

***PRAYING WITH THE DYING AND THEIR FAMILIES:
SPIRITUAL & PRACTICAL DIMENSIONS***

**REB SIMCHA RAPHAEL
RABBI GEELA RAYZEL RAPHAEL**

MAY THE ANGELS CARRY YOU - *Rabbi Geela Rayzel Raphael*

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

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

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

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

CHORUS

B'SHEM HASHEM/ANGEL SONG - Rabbi Geela Rayzel Raphael (English Text)

Hebrew text: Traditional evening liturgy; Music: © Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach

***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.

ANA EL NA REFANAH LAH

Ana El Na Refanah La Ana El Na Refanah Lo
Let's send our love to those who need it so
Kayn Y'hi ratzon

REFUAH SHELEIMAH - Rabbi Geela Rayzel Raphael and Reb Simcha Raphael

Refuat HaNephesh, Refuat HaGuf
Refuah Sheleimah (2x)

May the One who blessed our ancestors,
Bring healing to body and soul
Source of life, *Mekor Chayim*,
Make this Spirit whole.

HEALER OF THE BROKEN-HEARTED (PSALM 147:3) - Rabbi Geela Rayzel Raphael

***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.

A TECHINAH FOR THE DEATHBED [A PRAYER FOR THE DEATHBED]

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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.

From *May the Angels Carry You - Jewish Songs of Comfort for Death, Burial and Mourning*

Rabbi Geela Rayzel Raphael

<https://www.amazon.com/Angels-Raphael-Yofiyah-Deikman-Jefferson/dp/B01IB7B4XU>

ABRAHAM AND THE MITZVAH OF BIKKUR CHOLIM - SOTAH 12A

Rabbi Hama, son of Rabbi Hanina, says: Just as the Holy Blessed One, visits the sick, as it is written with regard to God's appearing to Abraham following his circumcision: "And the Lord appeared unto him by the terebinths of Mamre" (Genesis 18:1), so too, should you visit the sick.

BIKKUR CHOLIM AND PRAYER - SHULCHAN ARUCH 335:4 12A

According to the Rema [Rabbi Moses Isserles] "One who visited a sick person and did not offer a prayer on their behalf, has not fulfilled the mitzvah of bikkur cholim, visiting the sick."

PRAYING AT BEDSIDE OF ONE WHO IS SICK—

MAIMONIDES, MISHNEH TORAH, MOURNING, CHAPTER 14:6

When one comes to visit a sick person... one should wrap themselves in a *tallit*, sit below [the patient's] head, entreat God for mercy on their behalf and depart.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO PRAY FOR THE DYING: SPIRITUAL AND PRACTICAL DIMENSIONS OF DEATHBED PRAYER

- 1. Prayer As "Dipping Into the Pool of Blessings"***
- 2. Prayers For Healing of the Body***
- 3. Prayers for Healing of the Soul***
- 4. Prayer As Anchor to Tradition***
- 5. Prayer as a Source of Comfort and Connection***
- 6. Prayer as "Soul-Guiding"***

DEATH OF RABBI YEHUDA - BT KET. 104A

Rabbi Yehuda was frail, suffering and close death. As the end of his life drew near, his students continued to pray for their teacher to live. Upon seeing the pain and physical discomfort of her master, Rabbi Yehuda's handmaid, ascended to the roof of his house and threw a jar from the roof that shattered as it hit the ground. Startled by the noise, the students were momentarily distracted from their praying, at which time "the soul of Rabbi Yehuda departed to its eternal rest." (BT Ket. 104a)

GOSES - YOREH DEAH, 339.1

One in a dying condition is considered a living being in all respects.

DEATHBED VISIONS - ZOHAR I, 218B; III, 88A, I 98A

On the deathbed the soul is granted an additional supernal spirit... and sees what she has never been worthy enough to see throughout her life.

No one leaves the world before seeing Shechinah... And with Shechinah there come three ministering angels to receive the soul of the righteous.

*

"Much of what occurs during [the "nearing death experience"] is beyond words..subtle and deeply inner: intuitions, recognitions, experiences of realms of being and understanding, realms of depth and light and truth that words cannot grasp." Kathleen Dowling Singh, *Grace in Dying – How We Are Transformed Spiritually As We Die*, p. 17

TRADITIONAL UNDERSTANDING OF VIDUI, YOREH DEAH 338.1

If one feels death approaching, they are instructed, 'Confess [your sins]!' And the person is told, 'Many confessed [their sins] and died not, and many who have not confessed, died; and as a reward, should you confess, you will live; and one who confesses [sins] has a portion in the world to come.' And if the person is unable to make confession with the mouth, they should confess in the heart. If they do not know what to confess, instruct the person to say, 'My death should be an expiation for all my sins.'

VIDUI

*Adonai, our God, and God of our ancestors,
We acknowledge that all life is in your hands.
May it be Your will to send healing to _____.*

*Yet if the end is imminent, may it reflect Your love and atone for all those times _____
could have done better.*

*Grant [him/her] the rewards of the righteous, and give [him/her] eternal life in your
Presence.*

*Guardian of the bereaved, protect _____ and [his/her] beloved family, for their lives
are interconnected in the bond of love.*

In your hand lives [his/her] spirit. You have redeemed [him/her], Adonai, God of Truth.

May the Angels Carry You -

Jewish Prayers and Meditations for the Deathbed

Simcha Paull Raphael

<https://www.amazon.com/May-Angels-Carry-You-Meditations/dp/0692765603>

מוֹדִים אֲנַחְנוּ לָךְ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֵלֵּהי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְאִמּוֹתֵינוּ, שְׁחַיֵּינוּ
מְסוּרִים בְּיָדְךָ. יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ, שְׁתַּרְפָּא אֶת (הַחֹלָה הַמְּסַכֵּן
הַזֶּה \ הַחֹלָה הַמְּסַכָּנָה הַזֹּאת) רְפוּאָה שְׁלֵמָה. וְאִם הַמּוֹת כָּלָה
וְנִחְרָץ מֵעַמָּךְ, (יִקְחֵנוּ \ יִקְחֶהָ) מִיָּדְךָ בְּאַהֲבָה. וְתִהְיֶה (מִיתָתוֹ \
מִיתָתָהּ) כְּפָרָה עַל כָּל חַטָּאִים וְעוֹנוֹת וּפְשָׁעִים, (שְׁחַטָּא וְשַׁעוּהָ
וְשַׁפְּשַׁע \ שְׁחַטָּאָה וְשַׁעוֹתָהּ וְשַׁפְּשַׁעָהּ) לִפְנֶיךָ. וְתִשְׁפִּיעַ (לוֹ \
לָהּ) מֶרֶב טוֹב הַצָּפוֹן לַצַּדִּיקִים (וְתוֹדִיעָהּ \ וְתוֹדִיעָהּ) אֶרֶץ
חַיִּים.

אֲבִי יִתְּוִמִּים וְדִין אֱלֹמְנוֹת, הִגֵּן בְּעַד (קְרוּבֵינוּ \ קְרוּבֶיהָ) הַיְּקָרִים
אֲשֶׁר (נִפְשׁוּ \ נִפְשָׁהּ) קְשׁוּרָה בְּנִפְשָׁם.
בְּיָדְךָ (יִפְקִיד רוּחוֹ \ תִּפְקִיד רוּחָהּ) פְּדִיתָ (אוֹתוֹ \ אוֹתָהּ)
יי אֵל אֱמֶת אָמֵן וְאָמֵן.

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל, יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ, יְהוָה אֶחָד:
בָּרוּךְ שֵׁם כְּבוֹד מַלְכוּתוֹ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.
יי מֶלֶךְ, יי מֶלֶךְ, יי יִמְלֹךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.
יי הוּא הָאֱלֹהִים. יי הוּא הָאֱלֹהִים.

Shema Yisrael, Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai Echad (7x)

Baruch Shem Kevod Malchuto L'olam Vaed (3x)

Adonai Melech, Adonai Malach, Adonai Yimloch L'olam Vaed (3x)

Adonai Hu Ha-Elohim (7x)

