

# Bikkur Cholim and Displacement

Source Sheet by Fred Klein

## משנה ברכות ד:ד'

(ד) רבי אליעזר אומר, העושה תפלתו קבע, אין תפלתו תחנוניים. רבי יהושע אומר, המהלך במקום סכנה, מתפלל תפלה קצרה. אומר, הושע השם את עמך את שארית ישראל, בכל פרשת העבור יהיו צרכיהם לפניך. ברוך אתה ה' שומע תפלה:

### Mishnah Berakhot 4:4

(4) **Rabbi Eliezer says: One whose prayer is fixed, his prayer is not supplication** and is flawed. The Gemara will clarify the halakhic implications of this flaw. **Rabbi Yehoshua says: One who** cannot recite a complete prayer because he **is walking in a place of danger, recites a brief prayer and says: Redeem, Lord, Your people, the remnant of Israel, at every transition [parashat ha'ibur],** the meaning of which will be discussed in the Gemara. **May their needs be before You. Blessed are You, Lord, Who listens to prayer.**

## ברכות ג' א

תנאי, אומר רבי יוסי: פעם אחת הייתי מהלך בדרך ונכנסתי לחורבה אחת מחורבות ירושלים להתפלל. בא אליהו זכור לטוב ושמר לי על הפתח, (והמתין לי) עד שסיימתי תפילתי. לאחר שסיימתי תפילתי אמר לי: "שלום עליך, רבי". ואמרתי לו: "שלום עליך, רבי ומורי". ואמר לי: בני, מפני מה נכנסת לחורבה זו? אמרתי לו: להתפלל. ואמר לי: הנה לך להתפלל בדרך. ואמרתי לו: מתירא הייתי שמא יפסיקו בי עוברי דרכים, ואמר לי הנה לך להתפלל תפלה קצרה. באותה שעה למדתי ממנו שלשה דברים: למדתי שאין נכנסין לחורבה, ולמדתי שמתפללין בדרך, ולמדתי שהמתפלל בדרך מתפלל תפלה קצרה.

### Berakhot 3a

Incidental to the mention of the elevated significance of the night watches, the Gemara cites a related story: **It was taught** in a *baraita* that **Rabbi Yosei said: I was once walking along the road when I entered** the ruins of an old, abandoned building **among the ruins of Jerusalem** in order to pray. I noticed that **Elijah, of blessed memory, came and guarded the entrance for me and waited at the entrance until I finished my prayer. When I finished praying** and exited the ruin, **Elijah said to me,** deferentially as one would address a Rabbi: **Greetings to you, my Rabbi. I answered him: Greetings to you, my Rabbi, my teacher. And Elijah said to me: My son, why did you enter this ruin? I said**

**to him:** In order **to pray.** And Elijah **said to me:** You should have prayed on the road. **And I said to him:** I was unable to pray along the road, because **I was afraid that I might be interrupted by travelers** and would be unable to focus. Elijah **said to me:** You should have recited the abbreviated prayer instituted for just such circumstances. Rabbi Yosei concluded: **At that time,** from that brief exchange, **I learned from him, three things: I learned that one may not enter a ruin; and I learned** that one need not enter a building to pray, but **he may pray along the road; and I learned that one who prays along the road recites an abbreviated prayer** so that he may maintain his focus.

## A Meditation before Lighting Shabbat Candles

July 1, 2021/ 22 Tammuz, 5781

Rabbi Frederick L. Klein



*Heneni Muchan Umezuman*

*I am about to Light my Shabbat Candles*

*Open my Heart.*

This Shabbat bring the Light into my Home

This Shabbat bring Safety into my Home

This Shabbat bring Comfort into my Home

This Shabbat bring Respite from the chaos into my Home

This Shabbat bring the Bonds of Stronger Love into my Home

This Shabbat welcome the Angels of Holiness and Wholeness into my Home

My Heart in the past week has been shattered as I have witnessed the wreckage in  
Surfside.

I am like one who gropes in the night, looking for the Light

In the night I ask, "Why?", and find no response.

My sense of security has been compromised and I am afraid.

As I light these candles

Remind me of the small blessings every day for which I am eternally grateful.

I do not take these blessing for granted.

Bring me strength with the knowledge that even here-

You are with me

*Heneni Muchan Umezuman*

*I am about to Light my Shabbat Candles*

*Open my Heart*

Open my Heart to the suffering to those holding on hope against hope

Open my Heart to grieve with those who are burying loved ones

Help me become a source of kindness and compassion to those around me

Allow these candles to strengthen me to be the agent of Your kindness

May I become one with the candles I light

Providing the Light of Caring, Compassion and Connection to all who need

*Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech Ha'Olam, Asher Kidshanu B'Mitzvotav,  
V'tzivanu L'Hadlik Ner Shel Shabbat*

ברוך אתה ה' אלהינו מלך העולם, אשר קדשנו במצוותיו וצונו להדליק נר של שבת

## A Prayerful Response to the Surfside Tragedy



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