

A Sacred Conversation Hagaddah

*A Jewish ritual to sanctify the conversation about end of life care,
drawing inspiration from the Passover Seder (Rabbi Zoe Klein)*

Searching for Chametz - **בְּדִיקַת חָמֵץ**

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל בְּעוֹר חָמֵץ.

*Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech Ha-Olam,
asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav, vitzivanu al biyur chametz.*

Blessed are You, our God, Soul of the world,
Who sanctifies us with mitzvot and calls upon us to remove *chametz*.

As we prepare for this conversation of meaning, we search out all the little crumbs that hinder our connection. We sweep up specks of worry, scraps of anxiety, and ingrained fears. We acknowledge them as we step into this special moment of understanding and love.

Candle-Lighting - **הַדְּלָקַת נֵרוֹת**

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְּלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חַיִּים.

*Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech Ha-Olam,
asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav, l'hadlik ner shel chayim.*

Blessed are You, our God, Soul of the world,
Who sanctifies us with mitzvot and calls upon us to ignite the light of life.

With light enter sacred time. With clarity of

communication we dispell shadows. We illuminate a path into our future, radiant with peace.

Choosing - בְּחִירָה

Conversation is devoted to the naming of a trusted person who could make medical decisions for you, if you were not able, based on your expressed wishes and documented preferences. Consider what special instructions should be given and what limits should be observed by this person who would act as your “healthcare agent.” Think about choosing a physician who would be the right one to guide your agent and to act upon the decisions made for your care. This conversation may be revisited and the decisions reconsidered as needed.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהַחַיִּינוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזֶמַן הַזֶּה.

*Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech Ha-Olam,
shechchiyanu v'kiyamanu lazman ha-zeh.*

Blessed are You, our God, Soul of the world,
Who has sustained us, supported us and brought us to this moment.

Thank you for being such a meaningful person in my life.

Parsley - פֶּרֶס

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הָאֲדָמָה

Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech Ha-Olam, Borei p'ri ha-adamah.

Blessed are You, our God, Soul of the world,
Who creates the fruit of the ground.

The world is lovely and temporal. Hopeful greens spring through the soil, and salty tears polish our sight. Our senses awaken to as we look backward and forward. Each facet of life is to be tasted and appreciated, from our tender beginning to our thoughtful consummation.

Life Care - פְּקוּחַ נַפְשׁ

Conversation is devoted to the issues surrounding end-of-life decisions including such as the limits to care in settings in which a return to baseline health status is not likely. Consideration is also given to the balance between the burden of care that would be acceptable in settings in which a return to baseline quality of life might not be possible. Organ donation is discussed. This conversation may also be revisited and decisions reconsidered.

Thank you for respecting and heeding my wishes, and imbuing my spirit with dignity.

Signature - חתימה

Rabbi Shimon said: There are three crowns: the crown of Torah, the crown of priesthood, and the crown of royalty. But the crown of a good name excels them all.
(Pirkei Avot 2:17)

When the person to act as healthcare agent has been chosen and goals and preferences have been outlined, the advance directive form can be signed. To become effective, it can be notarized or signed by two witnesses. In the latter case, the healthcare agent cannot also serve as a witness. The directive should be supplied to the primary care physician, to the agent and to key family members who may also wish to discuss the directive. It can be revised as needed if preferences evolve or circumstances change.

Thank you for the seal of your good name. May your name be a blessing for all time.

Holiness - קדוש

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הַגֶּפֶן.

Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech Ha-Olam, Borei p'ri ha-gafen.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Soul of the world,
Creator of the fruit of the vine.

We raise our glasses in tribute to the mysteries of life and death. What a wonder it is to bear witness to the world! And how pleasant to share the journey with ones we cherish. *L'chayim!*

Praise - הלל

Taking turns, place your hands on the head of the other and recite the priestly benediction in Hebrew, English or both, and/or share your own personal blessing of peace and serenity.

יְבָרְכֶךָ יְהוָה וַיִּשְׁמְרֶךָ
יָאֵר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיַּחֲנֶךָ
יִשָּׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיִּשֶׂם לְךָ שָׁלוֹם

*Y'varech'cha Adonai v'yishm'recha
Ya'eir Adonai panav eilecha vichuneka
Yisa Adonai panav eilecha v'yasem l'cha shalom*

May God bless you and keep you.
May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
May God show you compassion and grant you peace.

Conclusion - נְרִצָּה

We conclude our ceremony with song. The music of our lives is part of the great symphony of eternity.

עֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמִרוֹמָיו, הוּא יַעֲשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ
וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן.

*Oseh shalom bimromav, Hu ya-aseh shalom aleinu
v'al kol Yisrael. V'imru, amen.*

Maker of abundant peace, God will make peace for us,
for all Israel, and for all the world. Amen.