

## THE SHEMA AND ITS BLESSINGS

BLESS THE LORD, THE BLESSED ONE.

- ♦ BLESSED IS THE LORD, THE BLESSED ONE, FOREVER AND EVER.

Blessed are you ADONAI, our God, ruler of the Universe, former of light, creator of darkness, maker of peace, creator of all.<sup>1</sup>

*For a festival that falls on a weekday, continue on page 30*

All will give thanks to you. All will praise you. All will say there is no one as holy as the LORD.<sup>2</sup> All will exalt you, who forms all.

The God who opens daily the doors of the eastern gates and splits the windows of the firmament, who brings the sun from its place and the moon from its dwelling place, who illuminates eternally the entire world and its inhabitants whom God created with the attribute of mercy.

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The morning service formally begins with the *Barekhu*, as we stand and bless God together.

- ♦ It is customary to bend at the knee and then bow when responding to the *shaliach tzibbur* (service leader). We then sit and begin the blessings that surround the recitation of the *Shema*. The first blessing before the *Shema* blesses God for fashioning and sustaining creation.

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1) Cf. Isaiah 45:7 2) 1 Samuel 2:2

## קריאת שמע וברכותיה

בְּרַכּוּ אֶת יְיָ הַמְּבָרָךְ

Barekhu et Adonai hammevorakh

• בְּרוּךְ יְיָ הַמְּבָרָךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד:

Barukh Adonai hammevorakh le'olam va'ed.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, יוֹצֵר אוֹר, וּבוֹרֵא חֹשֶׁךְ,  
עֹשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם וּבוֹרֵא אֶת הַכֹּל:

Barukh atta Adonai, Elohenu melek ha'olam, yotzer or, uvore choshekh, oseh shalom uvore et hakkol.

*For a festival that falls on a weekday, continue on page 29*

הַכֹּל יוֹדוּךָ, וְהַכֹּל יִשְׁבְּחוּךָ, וְהַכֹּל יֹאמְרוּ, אֵין קָדוֹשׁ כִּיִּי. הַכֹּל  
יְרוֹמְמוּךָ סֵלָה, יוֹצֵר הַכֹּל.

הָאֵל הַפּוֹתֵחַ בְּכֹל יוֹם דְּלִתּוֹת שַׁעֲרֵי מִזְרַח, וּבוֹקֵעַ חַלּוֹנֵי רְקִיעַ,  
מוֹצִיא חֶמֶה מִמְּקוֹמָהּ, וְלִבְנֵה מִמְּכוּן שִׁבְתָּהּ, וּמֵאִיר לְעוֹלָם  
כֹּל וְלִישׁבָיו, שִׁבְרָא בְּמִדַּת הַרְחָמִים.

The God who mercifully illuminates the earth and those who dwell upon it and in goodness renews daily and forever the work of creation.

The king who alone was exalted from eternity, who is praised, glorified, and extolled since days of old.

Eternal God, in your mercy, magnify your mercy upon us. Our mighty Lord, our impenetrable fortress, our saving shield, be our faithful stronghold.

There is none like you, there is none except you, there is nothing without you; who compares to you?

There is none like you, O ETERNAL ONE, our God, in this world, and there is none except you, our King, in the life of the world to come.

Nothing exists without you, our Redeemer, in the Days of Messiah, and no one compares to you, our Savior, at the Resurrection of the Dead.

הַמְאִיר לְאֶרֶץ וְלְדָרִים עָלֶיהָ בְּרַחֲמִים. וּבְטוֹבוֹ מְחַדֵּשׁ בְּכָל יוֹם  
תְּמִיד מַעֲשֵׂה בְּרֵאשִׁית.

הַמְלִיךְ הַמְרוֹמֵם לְבַדּוֹ מֵאֵז, הַמְשַׁבַּח וְהַמְפָאֵר וְהַמְתַנַּשֵּׂא  
מִימֹת עוֹלָם.

אֱלֹהֵי עוֹלָם, בְּרַחֲמֶיךָ הַרְבִּים רַחֵם עָלֵינוּ. אֲדוֹן עֲזָנוּ צוּר  
מִשְׁגָּבָנוּ, מְגִן יִשְׁעָנוּ, מִשְׁגָּב בְּעַדָּנוּ.

אֵין כְּעֶרְכְּךָ וְאֵין זוּלָתְךָ, אִפְסֵם בְּלָתְךָ, וּמִי דוֹמָה לָךְ.

אֵין כְּעֶרְכְּךָ, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, בְּעוֹלָם הַזֶּה, וְאֵין זוּלָתְךָ מִלְכָּנוּ לְחַיֵּי  
הָעוֹלָם הַבָּא.

אִפְסֵם בְּלָתְךָ גּוֹאֲלָנוּ לִימֹת הַמְשִׁיחַ, וְאֵין דוֹמָה לָךְ מוֹשִׁיעָנוּ  
לְתַחֲיֵת הַמֵּתִים.

The first blessing before the *Shema*, the blessing for creation, elicits the image of the entire created order--rocks, trees, animals, and angels--worshipping God together. We join in, along with all Israel and the righteous from every nation.

On Shabbat, skip to page 32.  
For a festival that falls on a weekday, continue here:

Who in mercy gives light to the earth and to those that dwell there,  
and in your goodness renews the creation every day perpetually.

Manifold are your works, O LORD! In wisdom you have made  
them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

The king who alone was exalted from eternity, who is praised,  
glorified, and extolled since days of old.

Eternal God, in your mercy, magnify your mercy upon us. Our  
mighty Lord, our impenetrable fortress, our saving shield, be our  
faithful stronghold.

On Shabbat, continue on page 31.  
For a festival that falls on a weekday, continue here:

הַמְאִיר לְאֶרֶץ וְלְדָרִים עָלֶיהָ בְּרַחֲמִים, וּבְטוֹבוֹ מְחַדֵּשׁ בְּכָל יוֹם  
תְּמִיד מַעֲשֵׂה בְרֵאשִׁית.

מָה רַבּוֹ מַעֲשֵׂיךָ יְיָ, כִּלָּם בְּחִכְמָה עָשִׂיתָ, מְלֵאָה הָאָרֶץ קִנְיָנֶךָ.

הַמְלֵךְ הַמְרוֹמָם לְבַדּוֹ מְאֹד, הַמְּשַׁבַּח וְהַמְּפָאֵר וְהַמְתַּנַּשֵּׂא  
מִימֹת עוֹלָם.

אֱלֹהֵי עוֹלָם, בְּרַחֲמֶיךָ הַרְבִּים רַחֵם עָלֵינוּ, אֲדוֹן עֲזָנוּ צוֹר  
מִשְׁנֵבֵנוּ, מִיָּגוֹן יִשְׁעֵנוּ מִשָּׁנֵב בְּעַדָּנוּ.

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."<sup>1</sup>

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.

אֲנִי חֲדָשׁ עַל צִיּוֹן תְּאִיר  
וְנִצְּחָה 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 חֵמְלָתְךָ  
עָלֵינוּ.

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

אֲבִינוּ מְלַכֵּנוּ, בְּעָבוּר אֲבוֹתֵינוּ שֶׁבְטַחוּ בְּךָ, וַתִּלְמַדְם חֻקֵּי  
חַיִּים, בֵּין תְּחַנְּנֵנוּ וַתִּלְמַדְנוּ.

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

אֲבִינוּ, הָאֵב הַרְחָמָן, הַמְּרַחֵם, רַחֵם עָלֵינוּ,

Avinu, ha'av harachaman, hamerachem, rachem aleinu