

As the Torah is placed in the Ark, recite:

וּבְנַחַה יֹאמֵר שׁוֹבָה יְיָ רַבּוֹת אֵלַי יִשְׂרָאֵל:
קוֹמָה יְיָ לְמִנוּחֶיךָ אַתָּה וְאַרְוֹן עֵינֶיךָ:
כַּהֲנִיף יִלְבַּשׁ צַדִּיק וְחִסִּידֶיךָ יִרְנְנוּ:
בְּעִבּוֹר דָּוִד עֲבָדֶיךָ אֶל־תֵּשֵׁב פָּנֵי מְשִׁיחֶיךָ:
כִּי לָקַח טוֹב נָתַתִּי לָכֶם תּוֹרַתִּי אֶל־תִּעְזְבוּ:
עֵי־חַיִּים הִיא לְמַחְזִיקִים בָּהּ וְתַמְכִּינָהּ מֵאֲשֶׁר:
דַּרְכֶיהָ דַּרְכֵי־נֶעַם וְכָל־נִתְיֹבוֹתֶיהָ שְׁלוֹם:
הִשִּׁיבֵנו יְיָ אֱלֹהֶיךָ וְנִשׁוּבָה חֲדָשׁ יְמֵינוּ כְּקֶדֶם:

Eytz ha-yim hi la-maha-zikim bah,
V'tom-heha m'u-sar.
D'raheha darhey no-am,
V'hol n'tivo-teha shalom.
Ha-shiveynu Adonai eyleha v'na-shuva,
Hadeysh yameynu k'kedem.

MEDITATION

Teach us, O Lord, the ways of Your Torah, as we seek to know and to do Your will. Help us in our quest for meaning in our lives. Bless us with wisdom and love. May Your Torah be our tree of life, our shield, and our guide. Sustain us, and all who revere Your word, with the reassuring sense of Your presence. Amen. (A.N.S.)

TORAH: OUR TREE OF LIFE

As the Torah is placed in the Ark, recite:

When the Ark was set down, Moses prayed:
"O Lord, dwell among the myriad families of Israel."

Come up, O Lord, to Your sanctuary,
Together with the Ark of Your glory.

May Your priests be clothed in righteousness,
And may Your faithful ones rejoice.

I have given you precious teaching,
Forsake not My Torah.

It is a tree of life to those who cling to it,
Blessed are they who uphold it.

Its ways are ways of pleasantness,
All its paths are peace.

Turn us to You, O Lord, and we shall return;
Renew us as in days of old.

Biblical verses

MEDITATIONS AFTER THE TORAH IS RETURNED TO THE ARK

Our God and God of our ancestors, we give thanks for the heritage of Torah, a legacy renewed in every generation. May the words of Scripture which we have read today influence our lives, and inspire us to seek further knowledge of Your word. Thus our minds will be enriched and our lives endowed with meaning. May we know the peace and serenity granted to those who love Your Torah. May we take to heart Your teachings, and strive to do Your will. Happy are all who love You and delight in Your commandments. Amen.

May the words of the Torah guide our deeds, elevate our thoughts, and sanctify our lives. May the words of the Torah inspire us anew to seek justice, righteousness, and truth. May our actions in the days ahead bear witness to our study of Torah today. May we be among those who proclaim with joy: "Its ways are ways of pleasantness and all its paths are peace." Amen.