

## PRAYER

Prayer is not a device to arouse God, to make God aware of us and our needs. The true purpose of prayer is to arouse us, to keep us aware of our obligations—toward our community, our people, our God, and even towards ourselves.

In the shtetl, the night watchman walks the streets and every hour on the hour calls out the time. The purpose of “calling out” is not to awaken the residents in the middle of the night. The purpose is to indicate that he, the watchman, is alert, tending to his tasks, and has not fallen asleep.

Prayer is a means of keeping us spiritually alert and morally awake.

—Dubner Maggid