

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

שיר למעלות, אֲשָׁא עֵינַי אֶל־הַהָרִים, מֵאַיִן יָבֹא עֲזָרִי: עֲזָרִי מֵעַם יְיָ-הוֹה, עֲשֵׂה שְׁמִים וְאָרֶץ: אֲלֵי־תֵן לְמוֹט רַגְלִי, אֲלֵ-יָנוּם שְׁמֶרְךָ: הִנֵּה לֹא-יָנוּם וְלֹא יִשָּׁן שׁוֹמֵר יִשְׂרָאֵל: יְיָ-הוֹה שְׁמֶרְךָ, יְיָ-הוֹה צִלְךָ עַל־יָד יְמִינֶךָ: יוֹמָם הִשְׁמֵשׁ לֹא-יִכְפֹּה, וַיָּרֶחַ בַּלַּיְלָה: יְיָ-הוֹה יְשְׁמְרֶךָ מִכָּל־רָע, יְשְׁמֵר אֶת־נַפְשְׁךָ: יְיָ-הוֹה יְשְׁמֵר־צֵאתְךָ וּבֹאֶךָ, מֵעַתָּה וְעַד־עוֹלָם:

(תהלים קכא)

שיר המעלות, מִמַּעַמְקִים קָרָאתִיךָ יְיָ-הוֹה: יְיָ-הוֹה שְׁמֵעָה בְּקוֹלִי, תִּהְיֶינָה אַזְנוֹתֶיךָ קֹשְׁבוֹת לְקוֹל תַּחֲנוּנָי: אִם־עֲוֹנוֹת תִּשְׁמֹרֶנִּי-הוֹה, יְיָ-הוֹה מִי יַעֲמֵד: כִּי־עַמְדָה הַסְּלִיחָה, לְמַעַן תִּגְוָרָא: קוֹיִתִּי יְיָ-הוֹה קוֹיִתָּה נַפְשִׁי, וְלִדְבָרוֹ הוֹחֲלֵתִי: נַפְשִׁי לִי-הוֹה, מִשְׁמָרִים לְבָקֵר, שְׁמָרִים לְבָקֵר: יַחַל יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל יְיָ-הוֹה, כִּי־עַם יְיָ-הוֹה הַחֶסֶד, וְהִרְבָּה עִמּוֹ פְדוּת: וְהוּא יִפְדֶּה אֶת־יִשְׂרָאֵל, מִכָּל עֲוֹנוֹתָיו:

(תהלים קל)

יֵשֵׁב בְּסִתְּר עֲלֵינוּ, בְּצֵל שֶׁ-דֵּי יִתְלוֹנֵן: אֲמַר לִי-הוֹה מַחְסִי וּמְצוּדָתִי, אֶל־לֵהִי אֲבָט־טַח-בוֹ: כִּי הוּא יִצִּילְךָ מִפַּח יְקוֹשׁ, מִדְּבַר הוֹיֹת: בְּאֲבָרְתוֹ יִסָּד לְךָ, וְתַחַת-כַּנְּפָיו תִּתְחַסֶּה, צָנָה וְסַחֲרָה אֲמַתּוֹ: לֹא-תִירָא מִפַּחַד לַיְלָה, מִחֶץ יַעֲוֹף 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 יִהְיֶה, מִקְטָב יְשׁוּד צְהָרִים:
יִפֹּל מִצְדָּד אֶלְפֵי, וַיִּרְבֶּבָה מִימִינֶךָ, אֲלֵיךָ לֹא
יָגֵשׁ: רַק בְּעֵינֶיךָ תִּבְיֹט, וְשַׁלַּמְתָּ רְשָׁעִים
וְתִרְאֶה: כִּי-אַתָּה י-הוָה מְחֹסֵי, עֲלִיוֹן שְׁמֹתָ
מֵעוֹנָד: לֹא-תֵאָנֵה אֲלֵיךָ רָעָה, וְנִגַּע לֹא-יִקְרַב
בְּאַהֲלֶךָ: כִּי מִלְאָכָיו יִצְוֶה-לָךְ, לְשָׁמְרֶךָ בְּכָל-
דְּרָכֶיךָ: עַל-כַּפַּיִם יִשְׁאוּנֶךָ, פֶּן-תִּגְלֹף בְּאֶבֶן
וּרְגֵלְךָ: עַל-שַׁחַל וּפְתָנוּ תִדְרֹךְ, תִּרְמַס כְּפִיר
וְתַנּוּן: כִּי בִי חָשַׁק וְאַפְלֹטָהוּ, אֲשַׁנְגְּבֵהוּ כִּי-
יָדַע שְׁמִי: יִקְרָאֵנִי וְאַעֲנֶהוּ, עִמּוֹ אֲנֹכִי בְּצָרָה,
אֲחַלְצֶהוּ וְאַכְבֵּדְהוּ: אֲרַךְ יָמִים אֲשַׁבִּיעֵהוּ,
וְאַרְאֶהוּ בִישׁוּעָתִי:

(תהלים צא)

אָדוֹן עוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר מִלְּפָנֶיךָ בְּטָרָם כָּל-יְצִיר
נִבְרָא. לַעֲתָ נַעֲשֶׂה בְּחַפְצוֹ כֹּל אֲזִי מִלְּפָנֶיךָ שְׁמוֹ
נִקְרָא. וְאַחֲרֵי כָּל־לֵבָדוֹ יִמְלֹךְ נוֹרָא.
וְהוּא הָיָה וְהוּא הוֹנֵה וְהוּא יִהְיֶה בְּתִפְאָרָה.
וְהוּא אֶחָד וְאֵין שְׁנֵי לְהַמְשִׁיל לוֹ לְהַחְבִּירָה.
בְּלִי רֵאשִׁית בְּלִי תַכְלִית וְלוֹ הָעוֹ וְהַמְשֻׁרָה.
וְהוּא אֶ-לִי וְחִי גּוֹאֲלִי וְצוֹר חֲבִלִי בְּעַת צָרָה.
וְהוּא נְסִי וּמְנוּס לִי מִנֶּת כּוֹסֵי בְיוֹם אֶקְרָא.
בְּיָדוֹ אֶפְקִיד רוּחִי בְּעַת אִישׁוֹן וְאַעִירָה. וְעַם
רוּחִי גּוֹיָתִי י-הוָה לִי וְלֹא אֵיךָ.

אָנָּה, בְּלַח גְּדֹלַת יְמִינֶךָ, תִּתִּיר צְרוּרָה.
קִבֵּל רִנַּת עַמְּךָ, שְׁגִבְנוּ, טַהֲרֵנוּ, נוֹרָא. נָא
גִבּוֹר, דוֹרְשֵׁי יַחֲוֹדָךְ כְּבַבְתָּ שְׁמָרָם. בְּרַכְּם,
טַהֲרָם, רַחֲמָם, צְדָקָתְךָ תִּמְיֵד גְּמִלָּם. חֲסִין
קְדוֹשׁ, בָּרַב טוֹבָד נִהַל עֲדָתְךָ. יַחֲיד גְּאֹה,
לְעַמְּךָ פְּנֵה, זוֹכְרֵי קְדוּשַׁתְךָ. שְׁוַעַתְנוּ קִבֵּל
וְשִׁמְעָ 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 כֵּן נִקְוָה לָךְ י-הוה אֱ-לֹהֵינוּ, לְרִאוֹת מְהֵרָה בְּתַפְאֵרְתְּ עֲזָדָה, לְהַעֲבִיר גְּלוּלִים מִן הָאָרֶץ, וְהֶאֱלִילִים פְּרוֹת יִפְרֹתוֹ, לְתַקּוֹ עוֹלָם בְּמַלְכוּת שֶׁ-יְדִי. וְכָל בְּנֵי בָשָׂר יִקְרְאוּ בְשִׁמְךָ לְהַפְנוֹת אֵלֶיךָ כָּל רִשְׁעֵי אָרֶץ. יִכִּירוּ וַיִּדְעוּ כָּל יוֹשְׁבֵי תֵבֵל, כִּי לָךְ תִּכְרַע כָּל בְּרִיָּה, תִּשָּׁבַע כָּל לָשׁוֹן. לִפְנֵיךָ י-הוה אֱ-לֹהֵינוּ יִכְרְעוּ וַיִּפְּלוּ, וְלִכְבוֹד שִׁמְךָ יִקָּר וַיִּתְנוּ, וַיִּקְבְּלוּ כָּלֵם אֶת עַל מַלְכוּתְךָ, וְתִמְלֹךְ עֲלֵיהֶם מְהֵרָה לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד. כִּי הַמַּלְכוּת שֶׁלָּךְ הִיא וְלְעוֹלָמֵי עַד תִּמְלֹךְ בְּכָבוֹד, כְּפָתוּב בְּתוֹרָתְךָ, י-הוה יִמְלֹךְ לְעֹלָם וָעֶד: וְנֹאמֶר, וְהָיָה י-הוה לְמֶלֶךְ עַל-כָּל-הָאָרֶץ, בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא יִהְיֶה י-הוה אֶחָד וְשִׁמוֹ אֶחָד:

יגדל אֱ-לֹהִים חַי וְיִשְׁתַּבַּח, נִמְצָא וְאִין עַתָּה אֵל מִצִּיאוֹתָיו. אֶחָד וְאִין יְחִיד כְּיַחֲדוֹ, נְעֻלָּם וְגַם אִין סוּף לְאַחֲדוֹתָיו. אִין לוֹ דְמוּת הַגּוֹי וְאִינוּ גוֹי, לֹא נִעְרַף אֵלָיו קִדְשָׁתוֹ. קִדְמוֹן לְכָל דְבָר אֲשֶׁר נִבְרָא, רֵאשׁוֹן וְאִין רֵאשִׁית לְרֵאשִׁיתוֹ. הֵנוּ אֲדוֹן עוֹלָם, וְכָל נוֹצֵר יוֹרָה גְדֻלָּתוֹ וּמַלְכוּתוֹ. שְׁפַע נְבוֹאָתוֹ נִתְּנוּ אֶל-אֲנָשֵׁי סִגְלָתוֹ וְתַפְאֵרְתוֹ. לֹא קָם בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל כְּמֹשֶׁה עוֹד נְבִיא וּמַבִּיט אֶת תְּמוּנָתוֹ. תּוֹרַת אֱמֶת נִתְּן לְעַמּוֹ אֶ-ל עַל יַד נְבִיאָו וְנֶאֱמַן בֵּיתוֹ. לֹא יִחְלִיף הָאֶ-ל וְלֹא יִמִּיר דָּתוֹ לְעוֹלָמִים לְזוּלָתוֹ. צוּפָה וַיִּודַע סִתְרֵינוּ, מִבֵּית לְסוּף דְבָר בְּקִדְמָתוֹ. גּוֹיִם לְאִישׁ חֶסֶד כְּמִפְעֵלוֹ, נוֹתֵן לְרִשָּׁע רַע כְּרִשְׁעָתוֹ. יִשְׁלַח לְקֹץ יָמִין מְשִׁיחֵנוּ לְפָדוֹת מִחֲפֵי קוֹץ יְשׁוּעָתוֹ. מֵתִים יִחְיֶה אֶ-ל בְּרַב חֶסֶד, בְּרוּף עֲדִי עַד שֶׁם תִּהְלָתוֹ.

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.

ABBREVIATED VIDUI

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

מוֹדָה אֲנִי לְפָנֶיךָ, יְיָ הוּא אֱלֹהֵי
וְאֵלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתַי שְׁרַפּוּאָתִי וּמִיתַתִּי בְּיָדֶךָ
עַל כָּל הַחַיִּים וְצָרְכֵי הַחַיִּים שְׁנַתַּת לִי. יְהִי
רְצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ, שְׁתַּרְפָּאֲנִי רַפּוּאָה שְׁלֵמָה,
וְאִם חֵס וְשָׁלוֹם אָמוּת, תִּהְיֶה מִיתַתִּי כְּפָרָה
עַל כָּל הַחֲטָאִים וְעוֹנוֹת וְהַפְּשָׁעִים שְׁחָטָאתִי
וְשָׁעוּיִתִּי וְשִׁפְשָׁעֵתִי לְפָנֶיךָ. וְתֵן חֶלְקִי בְּגֵן
עֵדֶן, וְזַכְּנִי לְעוֹלָם הַבָּא הַצָּפוֹן לְצַדִּיקִים.
אֶל-לֵא רַפָּא נָא לִי.

אֲשַׁמְנוּ, בְּגַדְנוּ, גָּזַלְנוּ, דִּבְרַנּוּ דְפִי,
הִעֲוִינוּ, וְהִרְשַׁעְנוּ, זָדְנוּ, חֲמַסְנוּ, טָפְלָנוּ
שָׁקָה, יַעֲצָנוּ רָע, כִּזְבַּנּוּ, כְּעַסְנוּ, לִצְנוּ,
מְרִדְנוּ, נֹאצְנוּ, סָרְרַנּוּ, עֲוִינוּ, פְּשַׁעְנוּ,
צָרְנוּ, קִשִּׁינוּ עֲרָף, רְשַׁעְנוּ, שְׁחַתְנוּ,
תַּעֲבָנוּ, תַּעֲיִנוּ וְתַעֲתַעְנוּ.

אם אָמוּת, תִּהְיֶה מִיתַתִּי כְּפָרָה עַל כָּל עוֹנוֹתִי.



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.

מִי אֵל כְּמוֹךָ נִשְׂא עֵוֹן וְעִבֵּר עַל פְּשָׁע לְשִׂאֲרֵי־תַנּוּחַ לֹא הִחְזִיק לְעַד אִפּוֹ כִּי חָפֵץ חֶסֶד הוּא. יָשׁוּב יִרְחַמְנוּ וְכַבֵּשׁ עֲוֹנוֹתֵינוּ וְתִשְׁלַח בְּמַצְלוֹת יָם כָּל חַטָּאוֹתֵם. בְּיַדְךָ אֶפְקִיד רוּחִי פְּדִיתָה אוֹתִי י-הוּה אֵל אֱמֶת.

לִישׁוּעָתְךָ קוִיֵּיתִי י-הוּה.

י-הוּה אֵל 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 אֵל לֹהֵינּוּ י-הוּה אֶחָד.

בְּרוּךְ שֵׁם כְּבוֹד [3x בלחש]
מְלְכוּתוֹ 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.

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

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה י-הוּה אֵל לֹהֵינּוּ
מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, דִּין הָאֱמֶת.

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



ematai

אימתאי



Navigate Aging and End-Of-Life with Jewish Wisdom & Halacha



Robert M. Beren
Healthcare Directive
& Conversation Guide



option 18
Jewish Organ
Donation Initiative



Tefilah Project
Hospital & Bedside Prayers



Robert M. Beren
Medical Halacha Helpline
+1-646-599-3895



Online Educational
Resources



Jewish Medical Ethics
& Public Policy

Ematai provides these resources as a free service to the community. Your generous donation helps us expand our impact!

Secure online donations at:
ematai.org/donate

Paypal or Zelle:
office@ematai.org

Check:
P.O. Box 25935
New York, NY 10087

Thank you for your support!

Ematai is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible. EIN: 13-4199797

RMB Medical Halacha Helpline
 +1-646-599-3895

ematai.org

