side, and ten thousand at your right, but it shall not reach you.
 You need only look with your eyes, and you will see the retribution of the wicked.

Because you [have said,] "The Lord is my shelter," and you have made the Most High your haven,
 no evil will befall you, no plague will come near your tent.

For He will instruct His angels in your behalf, to guard you in all your ways.

They will carry you in their hands, lest you hurt your foot on a rock.

You will tread upon the lion and the viper; you will trample upon the young lion and the serpent.

Because he desires Me, I will deliver him; I will fortify him for he knows My Name.

When he calls on Me, I will answer him; I am with him in distress, I will deliver him and honor him.
 I will satisfy him with long life, and show him My deliverance.

ADON OLAM – אָדוֹן עוֹלָם

**אָדוֹן עוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר מֶלֶךְ, בְּטָרֵם כָּל יְצוֹר נִבְרָא: לַעֲת נַעֲשֶׂה בְּחִפְצוֹ כָּל, אֲדִי מֶלֶךְ שְׁמוֹ נִקְרָא:
 וְאַחֲרָי כְּכָלוֹת הַכֹּל, לְבַדּוֹ יִמְלוֹךְ נוֹרָא: וְהוּא הִיָּה וְהוּא הוֹוֶה, וְהוּא יִהְיֶה בְּתַפְאָרָה:
 וְהוּא אֶחָד וְאֵין שְׁנַי, לַהֲמַשִּׁיל לוֹ לַהֲחִבְרָה: בְּלִי רֵאשִׁית בְּלִי תַכְלִית, וְלוֹ הַעוֹז וְהַמְשָׁרָה:
 וְהוּא קֵלִי וְחֵי גּוֹאֲלִי, וְצוֹר חֲבִלִי בְּעַת צָרָה: וְהוּא נְסִי וּמְנוֹס לִי, מִנֵּת כּוֹסֵי בְּיוֹם אֶקְרָא:
 בְּיָדוֹ אֶפְקִיד רוּחִי, בְּעַת אֵישׁן וְאַעִירָה: וְאִם רוּחִי גִוְיִתִּי, ה' לִי וְלֹא אֵירָא:**

Lord of the universe, Who reigned before anything was created – at the time when by His will all things were made, then was His name proclaimed King.
 And after all things shall cease to be, the Awesome One will reign alone. He was, He is, and He shall be in glory.
 He is one, and there is no other to compare to Him, to consort with Him.
 Without beginning, without end, power and dominion belong to Him.
 He is my G-d and my ever-living Redeemer, the strength of my lot in time of distress. He is my banner and my refuge, my portion on the day I call.
 Into His hand I entrust my spirit, when I sleep and when I wake. And with my soul, my body too, the Lord is with me, I shall not fear.

ANA B'CHOACH – אָנָּא בַּחַ

**אָנָּא בַּחַ גְּדֻלַּת יְמִינְךָ, תַּתִּיר צָרוּךְ:
 קַבֵּל רִנַּת עַמְךָ, שְׁגַבְנוּ טְהָרְנוּ, נוֹרָא:
 נָא גְבוּר, דּוֹרְשֵׁי יְחוּדְךָ, כְּבַבַּת שְׁמָרָם:
 בְּרַכָּם טְהָרָם, רַחֲמֵי צְדָקָתְךָ תְּמִיד גְּמִלָּם:
 חֲסִין קְדוֹשׁ, בְּרוּב טוֹבְךָ נֵהַל עֲדָתְךָ:
 יְחִיד גָּאֵה, לַעֲמֶךָ פְּנֵה זֹכְרֵי קְדוּשַׁתְךָ:
 שׁוּעַתְנוּ קַבֵּל, וּשְׁמַע צַעֲקַתְנוּ, יוֹדַע תַּעֲלָמוֹת:
 בְּרוּךְ שֵׁם כְּבוֹד מַלְכוּתוֹ לְעוֹלָם וָעֵד:**

We implore you, by the great power of Your right hand, release the captive.
 Accept the prayer of Your people; strengthen us, purify us, Awesome One.
 Mighty One, we beseech You, guard as the apple of the eye those who seek Your Oneness.
 Bless them, cleanse them; bestow upon them forever Your merciful righteousness.
 Powerful, Holy One, in Your abounding goodness, guide Your congregation.
 Only and Exalted One, turn to Your people who are mindful of Your holiness.
 Accept our supplication and hear our cry, You Who knows secret thoughts.
 Blessed be the name of the glory of His kingdom forever and ever.

ועל כן – V'AL KEIN

ועל כן נקוה לך ה' אלקינו, לראות מהרה בתפארת עזך, להעביר גלולים מן הארץ והאליילים כרות ירתונן, לתקן עולם במלכות שקי, וכל בני בשר יקראו בשמך, להפנות אליך כל רשעי ארץ, יכירו וידעו כל יושבי תבל, כי לך תכרע כל ברך, תשבע כל לשון. לפיך ה' אלקינו יכרעו ויפולו, ולכבוד שמך יקר יתנו, ויקבלו כלם עליהם את עול מלכותך, ותמלוך עליהם מהרה לעולם ועד, כי המלכות שלך היא, ולעולמי עד תמלוך בכבוד, ככתוב בתורתך: ה' ימלוך לעולם ועד. ונאמר: והיה ה' למלך על כל הארץ, ביום ההוא יהיה ה' אחד ושמו אחד:

And therefore we hope to You, Lord our G-d, that we may speedily behold the splendor of Your might, to banish idolatry from the earth and false G-ds will be utterly destroyed; to perfect the world under the sovereignty of the Almighty. All mankind shall invoke Your Name, to turn to You all the wicked of the earth. Then all the inhabitants of the world will recognize and know that every knee should bend to You, every tongue should swear [by Your Name]. Before You, Lord our G-d, they will bow and prostrate themselves, and give honor to the glory of Your Name; and they will all take upon themselves the yoke of Your kingdom. May You soon reign over them forever and ever, for kingship is Yours, and to all eternity You will reign in glory, as it is written in Your Torah: The Lord will reign forever and ever. And it is said: The Lord shall be King over the entire earth; on that day the Lord shall be One and His Name One.

SHEMA AND ADDITIONAL VERSES OF UNITY

At the very last moments, all present, including the person himself (if possible), recite the following passages aloud (except where noted), and with intense concentration.

שמע ישראל, ה' אלקינו, ה' אחד:

Hear, O Israel, the L-rd is our G-d, the L-rd is One

The following verse is recited three times in an undertone:

ברוך שם כבוד מלכותו לעולם ועד:

Blessed be the name of the glory of His kingdom forever and ever.

The following verse is recited seven times out loud:

ה' הוא האלקים:

The L-rd is G-d.

ה' מלך, ה' מלך, ה' ימלוך לעולם ועד:

The L-rd is King, the L-rd was King, the L-rd will be King forever and ever.