

## *Consolation in Time*

We would be consoled by warm words and soft prayers. But our sages caution not too soon to offer consolation: "Do not seek to comfort the bereaved while their deceased lie before them."

Closure cannot be rushed  
Closure will come at its own time  
Tears must flow  
Wounds must be healed  
Scars must be formed

A child of God has been lost. A world has collapsed. God Himself is diminished.

Recite the mourner's Kaddish, not for ourselves alone, but on behalf of the Father of Creation, who has lost a precious child. Raise God from the dust of His despair.

Let us be patient with death  
Let us not fear the quiet solemnity of serious sadness  
Let us be patient with our tears. Tears soften the dryness of my heart and moisten the bitterness of my soul.

A time for reflective mourning and a time to wipe away the tears  
A time for melancholy and a time for exultation  
In mourning, sadness and joy are befriended. Both are intertwined, locked in an embrace of gradual consolation.