

## Introduction

The following prayers may be recited by those present with a terminally ill person who is likely approaching the time of death. These are traditional Psalms recited for salvation and prayers that express one's faith. They may be repeated as many times as desired. The goal of these prayers is to pray for grace and mercy for the ill, envelop them in an environment of prayer & spiritual elevation, and stimulate personal reflection.

**A song of ascents.** *I lift my eyes up to the hills; where will my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip; He who guards you does not slumber. Behold – the Guardian of Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps. The Lord is your guardian; the Lord is your shade at your right hand. The sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will guard you from all harm; He will guard your life. The Lord will guard your going and coming, now and for evermore.*

(Psalms Chapter 121)

**A song of ascents.** *From the depths I have called out to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice; let Your ears be attuned to the sound of my plea. If You, Lord, keep account of sins, O Lord, who could stand? But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You may be revered. I wait for the Lord – my soul waits – in His word I put my hope. My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning. Israel, put your hope in the Lord, for loving-kindness is the Lord's, and great is His power to redeem. It is He who will redeem Israel from all their sins.*

(Psalms Chapter 130)

**He who lives in the shelter of the Most High** *dwells in the shadow of Shaddai. I say of the Lord, "My refuge and stronghold, my God in whom I trust," for He will save you from the fowler's snare, from deadly plague. With His pinions He will cover you; beneath His wings you will find shelter; His loyalty is an encircling shield. You need not fear terror by night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the*

שׁיר לַמַּעֲלוֹת, אֲשֶׁר אֵינִי אֹלֶהֱרִים, מֵאֵין זְבֹא עֲזָרִי: עֲזָרִי מֵעַם יְיָ-הוֹה, עֲשֵׂה שְׁמִים וְאָרֶץ: אֲלִי־תֵן לַמוֹט רַגְלֶךָ, אֲל־יָנוּם שְׁמֶרְךָ: הִנֵּה לֹא-יָנוּם וְלֹא יִישָׁן שׁוֹמֵר יִשְׂרָאֵל: יְיָ-הוֹה שְׁמֶרְךָ, יְיָ-הוֹה צִלְךָ עַל-יַד יְמִינֶךָ: יוֹמָם הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ לֹא-יִכְפֹּה, וְיָרַח בַּלַּיְלָה: יְיָ-הוֹה יִשְׁמְרֶךָ מִכָּל-רָע, יִשְׁמֹר אֶת-נַפְשְׁךָ: יְיָ-הוֹה יִשְׁמֹר-צֵאתְךָ וּבֹאֶךָ, מֵעַתָּה וְעַד-עוֹלָם:

(תהלים קכא)

שׁיר הַמַּעֲלוֹת, מִמַּעַמְקִים קָרָאתִיךָ יְיָ-הוֹה: יְיָ-הוֹה שְׁמֵעָה בְּקוֹלִי, תִּהְיֶינָה אַזְנוֹתֶיךָ קֹשְׁבוֹת לְקוֹל תַּחֲנוּנָי: אִם-עֲוֹנוֹת תִּשְׁמְרֶנִּי-הוֹה, יְיָ-הוֹה מִי יַעֲמֵד: כִּי-עָמַד הַסְּלִיחָה, לִמְעַן תִּגְרָא: קוֹיִתִּי יְיָ-הוֹה קוֹתֶנָה נַפְשִׁי, וְלִדְבָרוֹ הוֹחֲלֵתִי: נַפְשִׁי לִי-הוֹה, מִשְׁמָרִים לְבָקֶר, שְׁמָרִים לְבָקֶר: יַחַל יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל יְיָ-הוֹה, כִּי-עַם יְיָ-הוֹה הַחֲסֵד, וְהַרְבֵּה עֲמוֹ פְדוֹת: וְהוּא יַפְדֶּה אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל, מִכָּל עֲוֹנוֹתָיו:

(תהלים קל)

יֹשֵׁב בְּסִתְרֵי עֲלִיּוֹן, בְּצֵל שֶׁ-דִּי יִתְלוֹן: אִמֵּר לִי-הוֹה מַחְסֵי וּמְצוּדֹתֶיךָ, אֶל-לֵהי אֲבָטַח-בוֹ: כִּי הוּא יַצִּילֶךָ מִכַּף יָקוּשׁ, מִדְּבַר הַוּוֹת: בְּאֲבָרְתוֹ יִסָּד לְךָ, וְתַחַת-כַּנְפָיו תִּחְסֶה, צִנְה וְסַחְרָה אֲמַתּוֹ: לֹא-תִירָא מִפַּחַד לַיְלָה, מִחֶץ יְעוּף יוֹמָם:

*plague that stalks in darkness, nor disease that ravages at noon. A thousand may fall beside you, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. You will only look with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked. For you – “the Lord is my Refuge” – you have made the Most High your abode. No harm will befall you; no sickness will come near your home, for He will command His angels about you to guard you in all your ways. They will lift you in their hands lest your foot stumble on a stone. You will tread over lions and vipers; you will trample on young lions and serpents. “Because he loves Me, I will rescue him; I will protect him because he acknowledges My name. When he calls on Me, I will answer him; I will be with him in distress; I will rescue him and bring him honor. With long life I will satisfy him and show him My salvation.”*

(Psalms Chapter 91)

### Adon Olam

*Eternal Master, Who reigned before anything was created – when by His will all things were brought into being, then as King was His name proclaimed. After all things have ceased to be, He will reign alone in awesome majesty. He was. He is. He will always be; His eternal glory can never fade. He is One. There is no other; beyond compare, or any metaphor. He had no beginning, will have no end. He above all others has strength and power. He is my God, my living Redeemer, a Rock when I am in pain in troubled times. My banner and my refuge, to Whom I will raise a cup on the day I proclaim my salvation. I entrust my spirit to His hand, when sleeping and when awake. With my body my soul will stay; the Lord is with me, I need not fear.*

### Ana Be-Koach

*We pray, through the awesome power of Your right hand, that You set captive Israel free. Receive Your people’s prayer; uplift us, make us pure, God of awe. Almighty God, we pray You guard as the apple of Your eye those who seek Your unity. Bless us, cleanse us, and please, mitigate Your justice for us with Your mercy. Almighty Holy One, lead us, Your flock, in Your bountiful goodness. Supreme and Only God, turn to Your people who are mindful of Your holiness. Accept our prayer, give ear to our cry, You Who know our most private thoughts. Blessed is the name of His glorious kingdom forever and ever.*

מִדְבַר בְּאֶפְלַי יְהִלֶּךְ, מִקְטָב יִשׁוּד צָהָרִים:  
יִפֹּל מִצְדָּךְ אֶלְפִי, וּרְבֵבָה מִימִינֶךָ, אֱלֹהֶיךָ לֹא  
יָגֹשׁ: רַק בְּעֵינֶיךָ תִּבְיֵט, וְשִׁלְמַת רְשָׁעִים  
תִּרְאֶה: כִּי-אַתָּה י-הוּוה מַחְסִי, עֲלִיוֹן שְׁמֹתָ  
מְעוֹנֶךָ: לֹא-תִאֱנָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ רָעָה, וְיִגַּע לֹא-יִקְרַב  
בְּאִהָלֶךָ: כִּי מִלְאָכָיו יְצַוֶּה-לָּךְ, לְשָׁמְרֶךָ בְּכָל-  
דְּרָכֶיךָ: עַל-כַּפַּיִם יִשְׂאוּנֶךָ, פֶּן-תִּגְלֹף בְּאֶבֶן  
רַגְלֶךָ: עַל-שַׁחַל וּפְתָן תִּדְרֹךְ, תִּרְמַס כְּפִיר  
וְתַנּוּן: כִּי בִי חֵשֶׁק וְאַפְלָטָהוּ, אֲשַׁגְבְּהוּ כִּי-  
יִדַע שְׁמִי: יִקְרָאֲנִי וְאֶעֱנֶהוּ, עֲמוּ אֲנֹכִי בְצָרָה,  
אֲחַלְצֶהוּ וְאֶכְבְּדֶהוּ: אֲרַךְ יָמִים אֲשַׁבְּיעֶהוּ,  
וְאֲרָאֶהוּ בִישׁוּעָתִי:

(תהלים צא)

**אָדוֹן עוֹלָם** אֲשֶׁר מִלְּךָ בְּטָרִם כָּל-יְצִיר  
נִבְרָא. לַעֲת נַעֲשֶׂה בְּחִפְצוֹ כֹּל אֲזִי מִלְּךָ שְׁמוֹ  
נִקְרָא. וְאַחֲרֵי כָכֹלֹת הַכֹּל לְבַדּוֹ יִמְלֹךְ נֹרָא.  
וְהוּא הָיָה וְהוּא הוֹוֶה וְהוּא יִהְיֶה בְּתִפְאָרָה.  
וְהוּא אֶחָד וְאֵין שְׁנֵי לְהַמְשִׁיל לוֹ לְהַחֲבִירָה.  
בְּלִי רֵאשִׁית בְּלִי תַכְלִית וְלוֹ הָעוֹ וְהַמְשָׁרָה.  
וְהוּא אֶ-לִי וְחִי גּוֹאֲלִי וְצוֹר חֲבָלֵי בְעֵת צָרָה.  
וְהוּא נְסִי וּמְנוּס לִי מִנֶּת כּוֹסֵי בַיּוֹם אֶקְרָא.  
בְּיָדוֹ אֶפְקִיד רוּחִי בְעֵת אִישׁוֹן וְאֶעִירָה. וְעַם  
רוּחִי גּוֹיָתִי י-הוּוה לִי וְלֹא אֵירָא.

**אָנָּה, בְּלַח** גְּדַלְת יְמִינֶךָ, תִּתִּיר צְרוּרָה.  
קִבַּל רַנַּת עַמְּךָ, שְׁגַבְנוּ, טַהֲרֵנוּ, נֹרָא. נָא  
גְבוּר, דוֹרְשֵׁי יְחוּדֶךָ כְּבַבַּת שְׁמֵרִם. בְּרַכֶּם,  
טַהֲרִם, רַחֲמִם, צְדָקָתֶךָ תִּמְיֵד גְּמִלִם. חֲסִין  
קְדוּשׁ, בָּרַב טוֹבָךָ נִהַל עֲדָתֶךָ. יַחֲדִי גְאֶה,  
לְעַמְּךָ פְּנֵה, זוֹכְרֵי קִדְשֶׁתֶךָ. שְׁוַעַתְנוּ קִבַּל  
וְשָׁמַע צַעֲקוֹתֵנוּ, יוֹדַע תַּעֲלוּמוֹת. בְּרוּךְ שֵׁם  
כְּבוֹד מַלְכוּתוֹ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.

**Al Ken (from Aleinu prayer)**

*We therefore hope in You, Lord our God, that we may soon see the glory of Your might when You will remove abominations from the earth and the idols shall be utterly destroyed, when the world shall be perfected under the rule of the Almighty. Then all mankind shall invoke Your name, to turn all the wicked on earth toward You. All dwellers on earth will perceive and understand that to You every knee must bend, every tongue vow fealty. Before You, Lord our God, all will kneel and bow down, and give honor to Your glorious name. They will all accept the rule of Your dominion, and You will speedily rule over them forevermore. For the kingdom is Yours, and to all eternity You shall reign in glory, as it is written in Your Torah, "The Lord shall reign forever and ever." And it is said, "And the Lord shall be King over all the earth; in that day shall the Lord be One, and His name One."*

**Yigdal**

*The living God will be exalted and praised; He exists, and His existence endures beyond time. He is One and His oneness is like that of no other; He is beyond our comprehension, for His unity is infinite. He has no physical image, neither does He have a body; nothing can be compared to Him in His Holiness. He preceded everything that was created; He was the first, and His primordial existence had no beginning. Behold He is the eternal Master, and every creature shall make His greatness and sovereignty known. He bestowed His prophetic overflow upon those individuals who were His treasured and glorious ones. Never did there arise in Israel another prophet like Moses, who alone was able to view God's image. God gave His people the Torah of truth by the hand of His prophet who was the most trusted in all His house. God will not exchange or replace His law; never will He alter it to become something else. He sees and knows all that we conceal; He discerns the end result of all that happens before it. He rewards the compassionate person in accordance with his deeds; He imposes punishment on the wicked person in accordance with his evil. He will send our Messiah at the end of days to redeem with His salvation those who await the end of days. God in His great kindness will resurrect the dead; blessed is His illustrious name for ever and ever.*

**על כן** נקווה לך י-הוה א-להינו, לראות מהרה בתפארת עזך, להעביר גלולים מן הארץ, והאילים כרות ופרתון, לתקון עולם במלכות ש-די. וכל בני בשר יקראו בשמך להפנות אליך כל רשעי ארץ. ופירו ונדעו כל יושבי תבל, כי לך תכרע כל ברך, תשבע כל לשון. לפניך י-הוה א-להינו יכרעו ויפלו, ולקבד שמך יקר יתנו, ויקבלו כלם את על מלכותך, ותמלך עליהם מהרה לעולם ועד. כי המלכות שלך היא ולעולמי עד תמלך בקבד, כפתיב בתורתך, י-הוה ימלך לעלם ועד: ונאמר, והיה י-הוה למלך על-כל-הארץ, ביום ההוא יהיה י-הוה אחד ושמו אחד:

**יגדל** א-להים חי וישתבח, נמצא ואין עת אל מציאותו. אחד ואין יחיד כחודו, נעלם וגם אין סוף לאחדותו. אין לו דמות הגוף ואינו גוף, לא נערך אליו קדשותו. קדמון לכל דבר אשר נברא, ראשון ואין ראשית לראשיתו. הנו אדון עולם, וכל נוצר יורה גדלותו ומלכותו. שפע נבואתו נתנו אלאנשי סגלתו ותפארתו. לא קם בישראל כמששה עוד נביא ומביט את תמונתו. תורת אמת נתן לעמו א-ל על ד נביאו נאמן ביתו. לא יחליף הא-ל ולא ימיר דתו לעולמים לזולתו. צופה ויודע סתרינו, מביט לסוף דבר בקדמתו. גומל לאיש חסד כמפעלו, נותן לרשע רע פרשעתו. ישלח לקח ימין משיחנו לפדות מחכי קח ישועתו. מתים יחיה א-ל ברב חסדו, ברוד עדי עד שם תהלתו.

## Introduction

If the patient cannot read prayers on their own, family members may read them aloud, even if the patient is not conscious. If the patient can recite prayers, a more complete vidui including prayers to say for one's children is available on Ematai's website. These prayers may be recited on Shabbat and festivals, as necessary.

## VIDUI

*I give thanks to You, Lord my God and the God of My fathers, in Whose hands is my recovery and my death, for all the life and the necessities of life that You have provided for me. May it be Your will that You grant me a full recovery, and if heaven forbend I die, may my death be an atonement for all my sins, iniquities, and transgressions that I have perpetrated before You. Grant that my portion will be in the Garden of Eden and allow me to merit the World to Come that is reserved for the righteous. Please God, please heal me.*

*We have sinned, we have acted treacherously, we have robbed, we have spoken slander. We have acted perversely, we have acted wickedly, we have acted presumptuously, we have been violent, we have framed lies. We have given bad advice, we have deceived, we have scorned, we have rebelled, we have provoked, we have turned away, we have committed iniquity, we have transgressed, we have persecuted, we have been obstinate. We have acted wickedly, we have corrupted, we have acted abominably, we have strayed, we have led others astray.*

**מוֹדָה אֲנִי לְפָנֶיךָ, י-הוה א-להי**  
וּא-להי אֲבוֹתַי שְׁרַפּוּאָתִי וּמִיתַתִּי בְּיָדֶךָ  
עַל כָּל הַחַיִּים וְצָרְכֵי הַחַיִּים שְׁנַתַּתְּ לִי. יְהִי  
רְצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ, שְׁתַּרְפְּאֵנִי רַפּוּאָה שְׁלֵמָה,  
וְאִם חֵס וְשָׁלוֹם אָמוֹת, תִּהְיֶה מִיתַתִּי כְּפָרָה  
עַל כָּל הַחַטָּאִים וְעוֹנוֹת וְהַפְשָׁעִים שְׁחָטָאתִי  
וְשָׁעוּיֹתַי וְשִׁפְשַׁעְתִּי לְפָנֶיךָ. וְתוּ חֶלְקִי בְּגֵן  
עֵדֶן, וְזַכְּנִי לְעוֹלָם הַבָּא הַצָּפוֹן לְצַדִּיקִים.  
א-ל נָא רַפָּא נָא לִי.

אֲשַׁמְנוּ, בְּגַדְנוּ, גְּזַלְנוּ, דִּבַּרְנוּ דָּפִי,  
הִעֲוִינוּ, וְהִרְשַׁעְנוּ, זָדְנוּ, חָמְסָנוּ, טָפְלָנוּ  
שָׁקָר, יַעֲצָנוּ רָע, כָּזַבְנוּ, כָּעֲסָנוּ, לָצָנוּ,  
מְרַדְנוּ, נֹאצָנוּ, סָרְרָנוּ, עֲוִינוּ, פְּשַׁעְנוּ,  
צָרְרָנוּ, קִשְׁיָנוּ עֲרָף, רְשַׁעְנוּ, שְׁחַתְנוּ,  
תַּעֲבָנוּ, תַּעֲוִינוּ וְתַעֲתַעְנוּ.

## ABBREVIATED VIDUI

*If I die, let my death atone for all my sins.*

אִם אָמוֹת, תִּהְיֶה מִיתַתִּי כְּפָרָה עַל כָּל עוֹנוֹתַי.

## DECLARATION OF FAITH

*Who is like You, God, pardoning iniquity and overlooking transgression for the remnant of God's people, Who has not retained wrath forever, for God desires mercifulness. God will return us in compassion, God will suppress our iniquities, and will cast all their sins into the depths of the sea. In Your hand I entrust my spirit. You redeem me, Lord, true God.*

*God, I long for your deliverance.*

*The Lord is the true God.*

*Moshe is true and his Torah is truth.*

**מי א-ל כְּמוֹךָ** נְשָׂא עֹון וְעִבֵר עַל פְּשָׁע לְשִׂאֲרֵית נִחְלָתוֹ לֹא הִחְזִיק לְעַד אַפּוֹ כִּי חִפָּץ חֶסֶד הוּא. יָשׁוּב יִרְחַמְנוּ וְכַבֵּשׂ עֲוֹנוֹתֵינוּ וְתִשְׁלִיךְ בְּמַצְלוֹת יָם כָּל חַטְאוֹתֵם. בְּיַדְךָ אֶפְקִיד רוּחִי פְּדִיתָה אוֹתִי י-הוּה אֵל אֱמֶת.

לִישׁוּעָתְךָ קוִיִּתִּי י-הוּה.

י-הוּה א-ל אֱמֶת.

מֹשֶׁה אֱמֶת וְתוֹרָתוֹ אֱמֶת.

## ALL PRESENT RECITE THE FOLLOWING

When the end is approaching, all present, including the dying person (if possible), recite the following passages with intense concentration. When possible, one should repeat the Shema so that they are the last words recited in the presence of the dying person.

[1x] **Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One.**

[3x, undertone]: *Blessed be the name of His glorious kingdom for ever and ever.*

[7x] **The Lord, He is God.**

[1x] **The Lord is King, the Lord was King, & the Lord will be King for ever & ever.**

**שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל** [1x]  
י-הוּה א-ל לֵהִינוּ י-הוּה אֶחָד.

בְּרוּךְ שֵׁם כְּבוֹד [3x בלחש]  
מַלְכוּתוֹ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.

י-הוּה הוּא הָאֱלֹהִים. [7x]

י-הוּה מֶלֶךְ, י-הוּה מֶלֶךְ, [1x]  
י-הוּה יִמְלֹךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.

## IMMEDIATELY AFTER A PERSON'S DEATH ALL PRESENT RECITE

*The Lord has given and the Lord has taken away: blessed be the name of the Lord.*

*Blessed are You, Lord, our God,  
King of the universe, the true Judge.*

In our times, Kriyah (tearing of the garments) is customarily performed only at the time of the funeral.

י-הוּה נָתַן וַי-הוּה לָקַח,  
יְהִי שֵׁם י-הוּה מְבָרָךְ:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה י-הוּה א-ל לֵהִינוּ  
מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, דִּין הָאֱמֶת.

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