

ON ATTENDING A FUNERAL REMOTELY

אַתֶּם נֹצְבִים אַתֶּם נֹצְבִים You are present this day, all of you, before the Eternal, your God, whether you are physically standing together, or whether not physically standing here with us before the Eternal, our God, this day.¹

אַתֶּם נֹצְבִים הַיּוֹם כְּלַכֶּם לְפָנַי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם. אֶת־אֲשֶׁר יִשְׁנֶה פֶה עֲמָנוּ עִמָּד הַיּוֹם לְפָנַי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֵת אֲשֶׁר אֵינָנוּ פֹה עֲמָנוּ הַיּוֹם:

אַתֶּם נֹצְבִים *Attem nitsavim ha-yom kulchem lifnei Adonai eloheichem, et asher yeshno poh immanu omeid ha-yom lifnei Adonai eloheinu v'eit asher einennu poh immanu ha-yom.*

Do not say *yachid* (alone) but *yachad* (together).² For though we may be physically apart, we stand *b'yachad*, together: together in grief, to accompany _____ to his/her final rest, and to support those who mourn.

We recognise that each of us is not so much a person as a world, or rather the bearer, in her or his self, of a world – a unique irreplaceable, populated world, linked by a myriad threads to other such worlds.³ They are the invisible lines of connection, the bonds of love, that unite us across time and space. May they bring peace, comfort and consolation.

וְלֹאֲבֵלָיו וְלֹאֲבֵלָיו And to those who mourn: My words of comfort, 'Peace, peace, whether you be near or far,' says the Eternal.⁴

וְלֹאֲבֵלָיו: בּוֹרָא נִיב שְׁפָתַיִם וְשָׁלוֹם שָׁלוֹם לְרַחֲוֹק וְלִקְרוֹב אָמַר יְהוָה:

וְלֹאֲבֵלָיו *V'la'aveilav: borei niv s'fatayim, shalom, shalom, la-rachok v'la-karov, amar Adonai.*

בְּעַל בְּעַל May the One who brings comfort comfort you. Blessed are You, our Living God, Sovereign of the universe, who comforts the mourners.⁵

בְּעַל נְחֻמוֹת יְנַחֵם אֶתְכֶם. בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם. מְנַחֵם אֲבֵלִים:

בְּעַל *Ba'al nechamot y'nacheim etchem. Baruch Attah Adonai eloheinu melech ha-olam, m'nacheim aveilim.*

¹ Deut 29:9, 14

² Eliezer Steinman, *Sefer Ha-Alef-Bet*

³ Sheila Shulman

⁴ Isaiah 57:18-19

⁵ *K'tubbot* 8b