

FOR AN INFANT AT MIKVAH

Rabbi: Our tradition welcomes the newcomer into the House of Israel as a true member of our people. So, too, do parents receive a child into their home as a true daughter/son. Thus, we now gather to celebrate the gift of a new life and the entry of this life into the covenant of Abraham and Sarah.

Parents: Accepting our responsibility as parents, we welcome this child into our home and family. We thank God for this gift of a new life, which fills our hearts with joy and our spirits with the sense of immortality. As s/he is a blessing to us, we pray that we will always be a blessing to her/him.

Rabbis: In our tradition, water has always played a pivotal role. There is something elemental about it. Before the world was created, there existed the presence of God hovering over the surface of the water.

Our patriarchs and matriarchs met at the well, for the source of water was the center of community life. Thus the well, the source of water, marked the promise of new beginnings in their lives.

Water is also a sign of redemption in our People's history. It was the waters of the Sea of Reeds that parted and allowed us to go forth from bondage into freedom.

Rabbi: As this child enters the living waters of the mikvah today, we pray that s/he will continue to immerse herself/himself in Torah (Jewish learning), chupah (loving relationships), and ma-asim tovim (the performance of good deeds). Thus may she, like Jews in generations before, strive to mend the world.

May the God whom we call Mikveh Yisrael, the God who is the source of living waters, be with you now and always.

(CHILD IS IMMersed TWICE)

Parents:

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech ha-olam, asher kid-shanu b'mitz-vo-tav v'tzi-vanu al ha-t'vilah.

Blessed are You, Eternal our God, Ruler of the universe, who has made us holy through your commandments and commanded us concerning immersion.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech ha-olam, she-he-che-yanu v'kee-manu v'higee-anu la-ze-man ha-zeh.

Blessed are You, Eternal our God, Ruler of the universe, who has kept us alived and sustained us and brought us to this joyous time.