

A MOURNER'S KADDISH

Translation by Lab/Shul

*Yitgadal v'yitkadash sh'meih raba.
B'al'ma div'ra chiruteih
v'yamlich malchuteih
b'chayeichon uv'yomeichon
Uv'chayei d'chol beit yisra-eil
ba-agala uvizman kariv
v'imru amen*

יִתְגַּדַּל וְיִתְקַדַּשׁ שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא
בְּעֵלְמָא דְּבְרָא כְּרַעוּתָהּ
וְיַמְלִיךְ מַלְכוּתָהּ
בְּחַיֵּיכוֹן וּבְיוֹמֵיכוֹן
וּבְחַיֵּי דְכָל בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל
בְּעֵגְלָא וּבְזִמְן קָרִיב
וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן

May our lives reflect the greatness of the Divine Name throughout the world,
sparks within the Process of Creation.

May the world be ruled by our highest aspirations,
soon, in our lifetimes.
And let us say, Amen.

*Y'hei sh'meih raba m'varach
l'alam ul'al'mei al'maya.
Yitbarach v'yishtabach
v'yitpa-ar v'yitromam v'yitnasei
v'yithadar v'yitaleh v'yithalal
sh'meih d'kudsha
b'rich hu
L'eila min kol birchata v'shirata,
tushb'chata v'nechemata,
da-amiran b'al'ma
v'imru amen*

יְהֵא שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא מְבָרַךְ
לְעָלָם וּלְעָלְמֵי עָלְמַיָּא
יִתְבָּרַךְ וְיִשְׁתַּבַּח וְיִתְפָּאֵר
וְיִתְרַמֵּם וְיִתְנַשֵּׂא
וְיִתְהַדָּר וְיִתְעַלֶּה וְיִתְהַלָּל
שְׁמֵהּ דְּקֻדְשָׁא
בְּרִיךְ הוּא
לְעֵלְא מִן כָּל בִּרְכָתָא וְשִׁירָתָא
תְּשֻׁבְחָתָא וְנַחֲמָתָא
דְּאַמְרֵיָן בְּעֵלְמָא
וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן

May the Divine Name be known as a Fountain of Blessings:
praised, honored, beautified, elevated, and exalted
beyond any song or description that has ever been uttered.
And let us say, Amen.

*Yehei shelama raba min shemaya,
vehayim aleinu ve'al kol Yisra-eil
ve'al kol yoshvey teveil
v'imru amen
Oseh shalom bimromav
hu ya-aseh shalom aleinu
v'al kol Yisra-eil
v'al kol yoshvey tevel
v'imru amen*

יְהֵא שְׁלָמָא רַבָּא מִן שְׁמַיָּא
וְחַיִּים עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל
וְעַל כָּל יוֹשְׁבֵי תֵבֵל
וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן
עֹשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמִרְוַמָּיו
הוּא יַעֲשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ
וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל
וְעַל כָּל יוֹשְׁבֵי תֵבֵל
וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן

May an all-embracing peace shower down from the heavens,
refreshing the lives of all the people on earth.
May the Source of Peace inspire us to make peace
for ourselves, for our community,
and for all the people on earth.
And let us say, Amen.

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MOURNER'S KADDISH

Translation by David Hodgson

What follows is my version of the Mourner's Kaddish. I made no attempt to translate the traditional prayer. What I have tried to do is to write what the act of saying Kaddish means to me. That is, what it feels like individually, what it means as an act of remembering and mourning, how it serves as a communal acknowledgement of death, and how it anchors the reader in life. I have attempted to follow the rhythm of the prayer which I believe to be as essential as the words. Long before I learned the words, or their meaning, the rhythm and intonation of the prayer were powerfully etched into my mind. To this end, I've included a transliteration of the prayer for comparison's sake. I also took a little poetic license at the very end.

And so it is	Yitgadal
and so it goes	v'yitkadash
we hear and see	sh'mei raba
and feel and taste	b'alma divra
and we come	chirutei
and we go	v'yamlich
and we leave	malchutei
behind and gone	b'chai yei chon
the life of here	uv'yo mei chon
wishing hope	uv'chai yei
for all Israel	k'kol beit Yisrael
and all the world	b'agala
that we cannot know	uvizman kariv
and we say, Amen	v'imru Amein

And as we stand	Y'hei shmei
together	raba
we derive	m'varach
peace from pain	l'olam
to remember	ul'almei
every life	al'maiya

We here affirm	Yitbarach
the grace of love	v'yistabach
the hope of living	v'yitpaar
the gulf of loss	v'yitromam
the fear of losing	v'yitnasei
the missing ones	v'yithadar
remembered all	v'yitaleh
holding us	v'yitalal

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And each name
we say
tears a hole
and mends the same
and tears and tears
it mends and closes
and opens us
as we are
and as we
are not

sh'mei d'kud'sha
b'rich hu
l'eila min
kol birchata
v'shirata
tush birchata
v'neh-chemata
d'amiran v'alma
v'imru
Amein

So we are here
and know
that this moment
of all moments
together shared
is our time of hope
our time of peace

Y'hei shlama
raba
min sh'maya
v'chayim
aleinu
v'al kol yisrael
v'imru Amein

Hoping as we hold
on to this passing
that some one of us
will hold on to us
when our name is said
and all this peace
will also be for you
and for me
and we say
Amen

Oseh shalom
bimromav
hu yaaseh
shalom aleinu
v'al kol Yisrael
v'al kol shalom
v'al kol Yisrael
v'al kol
v'imru
Amein

To Live in this World

By Mary Oliver

To live in this world
you must be able to do three things:
to love what is mortal;
to hold it
against your bones knowing
your own life depends on it;
and, when the time comes to let it go,
to let it go.

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Kaddish Poem

by Marge Piercy

Look around us, search above us, below, behind.
We stand in a great web of being joined together.
Let us praise, let us love the life we are lent
passing through us in the body of Israel
and our own bodies, let's say amein.

Time flows through us like water.
The past and the dead speak through us.
We breathe our children's children, blessing.

Blessed is the earth from which we grow,
blessed the life we are lent,
blessed the ones who teach us,
blessed the ones we teach,
blessed is the word that cannot say the glory
that shines through us and remains to shine
flowing past distant suns on the way to forever.
Let's say amein.

Blessed is the light, blessed is the darkness
but blessed above all else is peace
which bears the fruits of knowledge
on strong branches, let's say amen.

Peace that bears joy into the world,
peace that enables love, peace over Israel
everywhere, blessed and holy is peace, let's say amein.

Your body is away from me
But there is a window open
from my heart to yours.
From this window, like the moon
I keep sending news secretly.

Rumi

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