

הַקָּמַת מַצֵּבָה

Hakamat Matzayvah

Prayers and Readings for the Dedication of a Monument or Marker

*(Gather together at the grave, draping the stone with a cloth beforehand.
Where two readings appear in columns, select one or the other.)*

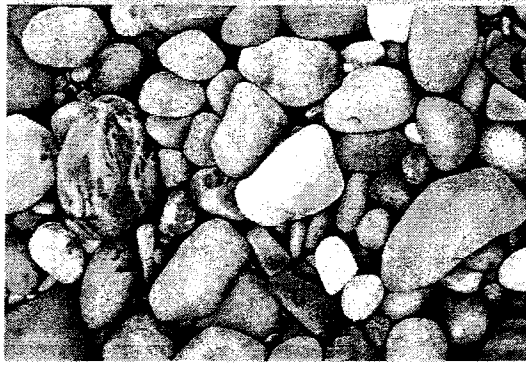
Although time has passed since we first stood together at this place, and we have all moved step by step into the future, we have not forgotten the pain of our loss. Nor have we forgotten all that was good and sweet in _____'s life. So we return here today to dedicate this memorial; it is our way of saying that even as seasons change, our memories and our love endure. The stone we unveil today is a token of our love and our continuing devotion.

To this sacred place we come, drawn by the eternal ties that bind our souls to the soul of our beloved _____. Death has separated us. You are not longer at our side to share the beauty of the passing moment. We cannot look to you to lighten our burdens, to lend us your strength, your wisdom, your faith. And yet what you mean to us does not wither or fade. For a time we touched hands and hearts; still your voice abides with us, still your tender glance remains a joy to us. For you are a part of us for ever. And so beyond the ache that tells how much we miss you, a deeper thought compels: we were together, and we hold you still in mind, and give thanks for life and love. The happiness that was, the memories that do not fade, are a gift that cannot be lost. You continue to bless our days and years. We will always give thanks for you.

* * *

God, What are we, that You have regard for us? What are we, that You are mindful of us: We are like a breath; our days are as a passing shadow; we come and go like grass which in the morning shoots up, renewed, and in the evening fades and withers. You cause us to revert to dust, saying: Return, O mortal creatures! Would that we were wise, that we understood whither we are going! For when we die we carry nothing away; our glory does not accompany us. Mark the whole-hearted and behold the upright: they shall have peace, God. You redeem the soul of Your servants, and none who trust in You shall be desolate.

* * *



ECCLESIASTES 3:1-8

There is a season for everything, a time for every experience under heaven:

A time to be born and a time to die,

A time to plant and a time to uproot what is planted;

A time to tear down and a time to build up;

A time to weep and a time to laugh,

A time to grieve and a time to dance;

A time to throw stones and a time to gather stones,

A time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing:

A time to seek and a time to lose,

A time to keep and a time to discard;

A time to tear and a time to sew,

A time to keep silence and a time to speak

לְכָל זְמַן וְעֵת לְכָל־חֶפֶץ תַּחַת הַשָּׁמַיִם: עֵת לֵלֶדֶת וְעֵת לָמוּת עֵת לִטְעַת וְעֵת
לְעֻקּוֹר נָטוּעַ: עֵת לְהָרוֹג וְעֵת לְרַפֹּא עֵת לִפְרוֹץ וְעֵת לִבְנוֹת: עֵת לִבְכוֹת וְעֵת
לְשִׂחוֹק עֵת סִפּוּד וְעֵת רִקּוּד: עֵת לְהַשְׁלִיךְ אֲבָנִים וְעֵת כְּנוֹס אֲבָנִים עֵת לַחֲבוֹק
וְעֵת לְרַחֵק מִחֶבֶק: עֵת לִבְקֹשׁ וְעֵת לֵאמֹד עֵת לְשָׁמֹר וְעֵת לְהַשְׁלִיךְ: עֵת לִקְרוֹעַ
וְעֵת לְתַפּוֹר עֵת לִחְשׂוֹת וְעֵת לְדַבֵּר: עֵת לָאֱהָב וְעֵת לְשֹׂנֵא עֵת מִלְחָמָה וְעֵת
שָׁלוֹם:

* * *

PSALM 121

I lift up my eyes to the mountains; from where shall my help come? My help comes from God, the Creator of heaven and earth. You will not let my foot give way; my Guardian does not slumber. For indeed, the Guardian of Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps! You are my guardian, You are the protection at my right hand. By day the sun will not smite me, nor the moon by night. You keep me from all harm; You protect my soul. You will guard my going out and my coming in, from this time forth and forever.

אֲשָׁא עֵינַי אֶל-הַהָרִים מֵאֵין יָבֹא עֲזָרִי: עֲזָרִי מֵעַם יְהוָה עֲשֵׂה שָׁמַיִם וָאָרֶץ:
אֶל-יָתֵן לַמּוֹט רַגְלִי אֶל-יָנוּם שֹׁמְרִי: הִנֵּה לֹא יָנוּם וְלֹא יִישָׁן שׁוֹמֵר יִשְׂרָאֵל:
יְהוָה שֹׁמְרִי יְהוָה צִלְּיָי עַל-יַד יְמִינִי: יוֹמָם הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ לֹא-יִכָּכֶה וַיָּרָח בַּלֵּילָה:
יְהוָה יִשְׁמְרֵךְ מִכָּל-רָע יִשְׁמַר אֶת-נַפְשֶׁךָ: יְהוָה יִשְׁמַר-צִאתְךָ וּבֹאֶךָ מֵעַתָּה
וְעַד-עוֹלָם:

* * *

PSALM 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;
He leadeth me beside the still waters,
He restoreth my soul;
He guideth me in straight paths for His name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me;
Thy rod and Thy staff; they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;
Thou hast anointed my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

יְהוָה רֹעִי לֹא אֲחָסֵר: בְּנֵאוֹת דָּשָׁא יִרְבִּיצֵנִי עַל-מִי מְנַחֲוֹת יִנְהַלֵּנִי: נַפְשִׁי יִשׁוּב
יִנְחֵנִי בַּמַּעְגָּלִי-צֶדֶק לְמַעַן שְׁמוֹ: גַּם כִּי-אֶלֶךְ בְּגִיא צַלְמוֹת לֹא-אִירָא רָע כִּי-אַתָּה
עֲמָדִי שִׁבְטְךָ וּמִשְׁעֶנְתְּךָ הֵמָּה יִנְחֵמֵנִי: תַּעֲרֹךְ לִפְנֵי | שְׁלַחַן נֶגֶד צִרְרֵי דִשְׁנָת
בְּשֶׁמֶן רֹאשִׁי כוֹסֵי רוּיָה: אֵךְ טוֹב וְחֶסֶד יִרְדְּפוּנִי כָּל-יְמֵי חַיִּי וְשִׁבְתִּי בְּבֵית-יְהוָה
לְאָרְךָ יָמִים:

* * *

We must try to remember that good people cannot die. We will see them many times. We will see them in the streets. We will see them in the houses and in all the places of the town. In the vineyards and orchards, in the rivers and clouds, in all the things here that make this a world for us to live in. We will feel them in all the things that are here out of love, and for love — all the things that grow. The body of a person may leave — or be taken away — but the best part of a good person stays. It stays forever. Love is immortal and makes all things immortal.

* * *

To the living —
Death is a wound.
Its name is grief.
Its companion is loneliness.
Whenever it comes — whatever its guise,
Even when there are no tears —
Death is a wound.

But death belongs to life —
as night belongs to day
as darkness belongs to light
as shadows belong to substance —
As the fallen leaf to the tree,
Death belongs to life.

It is not our purpose to live forever.
It is only our purpose to live.
It is no added merit that a person lives long.
It is of merit only that a person's life is good.

— Rabbi Alvin Fine

Those I have loved,
though now beyond my view,
Have given form and quality to my being.
And they live on,
Unfailingly feeding
My heart and my imagination.
They guided me through this wide universe
I continue to inhabit,
And their presence is more vital to me
Than their absence.
What Thou givest, O God,
Thou takest away,
But bounties once granted
Shed their radiance evermore.

— Rabbi Morris Adler

*(If you wish, a few memories may be shared here.
Then, a family member removes the cover from the stone and the following is read.)*

DEDICATION OF THE MARKER (MALE)

In the name of the family of our beloved _____ and in the presence of his relatives and friends, we consecrate this memorial as a token of our respect and our love.

תְּהִי נִשְׁמָתוֹ צְרוּרָה
בְּצִרוֹר הַחַיִּים.

*T'hi nish-ma-to tz-ru-rah bitz-ror
ha-cha-yim.*

May his soul be bound up in the bond of eternity.

For his love that united us in life and which death cannot sever; for his companionship which we shared along life's path, and which still continues through the tenderness of memory; for the gifts of his heart and mind which brought us joy and happiness and now have become a precious heritage of the spirit; for all these and more, we give God our praise.

DEDICATION OF THE MARKER (FEMALE)

In the name of the family of our beloved _____ and in the presence of her relatives and friends, we consecrate this memorial as a token of our respect and our love.

תְּהִי נִשְׁמָתָהּ צְרוּרָה
בְּצִרוֹר הַחַיִּים.

*T'hi nish-ma-tah tz-ru-rah bitz-ror
ha-cha-yim.*

May her soul be bound up in the bond of eternity.

For her love that united us in life and which death cannot sever; for her companionship which we shared along life's path, and which still continues through the tenderness of memory; for the gifts of her heart and mind which brought us joy and happiness and now have become a precious heritage of the spirit; for all these and more, we give God our praise.

EL MALE RAKHAMIM (MALE)

אֵל מָלֵא רַחֲמִים שׁוֹכֵן בְּמְרוֹמִים. הַמָּצֵא מְנוּחָה נְכוֹנָה תַּחַת כְּנָפֶי
הַשְּׂכִינָה. עִם קְדוּשִׁים וְטְהוּרִים כְּזוֹהַר הָרָקִיעַ מְזִהֲרִים, אֶת נִשְׁמַת
..... שֶׁהָלַךְ לְעוֹלָמוֹ. בְּעַל הָרַחֲמִים יִסְתִּירָהוּ בְּסֶתֶר כְּנָפָיו
לְעוֹלָמִים. וַיִּצְרוֹר בְּצִרוֹר הַחַיִּים אֶת נִשְׁמָתוֹ. יְיָ הוּא נֶחֱלָתוֹ וַיְנַוְּ
בְּשָׁלוֹם עַל מִשְׁכָּבוֹ. וְנֹאמַר אָמֵן:

Eil ma-lei ra-cha-mim, sho-chein bam-ro-mim, ham-tzei me-nu-cha n'cho-na ta-chat kan-fei hash-chi-na, im k'do-shim u-t'ho-rim k'zo-har ha-ra-ki-a maz-hi-rim, et nish-mat ... (Hebrew name) ... she-hal-cha l'o-la-mo. Ba-al ha-ra-cha-mim yas-ti-rei-hu b'sei-ter k'na-fav l'o-la-mim, v'yitz-ror bitz-ror ha-cha-yim et nish-ma-to. Adonai hu nach-la-to. V'ya-nu-ach b'sha-lom al mish-ka-vo. V'no-mar: A-men.

O God, full of compassion, eternal spirit of the universe, grant perfect rest under the wings of your presence to our loved one _____ who has entered eternity. Source of mercy, let him find refuge forever in the shadow of your wings, and let his soul be bound up in the bond of eternity. Be his inheritance, and may he rest in peace. Amen.

EL MALE RAKHAMIM (FEMALE)

אֵל מָלֵא רַחֲמִים שׁוֹכֵן בַּמְרוֹמִים. הַמַּצִּיא מְנוּחָה נְכוֹנָה תַּחַת כַּנְפֵי
הַשְּׂכִינָה. עִם קְדוּשִׁים וְטְהוּרִים כְּזוֹהַר הָרָקִיעַ מְזַהֲרִים, אֶת נַשְׁמַת
..... שֶׁהָלָכָה לְעוֹלָמָהּ. בַּעַל הָרַחֲמִים יִסְתִּירָהּ בְּסִתְרָה כְּנָפָיו
לְעוֹלָמִים. וְיִצְרֹר בְּצִרּוֹר הַחַיִּים אֶת נַשְׁמָתָהּ. יְיָ הוּא נַחֲלָתָהּ וְתִנּוּחַ
בְּשָׁלוֹם עַל מְשַׁכְבָּהּ. וְנֹאמַר אָמֵן:

Eil ma-lei ra-cha-mim, sho-chein bam-ro-mim, ham-tzei me-nu-kha n'cho-na ta-chat kan-fei hash-chi-na,
im k'do-shim u-t'ho-rim k'zo-har ha-ra-ki-a maz-hi-rim, et nish-mat ... (Hebrew name) ... she-hal-cha
l'o-la-mah. Ba-al ha-ra-cha-mim yas-ti-rei-ha b'sei-ter k'na-fav l'o-la-mim, v'yitz-ror bitz-ror ha-cha-yim et
nish-ma-tah. Adonai hu nach-la-tah. V'ta-nu-ach b'sha-lom al mish-ka-vah. V'no-mar: A-men.

O God, full of compassion, eternal spirit of the universe, grant perfect rest under the wings of
your presence to our loved one _____ who has entered eternity. Source of mercy, let
her find refuge forever in the shadow of your wings, and let her soul be bound up in the bond of
eternity. Be her inheritance, and may she rest in peace. Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO KADDISH

Early or late, all must answer the summons to return to the Source of being, for we loose our
hold on life when our time has come, as the leaf falls from the branch when its day is done. The
deeds of the righteous enrich us all, as the fallen leaf enriches the soil beneath. The dust returns
to the earth, the spirit lives on with God.

Like the stars by day, our beloved dead are not seen by mortal eyes. They shine on forever;
theirs is eternal peace.

Let us be thankful for the companionship that continues in a love stronger than death.
Sanctifying the name of God, we honor the memory of _____.

May we who mourn the loss of _____, find comfort in the hope
that, though the dust returns to the earth as it was, the spirit returns to you, O God, who gave it.
Death is not the end. Those we love have passed through the gateway of the grave into the peace
of eternity. We know that all of us must tread the same path, though we do not know when the
hour may come. Let us so live that the coming of that hour shall find us unafraid. May our
deeds do honor to the memory of our beloved whom You have taken to Yourself. In unshaken
trust in Your wisdom and lovingkindness, we give praise to Your name.

יִתְגַּדֵּל וְיִתְקַדַּשׁ שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא בְּעֻלְמָא דִּי-בְרָא כְרַעוּתָהּ, וְיִמְלִיךְ מַלְכוּתָהּ בְּחַיֵּינוּ
וּבְיוֹמֵינוּ וּבְחַיֵּי דְכָל-בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל, בְּעָגְלָא וּבְזֶמַּן קָרִיב, וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן
יְהֵא שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא מְבָרַךְ לְעָלְמִי עָלְמֵיָא.
יִתְבָּרַךְ וְיִשְׁתַּבַּח, וְיִתְפָּאֵר וְיִתְרוֹמֵם וְיִתְנַשֵּׂא, וְיִתְהַדָּר וְיִתְעַלֶּה וְיִתְהַלָּל שְׁמֵהּ
דְּקוּדְשָׁא, בְּרִיךְ הוּא, לְעֵלָא מִן כָּל-בְּרַכְתָּא וְשִׁירָתָא, תְּשַׁבַּחְתָּא וְנַחֲמַתָּא דְאַמִּירָן
בְּעֻלְמָא וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

יְהֵא שְׁלָמָא רַבָּא מִן-שְׁמֵיָא וְחַיִּים עָלֵינוּ וְעַל-כָּל-יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן.
עֲשֵׂה שָׁלוֹם בְּמִרוֹמָיו, הוּא יַעֲשֶׂה שָׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ וְעַל-כָּל-יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן.
Yit-ga-dal ve-yit-ka-dash she-mei ra-ba be-al-ma di-ve-ra chi-re-u-tei, ve-yam-lich mal-chu-tei
be-cha-yei-chon u-ve-yo-mei-chon de-chol beit Yisrael, ba-a-ga-la u-vi-ze-man ka-riv, ve-i-me-ru: amen.

Yit-ba-rach ve-yish-ta-bach, ve-yit-pa-ar ve-yit-ro-mam ve-yit-na-sei, ve-yit-ha-dar ve-yit-a-leh ve-yit-ha-lal
she-mei de-ku-de-sha, be-rich hu, le-ei-la min kol bi-re-cha-ta ve-shi-ra-ta, tush-be-cha-ta
ve-ne-che-ma-ta, da-a-mi-ran be-al-ma, ve-i-me-ru: amen.

Y'hei she-la-ma ra-ba-min she-ma-ya v'chay-yim a-lei-nu v'al kol Yis-ra-el, v'im-ru Amen.

O-seh sha-lom bim-ro-mav, hu ya-a-seh sha-lom a-lei-nu v'al kol Yis-ra-el, v'im-ru Amen.

Let the glory of God be extolled, and God's great name be hallowed in the world whose creation God willed. May God rule in our own day, in our own lives, and in the life of all Israel, and let us say: Amen. Let God's great name be blessed forever and ever. Beyond all the praises, songs, and adorations that we can utter is the Holy One, the Blessed One, whom yet we glorify, honor, and exalt. And let us say: Amen. For us and for all Israel, may the blessing of peace and the promise of life come true, and let us say: Amen. May the One who causes peace to reign in the high heavens, cause peace to reign among us, all Israel, and all the world, and let us say: Amen.

*(Before leaving, a few small pebbles may be placed on the gravestone.
This lets others know that we continue to care for, and miss, our loved one.)*

**Zecher tzadik livracha —
the memory of the righteous is for a blessing.**