

**MAY THE ANGELS CARRY YOU:
JEWISH SONGS OF COMFORT FOR DEATH, DYING, & MOURNING**

BY
RABBI GEELA RAYZEL RAPHAEL

LYRICS SHEET

Dedicated to Reb Zalman Schachter-Shalomi z'l



- 1) **MAY THE ANGELS CARRY YOU**
- 2) **HEALER OF THE BROKEN-HEARTED (PSALM 147:3)**
- 3) **ANGEL SONG/B'SHEM HASHEM**
- 4) ***TECHINAH* FOR THE DEATHBED [A Prayer for the Deathbed]**
- 5) ***BARUCH DAYAN EMET* [BLESSED IS THE TRUE JUDGE]**
- 6) ***TACHAT KANFAY* /REFUGE IN YOUR WINGS (PSALM 36:7)**
- 7) **KADDISH**
- 8) ***HAMAKOM YANACHEM***
- 9) ***SHALOM ALEICHEM***
- 10) ***DI NESHOME ZOL HOBN AN ALIYE*/MAY THE SOUL RISE**
- 11) **SWEET SURRENDER**

AN INTRODUCTION TO THIS COMPILATION OF MUSIC

The concept of this recording came out of a conversation I had with Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi z'l, in 2001, after my father, of blessing memory, Mitchell Robinson, z'l, left this world. Reb Zalman talked about having a CD of *Nichum Avelim*, songs to comfort the mourner. At the time, I just wasn't ready to face a whole recording of this genre of music. When Reb Zalman died, I thought, "Why did I wait so long? He would have wanted to hear this." So I guess now is the time.

I once learned that, in an African country, when a child is born they bring forth a new song. Unfortunately, over the years, death has also written new songs for me. Death is a detour and can take us places we never knew we would go; that is how I feel about this music....I never really wanted to be here. But now that I am here, I have to acknowledge the bittersweet edge of creativity, comfort and memory these songs offer me. In recording them, I hope they bring you to a place of consolation, as well.

I have to thank my life partner, Dr. Simcha Raphael, Founding Director of The DA'AT Institute for Death Awareness, Advocacy and Training -www.daatinstitute.net for encouraging and supporting me with this project. I thank all my friends who lent their time, talent and voices to me over the years: Yofiah Deikman, Jefferson Martin, Juliet I. Spitzer, Rabbi Margot Stein, Susan Leviton, Rabbi Jack Gabriel, Frank Kohn, and Yaffa-Shira Sultan. Thank you to my friend, Cantor Naomi Hirsch, for editing these album notes, to Simcha Raphael for his help with layout, and Hallel Raphael for her graphic arts in producing the CD cover.

A special note of gratitude to Sal Centola of Angel Studio (www.AngelStudio.us), who picked me up and carried me through to completion. Sal was one of my angels who recorded, mixed and mastered all the songs, and accompanied the majority of them.

And of course, I thank my angels who continue to guide and help carry me through life!

I know my father, Mitchell z'l, Reb Zalman z'l, Bubby Rose z'l, Savina z'l, Zelda z'l—and maybe even Aryeh z'l—are listening on their side of the veil. May their memory be for a blessing.

Geela Rayzel Raphael, July 2016

1) MAY THE ANGELS CARRY YOU

©Rabbi Geela Rayzel Raphael, November 2005

Arrangement: Jefferson Martin

Additional vocals: Yofiyah Deikman

Keyboard: Jefferson Martin

On the occasion of Sabina Teubal's departure from this world

Ya lai lai...

CHORUS: May the angels carry you; may the angels carry you. [2x]

At this time of transition, going to the Light;
At this time of transition, going home is right.
Let go of the struggle; let go of the fear.
All is forgiven; your slate to be cleared.

CHORUS: May the angels carry you; may the angels carry you.

Your work is done; it is time to rest.
The fruit of your hands and your soul be blessed.
Joining your ancestors, finding a new way;
Crossing the threshold, wrapped in God's embrace.

CHORUS: May the angels carry you; may the angels carry you. [2x]

Surrounded by love, angels take your hand;
Guiding you on, it's part of the plan.
*Shechinah** welcomes you, opening her wings.
Hearing the chorus, join the angels singing.

CHORUS: May the angels carry you; may the angels carry you.

Mi-yemini Micha'ela, Mi-s'moli Gavri'ela, Mi-l'fanai Uriela, U'may-achorai R'fa'ela

CHORUS: May the angels carry you; may the angels carry you. [Repeat ad lib.]

*The Feminine In-Dwelling Presence of God

TRANSLATION

On your right is (the angel) Micha'ela, on your left is Gavri'ela.
In front of you is Uriela, and behind you is R'fa'ela.

2) HEALER OF THE BROKEN-HEARTED (PSALM 147:3)

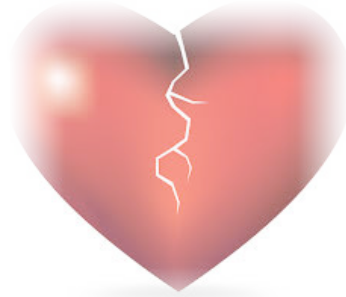
©Rabbi Geela Rayzel Raphael, August 2000

Additional Vocals: Rabbi Jack Gabriel

Ha-Rofeh lish'vuray layv [2x]

Um'chabaysh l'atzvotam. [2x]

The Healer of the broken-hearted,
The Healer of the broken hearts,
Winds and binds and winds and binds
My sorrows and carries them away.
Winds and binds and winds and binds
My sorrows and turns them to prayer.



TRANSLATION

*God heals the broken-hearted
and binds up their wounds.*

3) B'SHEM HASHEM / ANGEL SONG

Hebrew text: Traditional evening liturgy

Music: © Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach, BMI.

Used with the permission of the Estate of Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach

English Text: Rabbi Geela Rayzel Raphael

Additional vocals: Juliet I. Spitzer; Rabbi Margot Stein

Keyboard: Sal Centola

La, lai, lai...

***B'shem Ha-Shem, Elohay Yisrael:
Mi-mini Micha'ayl, u'mi-s'moli Gavriel.
Mi-l'fanai Uriel, u-m'achorai R'fael
V'al roshi, v'al roshi Shechinat-El****

In the name of God, the God of Israel:
There's Micha'el and Gabriel, Uriel and Raphael.
The four of them they gather round and dance around your soul,
And then Shechinah Herself appears to make your spirit whole.



TRANSLATION

*In the name of the Name, the God of Israel:
On my right is Micha'el, and on my left is Gabriel.
In front of me is Uriel and behind me is Raphael.
And above my head is Shechinah - Feminine In-Dwelling Presence of God.*

4) A *TECHINAH* FOR THE DEATHBED [A PRAYER FOR THE DEATHBED]

© Rabbi Geela Rayzel and Reb Simcha Raphael

Oh, Great Guardian of the Gateway
Between life and death,
I come before you as witness
To this sacred moment in time.
In gratitude and with humility,
I honor the mystery of holy transitions.

Just as Jacob buried his beloved Rachel
On the road to Bethlehem,
And as loving family surrounded Jacob and Joseph
As they were gathered to their ancestors,
May I gracefully escort this soul
With compassionate love.

As the midwives, Shifra and Puah,
Brought forth new life,
May I help birth this soul
into the luminosity of the world beyond.

Oh, Holy One of Blessing,
May I be a comforting presence for all those gathered here.
Grant me the wisdom to speak gentle words,
To sing sacred songs
And to be silent in the face of the unknown.
Give me an open heart and presence of mind
For this divine unfolding.

Majesty of Time and Space,
Send guardians and guides, ancestors and angels
To accompany this soul on its homeward journey.
Michael, Gabriel, Uriel, and Raphael:
Please safeguard the passage
Between the lower and upper worlds.
As the breath wanes and the body's released,
O Holy Shechinah, carry this soul on your shimmering wings
Into the radiant light of *Gan Eden*.*

As the spirit of life is extinguished, we pray:

Shema Yisrael Adonai Elohaynu Adonai Echad. [3x]

**The Garden of Eden, pronounced Gan Eyden in Hebrew.*

TRANSLATION

Hear O Israel, Adonai is our God, Adonai is ONE.



5) **BARUCH DAYAN EMET [BLESSED IS THE TRUE JUDGE]**

© Rabbi Geela Rayzel Raphael, March 2015

Additional vocals: Susan Leviton

Keyboard: Sal Centola

On the occasion of Aryeh Stein-Azen's journey out of this world

CHORUS: *Baruch Dayan Emet.*
 Baruch Dayan ha-Emet [2x]
 Adonai natan; vAdonai lakach.
 Y'hi shem, Adonai m'vorach. [2x]

With compassion and justice,
A view of the past lifetimes;
End the suffering—free the soul
With a holy sense of time.

CHORUS:

Weighing many factors
On the earth and above;
Considering all the pain and loss
Yet acting out of love.

CHORUS:

Time to go, or time to leave
This chapter is done.
With a kiss of Shechinah's bliss,
The soul travels on...
The soul travels on...

TRANSLATION:

Blessed is the Judge of Truth.

God gave; God has taken away.

May the name of God be blessed.

6) *TACHAT KANFAY* / REFUGE IN YOUR WINGS (PSALM 36:7)

©Rabbi Geela Rayzel Raphael, January 2016

Additional vocals: Juliet I. Spitzer, Rabbi Margot Stein

Keyboard: Sal Centola

For Rabbi Sarah Leah

**CHORUS: May I find the refuge in Your wings
Whatever life will bring.
I find refuge in the shadow of Your wings.
*Tachat kanfay, tachat kanfay, b'tzel k'nafahyich eh-cheseh.***

Down through doors closing—with little light,
Deep in the cave, with no insight;
Air begins to thin, and fans my fear,
At the world's end, where nothing is clear.

**CHORUS: May I find the refuge in Your wings
Whatever life will bring.
I find refuge in the shadow of Your wings.
*Tachat kanfay, tachat kanfay, b'tzel k'nafahyich eh-cheseh.***

In the darkness of the cavern—in the deepest depth,
Where hope begins to crumble, feeling death;
Stumbling along in a subterranean grave.
Must find the path; must not be afraid!

CHORUS: *Tachat kanfay, tachat kanfay, b'tzel k'nafahyich eh-cheseh.*

As the gloom gathers and eyes adjust,
As the shadows loom, seeking my trust;
There is beauty in the darkness; my vision clears.
We're in the belly of the Mother, and shall not fear.

**CHORUS: May I find the refuge in Your wings
Whatever life will bring.
I find refuge in the shadow of Your wings**

Water seeps the wall into the cracks.
Amazing sculptures form, looking back.
On the scary journey, like a bat beneath the earth;
We face the trail of growth toward our own rebirth.

FINAL

**CHORUS: We find the refuge in Your wings
Then our heart sings.
We find the refuge in the shadow of Your wings.
Tachat kanfay, tachat kanfay, b'tzel k'nafahyich eh-cheseh.
[Repeat ad lib.]**

TRANSLATION:

Under the wings, under the wings, in the shadow of Your wings, I will find refuge.

7) KADDISH

© Rabbi Geela Rayzel Raphael, May 2002

Additional vocals: Frank Kohn, Rabbi Yaffa-Shira Sultan

In memory of my father, Mitchell Lazarus Robinson, Michel Eliezer ben Avraham Yehudah v'Slovah z"l

CHORUS: *Yitgadal v'yitkadash sh'may rabba. [2x]*

I integrate your legacy;
Treasure your memory;
What I have learned from you;
I'm left with your love.

CHORUS: *Yitgadal v'yitkadash sh'may rabba. [2x]*

I come to You in grief
Walk in humility
Grateful you have been with me
I'm lifted by your love.

CHORUS: *Yitgadal v'yitkadash sh'may rabba. [2x]*

We rise to praise Your name
All our waking days.
Where you have guided us
We walk in your love.

CHORUS: *Yitgadal v'yitkadash sh'may rabba. [2x]*
[Repeat ad lib.]

Create a path for peace
To live in harmony
For us and all the world
Bless us with love.

CHORUS: *Yitgadal v'yitkadash sh'may rabba. [2x]*
[Repeat ad lib.]

Kaddish is a Jewish prayer recited by mourners at public services after the death of a close relative.

TRANSLATION:

Exalted and hallowed be God's great name.



8) HA-MAKOM YENACHEM ETCHEM /

[MAY GOD COMFORT YOU AMONG THE MOURNERS OF ZION]

©Rabbi Geela Rayzel Raphael, January 2001

Keyboard: Sal Centola

For my father, Mitchell Lazarus Robinson, Michel Eliezer ben Avraham Yehudah v'Slovah z"l

CHORUS: *Ha-Makom y'nachem etchem
Ha-Makom y'nachen etchen
Ha-Makom y'nachem etchem
B'toch sha'ar avlay Tzion V'Yerushalahyim.**

The times when we are troubled
By losses we must face;
As the soul leaves
And we grieve,
Sorrow sets its own pace.

CHORUS:

We'll miss smiles, their touch, and smell,
The hands we once held,
Yet the body's gone
And their love lives on.
They are spirit behind a veil.

CHORUS:

May you be comforted on your journey;
May you feel what you need to feel.
May seeds be planted of hope and consolation;
May you find the time to heal.

CHORUS:

This song is intended to be sung during the period of Shloshim (the first 30 days after burial).

TRANSLATION:

May God console you with all who mourn in Zion and Jerusalem is the traditional phrase used to greet mourners. "Etchem" is the Hebrew masculine plural form and "Etchen" is the Hebrew feminine plural form of "you."

9) **SHALOM ALEICHEM [PEACE BE UNTO YOU] / WELCOMING THE ANGELS**

Text: Traditional Friday night liturgy
Music: Rabbi [Israel Goldfarb](#), May 10, 1918
Arrangement: MIRAJ
Additional Vocals: Juliet I. Spitzer, Rabbi Margot Stein

*Shalom Alaychem, malachay ha-sharayt, malachay elyon,
Mi-Melech Mal'chay ha-M'lachim,
Ha-Kadosh Baruch Hu, * ha-Kedushah Bruchah Hi.***

*Bo'achem l'shalom malachay ha-sharayt, malachay elyon,
Mi-Melech Mal'chay ha-M'lachim,
Ha-Kadosh Baruch Hu, ha-Kedushah Bruchah Hi.*

*Barchuni l'shalom malachay ha-sharayt, malachay elyon,
Mi-Melech Mal'chay ha-M'lachim,
Ha-Kadosh Baruch Hu, ha-Kedushah Bruchah Hi.*

*Tzaytchem l'shalom malachay ha-sharayt, malachay elyon,
Mi-Melech Mal'chay ha-M'lachim,
Ha-Kadosh Baruch Hu, ha-Kedushah Bruchah Hi.*

Shalom Aleichem is traditionally sung in the home on Friday nights to signify the arrival of Shabbat and welcome the angels.

TRANSLATION:

*Peace unto you, angels on high, messengers of the most Holy One!
Come in peace, angels on high, messengers of the most Holy One!
Bless us with peace, angels on high, messengers of the most Holy One!
Go in peace, angels on high, messengers of the most Holy One!*

**The Holy One, Blessed be He.*

***The Holy One, Blessed be She. (a feminized version of the traditional text)*



10) *DI NESHOME ZOL HOBN AN ALIYE* [MAY THE SOUL RISE]

©Rabbi Geela Rayzel and Reb Simcha Raphael, December 2013

Additional Vocals: Sal Centola, Susan Leviton

Keyboard: Sal Centola

For Bubby Rose z"l and Zelda z"l on the occasion of their Yahrzeits.

CHORUS: *Di neshome zol hobn an aliye.* [2x]

May your soul rise higher and higher
Through the stages of illumination;
May your soul rise to the highest rung
In the holy realms of *Gan Aydn*.***

CHORUS: *Di neshome zol hobn an aliye.* [2x]

Your memory is a blessing
To all of us you left behind.
You'll be wrapped in a garment of light
As your soul continues to climb.
May your journey be gentle
Through the seven realms up above.
We'll do good deeds in your name
We remember you with love.

CHORUS: *Di neshome zol hobn an aliye.* [2x]

With the golden crowns of Torah
Tz'ror ha-cha-yim;
Praise with ministering angels
You are nourished by eternal springs.
Now you'll return to the Source of Life
Study Torah with the *Tzaddikim*
May your legacy live on and beyond
With Shechinah, *tants un zing!*

**CHORUS: *Di neshome zol hobn an aliye.* [2x]
[Repeat ad lib.]**

The time of the anniversary of a death, called in a Yortzayt [or Yahrzeit] is an auspicious times when special prayers are recited.

TRANSLATION

May your soul ascend [higher]

Gan Aydn - The Heavenly Garden of Eden

Tz'ror ha-cha-yim - The Source of Life, said to be a gathering place for soul's under the Throne of God

Tzaddikim Righteous beings on high

Shechinah The Feminine In-Dwelling Presence of God

tants un zing Dance and sing (in Yiddish)

11) WE ARE OPENING UP IN SWEET SURRENDER

Author & Composer: Unknown
Arrangement: MIRAJ
Additional Vocals: Juliet I. Spitzer, Rabbi Margot Stein

I am Opening up in Sweet Surrender
To the luminous Love Light of the One.

We are Opening up in Sweet Surrender
To the luminous Love Light of the One.

We are Opening. [4x]

*P'tach libi
B'or nir'eh or.*

TRANSLATION

Open my heart. In Light, we will see Light.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
RABBI GEELA RAYZEL RAPHAEL
rrayzel@shechinah.com**

