

Free Translation:

PRAYER FOR A BRIDE

from "Hupat Hatanim", cal. 1800.

May it be Thy will that Thy presence dwell between my husband and me, and that Thou unify Thy Holy Name through us. Introduce into our hearts the spirit of purity and sanctity, and remove from us all evil thoughts and plans. Give to my husband and me a soul pure and clear, that neither of us fix our gaze upon any other person in the world, but that I should consider only him, and he only me. May he be in my eyes as if there were no other man in the world as good, as handsome, and as charming as my husband; and may I be in the eyes of my husband as if there were no other woman in the world as beautiful, as charming, and as fitting for him. May his thought always be about me, and about no other being in the world, as it is written, "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother and cleave to his wife."

And may it be Thy will, O Lord God, that our marriage be successful; a marriage that will accord with the laws of Moses and Judaism; a marriage endowed with the fear of God and the fear of sin; a marriage in which will be realized the verse, "Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the interior of your house, your children like olive plants around your table"; a marriage wherein my husband rejoice in me more than in all the delights of the world,

as it is written, "A house and wealth is the inheritance of fathers, but only from the Lord is a wise wife"; a marriage in which there will never come between my husband and me any anger or bitterness, any jealousy or envy, but in which there will ^{be} between us ~~be~~ only love and fraternity and peace and comradeship, humility and meekness and patience; a marriage in which there will be practiced love and charity and kindness, and the doing of good deeds to all creatures; a marriage which will yield children who will endure, who will be decent, righteous, wholesome and honorable, who will be healthy and good, in whom there will be no flaw, no defect, no illness, no disease, no injury, no pain, no weakness, no failure, and who will not lack good all the days of their life; a marriage wherein you will bestow upon our souls and our bodies holiness and purity in thought, speech, and action as befits good Jews; a marriage of prosperity and blessing, blessings of heaven above and blessings of the deep couching below, blessings of health and fertility.

Now therefore, in order to unite Thy Holy Name in fear and in love, I prepare for this immersion according to the laws of Moses and Israel. May it be Thy will, O Lord God, that Thou purify us and sanctify us with Thy holiness; that Thou bestow upon us a spirit of purity and holiness from Thyself; that Thou find us and

our deeds acceptable, and give us the privilege of doing Thy will at all times, all the days of our life; and bless us with Thy blessings, for Thou art the Source of all blessings forever. Blessed be the Lord forever, Amen.