

VIDUI

HASHEM, as I am soon to come before you at the final closing of my eyes, I long to repent for any sins, and to apologize for any errors of my ways.

MY CREATOR, I ask that you forgive my trespasses as a first step in allowing me to improve my soul.

G-D, I am here before you, as I will shortly leave this life for the next. I pray that you will accept my sincere atonement of any wrong deeds, thoughts, or words for which I have been responsible.

LORD, while I lie here contemplating my last breaths, I entreat you to forgive my iniquities, those that I am aware of and for which I repent, and those I am unaware of, and yet regret. I come before you asking your forgiveness, as the thought of my errors weighs heavily upon me and gives me no peace.

CREATOR OF ALL LIFE, as I review my life and concede to having made mistakes, I need to believe in my creator as a forgiving G-D, as the One who acknowledges that we humans make mistakes, and will forgive me.

ELOHIM, my head is bowed, my knees are shaking, and I am before you as a lost sheep looking for my shepherd who gives me security and keeps me on the right path to warrant redemption.

AUTHOR OF LIFE, my spirit is soaring with jubilation as my neshamah (soul) is soon to rejoin others in olam haba (the world that is coming). My spirit and soul will soon no longer be contained in this body, but will sense elation as they return to you, my Creator.

ELOHEYNU, while my body is weakened, my spirit is strengthened. Knowing that when I finally close my eyes here, my neshamah will witness the wonders that are hidden from me here, and will see the beauty that is there.

HOLY ONE, I am saddened to be going on this journey so soon, as you have created wonderful works here, but I welcome with an open heart your decisions, though I do not understand them.

AUTHOR OF LIFE, therefore, may all my iniquities, sins, trespasses, and errors be erased as I am completely prepared to acknowledge all my failures and flaws and apologize for them with all my heart. For any wrongdoings against others, I ask their forgiveness. For any and all transgressions committed against you, I subserviently ask your mercy and compassion.

OH MERCIFUL ONE, while it is true others may have had evil thoughts, and spoken with malice, and acted in ways not according to your will, I hope and pray that I was worthy of your blessings more often than I was worthy of your wrath. I earnestly believe I tried to do as you would prescribe, but confess I also earnestly believe that when I fell short, it was human error for which I atone at this time.

MY HASHEM, who created the world and all that is in it, and who also created mankind with the ability to make choices. I ask in all humility that you accept my words of remorse, regret and sorrow for any deeds or words that I may have chosen that did not bring you glory.

BARUCH HASHEM, may it be your will to find my prayer acceptable in your sight.
Amen.

— Laurie Dinerstein-Kurs © 2011

Alternative Deathbed Vidui

Rabbi Rachel Barenblat

I acknowledge before the Source of All that life and death are not in my hands. Just as I did not choose to be born, so I do not choose to die.

May my life be a healing memory for those who knew me.

May my loved ones think well of me, and may my memory bring them joy. From all those I may have hurt, I ask forgiveness.

To all who have hurt me, I grant forgiveness.

As a wave returns to the ocean, so I return to the Source from which I came.

שמע ישראל אֱלֹהינוּ אֶחָד
שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל אֱלֹהֵינוּ אֶחָד
(Hear, O Israel: Adonai is our God, Adonai is One.)