

Because God alone affects mighty deeds, renews all things, masters war, sows righteousness, causes salvation to flourish, creates healing, is awesome of praise, is lord of wonders. In goodness God renews daily the work of creation. As it is written, "To the one who makes the great lights, for God's love endures forever."¹

MAY YOU SHINE A NEW LIGHT ON ZION, AND MAY WE ALL SOON MERIT A PORTION OF ITS RADIANCE.

BLESSED ARE YOU, O CREATOR, WHO FASHIONS THE HEAVENLY LIGHTS.

Deep is your love for us, O ETERNAL, our God. You have shown us overflowing compassion.

Our father, our king, for the sake of our ancestors who trusted in you and whom you taught laws of life, be gracious to us and teach us.

Our father, the merciful father, who acts with mercy, be merciful to us.

1) Psalms 136:7

כי הוא לְבַדּוֹ פּוֹעֵל גְּבוּרוֹת, עֹשֶׂה חֲדָשׁוֹת, בְּעַל מְלַחְמוֹת,
זוֹרֵעַ צְדָקוֹת, מְצַמֵּיחַ יְשׁוּעוֹת, בּוֹרֵא רְפוּאוֹת, נוֹרֵא תְהִלּוֹת,
אֲדוֹן הַנִּפְלְאוֹת, הַמְחַדֵּשׁ בְּטוּבוֹ בְּכָל יוֹם תְּמִיד מְעִשֵׂה
בְּרֵאשִׁית. בְּאִמּוֹר, לְעִשֵׂה אוֹרִים גְּדֹלִים, כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֲסֵדוֹ.

אֲנַחְדָּשׁ עַל צִיּוֹן תְּאִיר
וְנִצְּכָה כָּלֵנוּ מְהֵרָה לְאִנּוֹרֵנוּ

Or chadash al Tziyon ta'ir

Venizke khullanu mehera le'oro

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, יוֹצֵר הַמְּאִנּוֹרוֹת

Barukh atta Adonai yotzer hamme'orot

אֲהַבָּה רַבָּה אֲהַבְתָּנוּ, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, חֵמְלָה גְּדוֹלָה וַיִּתְּרָה חֵמְלַת
עָלֵינוּ.

Ahava rabba ahavtanu, Adonai Elohenu, chemla gedola vitera chamalta alenu.

אֲבִינוּ מְלַכְנוּ, בְּעָבוּר אֲבוֹתֵינוּ שֶׁבְטַחוּ בְּךָ, וַתִּלְמַדְם חֻקֵי
חַיִּים, בֵּין תַּחֲנִנּוּ וַתִּלְמַדְנוּ.

Avinu malkenu, ba'avur avotenu shebbatechu vekha, vattelammedem chuqqe chayim, ken techannenu utelammedenu.

אֲבִינוּ, הָאֵב הַרַחֲמָן, הַמְּרַחֵם, רַחֵם עָלֵינוּ,

Avinu, ha'av harachaman, hamerachem, rachem aleinu

Instill in our hearts to understand and elucidate, to listen, learn, and teach, to safeguard, perform and lovingly fulfill all the words of your Torah.

Enlighten our eyes with your Torah, bind our hearts to your commandments, unify our hearts to love and revere your name.¹ May we never feel inner shame.

Because we have trusted in your great and awesome holy name, may we exult and rejoice in your salvation.

- ♦ Bring us in peacefulness from the four corners of the earth, and lead us with upright pride to our land because you, O God, work salvation.

You have chosen us from every people and tongue. You have drawn us to your great name, to give thanks to you and to proclaim your uniqueness lovingly.

Blessed are you, ADONAI, who lovingly chooses the people of Israel.

The blessings before the Shema continue with a blessing for the Torah, which is one of the ultimate expressions of God's love for us.

- ♦ When we read, "Bring us in faithfulness..." it is customary to hold the fringes at the four corners of the tallit together in one hand to emphasize the unity of Israel and symbolize our return from exile.

1) Cf. Psalms 86:11

וְתֵן בְּלִבֵּנוּ לְהִבִּין וְלִהְשֵׁבִיל, לְשִׁמְעַ, לְלַמֵּד וְלִלְמַד, לְשִׁמֹר
וְלַעֲשׂוֹת וְלִקְיָם אֶת כָּל דְּבָרֵי תַלְמוּד תּוֹרַתְךָ בְּאַהֲבָה.

Veten belibbenu lehavin ulehaskil, lishmo'a, lilmod ulelammed,
lishmor vela'asot uleqayyem et kol divrei talmud toratekha
be'ahava

וְהָאֵר עֵינֵינוּ בְּתוֹרַתְךָ, וְדַבֵּק לִבֵּנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתֶיךָ, וְיִחַד לְבָבֵנוּ
לְאַהֲבָה וְלִירְאָה אֶת שְׁמֶךָ, וְלֹא נִבּוֹשׁ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.

Veha'er enenu betoratekha, vedabbeq libbenu bemitzvotekha,
veyyached levavenu le'ahava uleyyir'a et shmekha, velo nevosh
le'olam va'ed

כִּי בְשֵׁם קֹדֶשְׁךָ הַגָּדוֹל וְהַנּוֹרָא בְּמַחְנוּ, נִגִּילָה וְנִשְׂמַחָה
בִּישׁוּעָתְךָ.

Ki veshem qodshekha hagadol vehannora batachnu, nagila
venismecha bishu'atekha

• וְהִבִּיאֵנוּ לְשָׁלוֹם מֵאַרְבַּע כַּנְפוֹת הָאָרֶץ, וְתוֹלְכֵנוּ קוֹמְמִיּוֹת
לְאַרְצֵנוּ, כִּי אֵל פּוֹעֵל יְשׁוּעוֹת אַתָּה,

Vahavi'enu leshalom me'arba kanfot ha'aretz, vetolikhenu
qomemiyut le'artzenu, ki el po'el yeshu'ot atta

וּבָנוּ בְּחֵרֶת מְכֹל עַם וְלִשׁוֹן. וְקִרְבָּתָנוּ לְשִׁמְךָ הַגָּדוֹל סְלָה
בְּאַמַּת לְהוֹדוֹת לְךָ וְלִיחָדֶךָ בְּאַהֲבָה.

Uvanu vacharta mikkol am velashon. Veqeravtanu leshimkha
haggadol sela be'emet lehodot lekha uleyachedkha be'ahava.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, הַבּוֹחֵר בְּעַמּוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּאַהֲבָה. (אָמֵן).

Barukh atta Adonai, habbocher be'ammo Yisra'el be'ahava.
(Amen.)