

# Viduy Confession & Jewish Prayers for the Final Moments of Life

*Try to recite the entire Viduy. If it is not possible, say at least from Adon Olam (page 3) onwards.*

*If one is even further pressed, one should recite the verses from Shema Yisroel (page 5) onward. The least one should do is say "Let my death be an atonement for my sins," and recite the verse of Shema.*

## Viduy Confession Prayer

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.

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.

*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.*

*Following the Viduy, recite the following:*

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

*The time between life and death is considered extremely sacred in Jewish tradition. On one hand, the passage marks the conclusion of the soul's journey on earth. On the other hand, death heralds the beginning of the soul's eternal life in Heaven.*

*Kabbalah 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.*

## Psalm 121

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.*

## Psalm 130

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.

## Psalm 91

You Who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, Who abides in the shadow of the Omnipotent,

I say [to you] 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

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.

## Adon Olam - continued

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

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.

## V'al Ken Ne'kaveh

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.

# The Shema and Verses of Unity

*At the very last moments, all present, including the person himself (if possible), recite the following passages aloud, and with intense concentration:*

**She-ma Yis-ra-el, Ado-noy Elo-hay-nu, Ado-noy E-chad  
Hear, O Israel, the Lord is our G-d, the Lord is One**

*Recite the following verse in an undertone, in Hebrew or English, three times:*

**Ba-ruch Sheim Ke-vod Mal-chu-so Le-olam Va-ed  
Blessed be the name of the glory of His kingdom forever and ever**

*Recite the following verse out loud, in Hebrew or English, seven times:*

**Ado-noy Hu Ha-elo-him  
G-d is the Lord**

*Recite the following verse out loud, in Hebrew or English, one time:*

**Ado-noy Me-lech, Ado-noy Ma-lach, Ado-noy Yim-loch  
Le-olam Va-ed  
The Lord is King, the Lord was King, the Lord will be King  
forever and ever**

**For Rabbinical assistance, please be in touch with  
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