



לזכור

לברכה

Honor
the
Memory

Dedication of a Monument or Marker

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Preface

We are a remembering people, and the dedication of a monument or plaque has become our newest memorial custom.

Although the practice of *erecting* a marker over the grave has its origin in Torah:

"And Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath, in Bethlehem, and Jacob erected a tombstone on Rachel's grave." (*Gen 5:19-20*)

there is no religious basis - no ancient tradition to support the popular modern practice of a public dedication.

If such a ceremony is desired, it should be a private family affair; a simple observance conducted, not by clergy, but by close family members.

With this in mind, this booklet has been prepared for you and your family, that you may best honor your departed loved one by gathering together once again to recall a beautiful life, now gone, but long remembered.

Here you will find both traditional liturgical readings and contemporary prose and poetry. The service allows the option of choosing the readings which you find most appropriate and indicates where they are to be inserted.



Dedication of a Monument or Marker

Choose page 3 or 4:

יְיָ, מִה־אָדָם וַתִּדְעָהוּ, בְּיָן־אָנוּשׁ וַתִּחְשָׁבֵהוּ? אָדָם
לְהִקְבֹּל דָּמָה; יָמָיו כְּצֶלַע עוֹבֵר. כַּבֶּקֶר יִצִּיץ וְחִלָּף,
לְעָרֵב יִמּוֹלֵל וַיִּבֶשׁ. חָשַׁב אָנוּשׁ עַד־דִּבְרָא, וַתֵּאמֶר:
"שׁוּבוּ, בְּנֵי־אָדָם" לוֹ חֲכָמוֹ יִשְׁפְּלוּ זֹאת, יִבְיִנוּ
לְאַחֲרֵיהֶם. כִּי לֹא כְמוֹתוֹ יִקַּח הַפֶּלֶל; לֹא־יֵרֵד אַחֲרָיו
כְּבוֹדוֹ. פֶּדָה יְיָ גַּפְשׁ עַבְדָּיו, וְלֹא יֵאָשְׁמוּ כָּל־הַחֹסִים
בּוֹ.

Eternal One,

What are we that You notice us, mere mortals, that You cherish us?

We are like a breath,

our days, like a passing shadow.

In the morning, like grass

it sprouts renewed;

at evening it fades and withers.

At Your word we revert to dust.

Oh, that we were wise,

understood whither we are going.

For, when we leave here,

we take nothing with us of all we accumulate - nothing.

But when our dust returns to the earth that it was,
our spirit will return to God who gave it,

as we are welcomed to our final home.

אֲדַגֵּי מְעוֹן אַתָּה הָיִיתָ לָנוּ בְּדֹר וָדֹר. בְּטָרִם הָרִים
יָלְדוּ וַתְּחַלֵּל אֶרֶץ וַחֲבַל, וַיַּמְעוֹלֶם וַעֲד־עוֹלָם אַתָּה
אֵל.

תֵּשֶׁב אָנוּשׁ עַד־דָּבָא וַתֹּאמֶר שׁוּבוּ בְּגִי־אָדָם. יְמֵי־
שְׁנוֹתֵינוּ בָּהֶם שְׁבַעִים שָׁנָה, וְאִם בְּגִבּוֹרֹת שְׁמוֹנִים
שָׁנָה. כִּי אֵלֶיךָ שׁוֹנִים בְּעֵינֶיךָ כִּיּוֹם אֶתְמוֹל כִּי יַעֲבֹר
וַאֲשֶׁמוּרָה בְּלֵילָה.

לְמִנּוֹת יָמֵינוּ כִּן הוֹדַע וְנִגְבִּיא לִבְבִּי חֲקָמָה. וַיְהִי נֹעַם
אֲדַגֵּי אֱלֹהֵינוּ עָלֵינוּ וּמַעֲשֵׂה יְדֵינוּ כּוֹנְנָה עָלֵינוּ
וּמַעֲשֵׂה יְדֵינוּ כּוֹנְנָהוּ:

O God, You have been our refuge in every generation. Before the mountains came into being, before You brought forth the world; from eternity to eternity, You are God. As for us, you turn us to repentance and say: "Return, you mortals."

The days of our years are threescore and ten, or by reason of strength, fourscore years. But a thousand years in God's sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night. Teach us therefore to number our days, that we may attain a heart of wisdom. And may Your favor, O God, be upon us. Establish the work of our hands that it may long endure.

(after Psalm 90)

Choose page 5 or 6:

יְיָ לֹעִי לֹא אֶחָסֵר.
בְּנֵאוֹת קָשָׁא יִרְבִּיצָנִי,
צֶלֶם־מִי מְנַחֲחֹת יְנַהֲלָנִי.
נִפְשִׁי יִשׁוּבָב,
יְנַחֲנִי בַמְעֵגָלִי־אֶדְקֵךְ לְמַעַן שְׁמוֹ.
גַּם כִּי־אֵלֶךְ בְּגִיא צִלְמוֹת
לֹא־אִירָא רָע, כִּי־אֶתָּה עֲמָדִי.
שִׁבְטְךָ וּמִשְׁעֲנֹתֶיךָ הִקְמָה יְנַחֲמָנִי.
תַּעֲרֹךְ לִפְנֵי שִׁלְחֹן נֹגֵד צַרְרִי.
דִּשְׁנֹתַי בַּשָּׁמֶן רִאשִׁי, פּוֹסֵי רִנָּה.
אֵךְ טוֹב וְחָסֵד יִרְדְּפוּנִי כָּל־יְמֵי חַיִּי,
וְשִׁבְתִּי בְּבֵית־יְיָ לְאָרְךָ יָמִים.

The Eternal is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters.
He restores my soul;
He guides 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 You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my
enemies;
You have anointed my head with oil; my cup runs over.
Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days
of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the
Eternal forever.

(Psalm 23)

לכל זמן, ועת לקבל-חפץ פחת השמים.
 עת ללדת ועת למות,
 עת לטעם ועת לעקור גטוע.
 עת לפרוץ ועת לבנות,
 עת לבפות ועת לשחוק,
 עת ספור ועת רקוד.
 עת להשליך אבנים, ועת פנוס אבנים,
 עת לחבוק ועת לרחק מחבק.
 עת לבקש ועת לאבד,
 עת לשמור ועת להשליך.
 עת לקרוץ ועת לחפור,
 עת לחשות ועת לדבר.

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.

(from Ecclesiastes 3)

Insert Optional Reading

Reader:

Jacob set up a pillar on Rachel's grave.

And so, we who mourn come here to express our undying attachment to our beloved _____, returning to this place to dedicate a memorial to him/her.

We remember now the moments shared: the times of celebration, and the times of difficulty; we remember now the times of warmth and closeness, and the times of love and companionship.

We pray, O God, that You will treasure all that was good in his/her life, and that You will help all of us to retain that good as part of the fabric of our lives.

Reader:

Grant consolation, O God, to our sorrowing family and to all who mourn with us. Heal our hurt. Sustain our faith. May the memory of our beloved _____ make all of life more precious to us.

May we see this monument/marker as a reminder of what is most enduring, the immortality of the soul, memories that never fade, love that remains alive.

Though the pain of our mourning is deep, the love we had for _____ and the love that _____ gave to us calls upon us to care lovingly for one another, that he/she may always live in our hearts.

Personal Remarks

(silent prayer)

Reader:

O God, in whose hands are the souls of all the living and the spirits of all flesh, standing at the grave of _____ who has been taken from our family circle, we thank You for all that was true and good in his/her life, for all that was sweet and inspiring in his/her character.

May this hour, consecrated to his/her memory, bring its message of consolation to us. May Your love comfort and sustain us, that walking in the valley of the shadow, we may see Your light.

As we dedicate this memorial, help us, O God, to honor _____ by our actions and our aspirations. May his/her memory lead us to love You with all our hearts. Then, indeed, will that memory be a blessing.

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

(Covering is removed by a member of the family.)

El Malei

for a man:

אל מלא רחמים, שוכן במרומים, המצא מנוחה נכונה תחת
כנפי השכינה, במעלות קדושים וטהורים כנהר הרקיע
מזהירים, את נשמת _____ בן _____ שהלך לעולמו.
אנא, בעל הרחמים הסתירהו בסתר
כנפיד לעולמים, וצרור בצרור החיים את נשמתו, יי הוא
נחלחו, ויניח בשלום על משקבו, ונאמר אמן.

for a woman:

אל מלא רחמים, שוכן במרומים, המצא מנוחה נכונה תחת
כנפי השכינה, במעלות קדושים וטהורים כנהר הרקיע
מזהירים, את נשמת _____ בת _____ שהלכה
לעולמה. אנא, בעל הרחמים
הסתירה בסתר כנפיד לעולמים, וצרור בצרור החיים את
נשמתה, יי הוא נחלחה, ותניח בשלום על משקבה, ונאמר
אמן.

O God, full of compassion, Thou who dwellest on high! Grant perfect rest unto the souls of _____, who has departed from this world. Lord of mercy, bring him (her) into Thy presence and let his (her) soul be bound up in the bond of eternal life. Be Thou his (her) possession, and may his (her) repose be peace. Amen.

For All Who Mourn

Arthur Guiterman

That (s)he was dear to you so many a year
But darkens your distress.

Would you (s)he were less worthy and less dear
That you might grieve the less?

(S)He was a golden font that freely poured
What goldenly endures,
And though that font be gone, its bounty, stored
And treasured, still is yours.

The Past is deathless. Souls are wells too deep
To spend their purest gains.
All that (s)he gave to you is yours to keep
While memory remains.

Who never had and lost, forlorn are they
Far more than you and I
Who had and have. Grudge not the price we pay
For love that cannot die.

Kaddish

קדיש

יְתַגְדַּל וְיִתְקַדַּשׁ שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא בְּעַלְמָא דִּי-בְרָא כְרַעוּתְהָ,
וְיִמְלִיךְ מַלְכוּתְהָ בְּחַיֵּינוּ וּבְיוֹמֵינוּ וּבְחַיֵּי דְכָל-בֵּית
יִשְׂרָאֵל, בְּעָגְלָא וּבְזֶמַן קָרִיב וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

יְהֵא שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא מְבָרַךְ לְעָלְמָא וּלְעָלְמֵי עָלְמֵיָא.
יְתַבְרַךְ וְיִשְׁתַּבַּח, וְיִתְפָּאֵר וְיִתְרוֹמַם וְיִתְנַשֵּׂא,
וְיִתְהַדָּר וְיִתְעַלֶּה וְיִתְהַלַּל שְׁמֵהּ דְקוּדְשָׁא בְרִיךְ הוּא,
לְעָלְמָא מִן כָּל-בְּרַבְרָתָא וּשְׂרִיחָא, חֲשִׁבְתָּא וְנַחְמָתָא
דְּאִמְרֵין בְּעַלְמָא, וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

יְהֵא שְׁלָמָא רַבָּא מִן-שְׁמַיָּא וְחַיִּים עָלֵינוּ וְעַל-כָּל-
יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

עֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמִרוֹמָיו, הוּא יַעֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ
וְעַל-כָּל-יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

Let the glory of God be extolled, let His great name be hallowed, in the world whose creation He willed. May His kingdom soon prevail, in our own day, our own lives, and the life of all Israel, and let us say: Amen.

Let His great name be blessed for ever and ever.

Let the name of the Holy One, blessed is He, be glorified, exalted, and honored, though He is beyond all the praises, songs, and adorations that we can utter, 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 He who causes peace to reign in the high heavens, let peace descend on us, on all Israel, and all the world, and let us say: Amen.

Kaddish

קדיש

Yitgadal veyitkadash shmei raba be-'alma di-vra
chirutei,
veyamlich malchutei be-chayeichon uvyomeichon
uvchayei dechol beit Yisrael,
ba-'agala uvizman kariv,
Ve-imru: Amen.

Yehei shmei raba mevorach le'olam ule'almei 'almaya.

Yitbarach veyishtabach, veyitpa-ar veyitromam
veyitnasei,
veyit-hadar veyit'aleh veyit-halal shmei dekadsha,
brich hu,
le'eila min kol birchata veshirata, tushbechata
venechemata, da-amiran be'alma,
Ve-imru: Amen.

Yehei shlama raba min shemaya vechayim 'aleinu ve'al
kol Yisrael,
Ve-imru: Amen.

'Oseh shalom bimromav, hu ya'aseh shalom
'aleinu ve'al kol Yisrael,
Ve-imru: Amen.

Optional Readings

For A Wife or Mother

אִשְׁת־חַיִל מִי יִמָּצָא, וְרַחֵק מִפְּוִינִים מִכָּרָה.
בְּטַח בָּהּ לֵב בְּעֵלָה וְשָׁלָל לֹא יִחָסֵר.
וְגִמְלָתָהּ טוֹב וְלֹא-רָע פֶּלַע יָמֵי חַיֶּיהָ.
הִיטָה בְּאֲנִיּוֹת סוּחָר, מִמְּרַחֵק תָּבִיא לְחֶמֶה.
וְתִקֶּם בְּעוֹד לַיְלָה, וְתִתֵּן טָרֶף לְבֵיתָהּ.
עוֹז-וְהֶדְר לְבוּשָׁהּ, וְתִשְׁחַק לְיוֹם אַחֲרוֹן.
פִּיהָ פִּתְחָה בְּחֶכְמָה, וְתוֹרַת-חֶסֶד עַל-לְשׁוֹנָהּ.
צוֹפֶיָה הַלִּיכּוֹת בֵּיתָהּ, וְלֶחֶם עֲצֻלוֹת לֹא תֹאכֵל.
קָמוּ בָנֶיהָ וַיֵּאשְׁרוּהָ, בְּעֵלָה וַיְהִלְלָהּ.
רַבּוֹת בָּנוֹת עָשׂוּ חַיִל, וְאַתָּה עָלִית עַל-כָּלֵנָהּ.

A woman of valor, who can find? She is more precious than fine pearls.

Her husband trusts in her, and so he lacks nothing; She does him good, never harm, all the days of her life. She perceives that her labor is rewarding; her candle burns on into the night.

She reaches out to those in need, and extends her hands to the poor.

She is clothed in strength and dignity, and she faces the future cheerfully.

She speaks with wisdom; the law of kindness is on her lips.

Her children rise up and bless her; her husband sings her praises.

Many daughters have done valiantly, but you excel them all.

(after Proverbs 31)

To My Father

Georgia Harkness

A giant pine, magnificent and old,
Stood staunch against the sky and all around
Shed beauty, grace, and power. Within its fold
Birds safely reared their young. The velvet ground
Beneath was gentle, and the cooling shade
Gave cheer to passers-by. Its towering arms
A landmark stood, erect and unafraid,
As if to say, "Fear naught from life's alarms."

It fell one day. Where it had dauntless stood
Was loneliness and void. But men who passed
Paid tribute - said, "To know this life was good,
It left its mark on me. Its work stands fast."
And so it lives. Such life no bonds can hold -
This giant pine, magnificent and old.

A Child's Epitaph

Arthur Guiterman

Above a low mound at the cedar tree's root
Is carved on a stone that is moldering dark
"The Dove found no rest for the sole of her foot,
And returned unto Him in the Ark."

Leigh Hunt

Those who have lost a child are never, as it were,
without a child. They are the only persons who, in one
sense, retain their offspring always . . . The other
children grow up to manhood and womanhood, and
suffer all the changes of mortality. This one alone is
rendered an immortal child. Death has arrested it with
kindly harshness, and blessed it into an eternal image of
youth and innocence.

My Hereafter

Juniata De Long

Do not come when I am dead
To sit beside a low green mound,
Or bring the first gay daffodils
Because I love them so,
For I shall not be there.
You cannot find me there.

I will look up at you from the eyes
Of little children;
I will bend to meet you in the swaying boughs
Of bud-thrilled trees,
And caress you with the passionate sweep
Of storm-filled winds;
I will give you strength in your upward tread
Of everlasting hills;

I will cool your tired body in the flow
Of the limpid river;
I will warm your work-glorified hands through the
glow
Of the winter fire;
I will soothe you into forgetfulness to the drop, drop
Of the rain on the roof;
I will speak to you out of the rhymes
Of the Masters;
I will dance with you in the lilt
Of the violin,
And make your heart leap with the bursting cadence
of the organ;
I will flood your soul with the flaming radiance
Of the sunrise,
And bring you peace in the tender rose and gold
Of the after-sunset.

All these have made me happy:
They are a part of me;
I shall become a part of them.