

Antyeshti Prayer

Twamādi devah puruṣah purānastwamasya viśvasya param nidhanam. Vettā'si vedyam ca param ca dhāma tvayā tata viśvamanta rūpa.

Almighty God! Who has been since the beginning (of time); Who has been in man since man was (created); Who is the Supreme Treasure of this vast universe. You are the knower, the knowledge and the final resting place for all beings. You are the Infinite Presence in Whom all things are. By You is the universe pervaded. We seek courage, fortitude and shelter in You!

Vāsānsi jirnāni yathā vihāya, navāni grhnāti naro'parāni.
Tathā śarirāni vihāya jirnānyanyāni sanyāti navāni dehi.

Just as a person leaves an old garment and puts on one that is new, the soul of a person leaves the body at death and takes on a new one. The soul does not perish with the body. O Lord, may we take courage from this truth.

Na jāyate mriyate vā kadācin, nāyam bhūyah
Ajo nityah śāśvato'yam purāno, na hanyate hanyamāne śariere.

The soul is never born and it never dies. It is in eternity, it is for ever and ever. Never born and eternal, beyond times gone by and yet to come, the soul does not die when the body dies. May we understand this truth, O God!

Nainam chindanti śastrāni nainam dahati pāvakah.
Na caiman kledayantyāpo na śoṣayati mārutah.

Weapons cannot hurt the spirit and fire can never burn it. Waters cannot wet it and winds cannot dry it. May we find comfort in these truths, God!

Jātasya hi dhruvo mrtyurdhruvam janma mrtasya ca. Tasmādaparihārye'rthe na twam śocitumarhasi.

All things born in truth must die, and out of death in truth comes life. Knowing this we must cease from sorrow. May we have the strength to do so, Almighty God!

Avyaktādini bhūtāni vyakta madhyāni bhārata.
Avyakta nidhanānyeva tatra kā paridevanā.

All beings are invisible before birth. They are invisible again after death. We see only the mortal being in the existing life span. O God! Grant us the wisdom to accept this truth.

Om vedāhametam puruṣam mahāntam, āditya vanam tamasah parastāt.
Twameva viditwāti mrtyumeti, nānyah ā panthā vidyate'yanāya.

The Supreme Absolute God is full of splendour, like the sun untainted by darkness. There is no other path to salvation and eternal bliss than by getting to know God. May we be blessed with the wisdom to know Him.

Om ya ātmadā baladā yasya viśva upāsate praśiṣam yasya devāh yasya chāyā'mrtam yasya mrtyuh
kasmai devāya haviṣā vidhema.

In this hour of distress we need You, O God! Who alone can give us physical vigour and spiritual strength. All-blissful Divinity! Whose praises are sung by all enlightened persons, We entreat You to lessen our sorrow.

Om sūryam cakṣur gacchatu vātamātmā, dyāñca gaccha prthivim ca dharmanā.
Apo vā gaccha yadi tatra te, hitamoṣadhiṣu pratitiṣṭhā śarirai.

O Supreme Lord! May all the components of this body be merged into the five elements of this universe. May its vision be absorbed in the sun; its breath into the atmosphere; and its other parts into the appropriate elements. May the soul, according to the meritorious deeds performed here, dwell in a body worthy of such merit.

Om śamagne paścāt tapa śam purastāccham uttarāccham adharāt tapainam.
Ekastredhā vihito jātavedah samyagenam dhehi sukrāmū loke.

O God, Who is self-luminous, Who dispenses justice even-handedly, and Who rewards everyone justly! May the soul of this body find peace in every direction – in the west, north, east, south and in every other direction. O Omniscient and all-illuminating Lord, the Creator, Sustainer, and Dissolver of this Universe! May this soul be given a worthy abode.

Om s a n g a c c h a s v a p l t r b h i h samyameneṣṭāpūrtena parame vyoman.
Hitwāyāvadyam punarastamehi sangacchatām tanwā suvarcāh.

O God! May this soul by its austerity, enlightenment and good deeds attain a suitable state like its forbears. May it be free from all blemishes and once again inherit an enlightened body full of lustre and return to this world to perform noble deeds.

Om vāyuranilam amrtam athedam bhasmāntam śaritam.

Om krato smara krtam smara krato smara krtam smara.

Almighty God! This soul is immortal. It is not made of the five elements. The mortal body will be reduced to ashes and will be disposed suitably. O All-merciful Heavenly Father! May the soul obtain salvation in accordance with its past deeds.

Eka eva suhrd dharmo nidhanepyanuyāti yah.

Śariena sman nāśam sarvamanayaddhi gacchati.

Almighty God! All material links perish with the death of the body. It is only one's good deeds – Dharma – that remains with the soul after one's death. May this Dharma never be allowed to perish.

Om asato mā sad gamaya. Tamaso mā jyotir gamaya. Mrtyor mā'mrtam gamaya.

O Supreme Spirit! Lead us from untruth to truth, from darkness to light and from death to immortal bliss.