

תפלת הדרך (T'filat HaDerech (Traveler's Prayer)

After saying the blessing before study, read the texts below and answer the questions in chevrit . Be prepared to share you responses to question #6 with the entire group.

תפלת הדרך

יהי רצון מלפניך יהוה אלהינו ואלהי אבותינו,
שתוליכנו לשלום ותצמידנו לשלום ותדריכנו
לשלום, ותגיענו למחוז חפצנו לחיים ולשמחה
ולשלום, ותחזירנו לביתנו לשלום ותצילנו מכף כף
אויב ואורב, ומכל מיני פרעניות המתרגשות לבוא
לעולם ותשלח ברכה במעשה ידינו ותתנו לחן
ולחסד ולרחמים בעיניך ובעיני כל ראינו, ותשמע
קול תחנונינו, כי אל שומע תפלה ותחנון אתה:
ברוך אתה יהוה שומע תפלה.

T'filat HaDerech (Traveler's Prayer)

May it be Your will, Lord our God and God of our ancestors, to guide us in peace, to sustain us in peace, to lead us to our desired destination in health and joy and peace, and to bring us home in peace. Save us from every enemy and disaster on the way, and from all calamities that threaten the world. Bless the work of our hands. May we find grace, love and compassion in Your sight and in the sight of all who see us. Hear our supplication, for You listen to prayer and supplication.

Praised are You, Lord who hears prayer.

Please note that God's Hebrew name appears on this page. As a sign of respect, instead of discarding it after use you may prefer to store it in a geniza—a place where printed materials containing God's name and old ritual objects are collected in preparation for ritual burial.



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1. Although this is a fairly short prayer, it contains many requests. What are some of the requests made in the prayer? Upon whose behalf are these requests made?
2. The first sentence of this prayer repeatedly mentions “peace.” The Hebrew word for peace, שלום *shalom*, derives from the Hebrew word for wholeness or completeness. In what ways do you think a journey might threaten one’s sense of wholeness?
- 3 Please read the follow text and then answer the question below:

Abaye said: A man should always associate himself with the congregation [and it is advisable that he should not pray on his behalf alone]. How should he say [the prayer]? ‘May it be Your will, Lord our God, to guide us in peace, etc.’ When should he say this prayer? R. Jacob said in the name of R. Hisda: At the moment he starts on his journey

Brachot 30a

- 4 Why do you think Abaye notes that people should pray and travel as part of a group?
- 5 In what ways does this prayer help you think about your RE-IMAGINE journey?

Background

Abaye – Considered one of the primary authors of the *Talmud*, Abaye (280-339 CE) was head of the Academy at Pumbedita and a successful farmer.

R. Jacob – Living at the end of the 3rd century and the beginning of the 4th century CE, Rabbi Jacob was Babylonian-born though he migrated to *Eretz Yisrael*. He is frequently referred to in the *Talmud* as “a certain one of the rabbis.”

R. Hisda – With the wealth he acquired from being a brewer, Rabbi Hisda (c. 217-309) rebuilt the famous rabbinical academy in Sura, Babylonia.

Brachot – A tractate of the *Talmud* that deals primarily with benedictions and daily prayers.



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