

מה־טבו אה־ליָהּ יַעֲקֹב. מִשְׁכַּנְתֶּיהָ יִשְׂרָאֵל:
 וְאֲנִי בְרַב חֶסֶדָה אָבוֹא בֵיתָהּ.
 אֲשַׁמְחָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶל קֹדֶשׁ בִּירְאָתָהּ:
 יי אֶהְבֵּתִי מֵעוֹן בֵּיתָהּ. וּמְקוֹם מִשְׁכַּן כְּבוֹדָהּ:
 וְאֲנִי אֲשַׁמְחָה וְאֶכְרַעָה. אֶבְרַכָּה לִפְנֵי־יי עֲשֵׂי:
 וְאֲנִי תִפְלֵת־לָהּ יי עַת רָצוֹן.
 אֱלֹהִים בְּרַב־חֶסֶדָה. עֲנֵי בְּאֵמֶת יִשְׁעָהּ:

*Ma tovu oha-leha yaakov,
 Mish-k'no-teha yisrael.
 Va-ani b'rov has-d'ha, avo vey-teha,
 Eshta-ha-veh el hey-hal kod-sh'ha b'yira-teha.
 Adonai ahavti m'on bey-teha,
 U-m'kom mish-kan k'vo-deha.
 Va-ani eshta-ha-veh v'ehra-a,
 Ev-r'ha lifney Adonai osi.
 Va-ani t'filati l'ha Adonai eyt ratzon,
 Elohim b'rov has-deha, aneyni be-emet yish-eha.*

MA TOVU: To worship in Your sanctuary with reverence

How goodly are your dwellings, O Jacob,
Your sanctuaries, O Israel!

Thanks to Your abundant kindness, O Lord,
I am able to enter Your house,

To bow down before You in reverence,
In this sacred place of worship.

Lord, I love to be in Your house,
The sanctuary dedicated to Your glory.

Here I worship in Your presence,
O Lord, my Maker.

In kindness, Lord, answer my prayer;
Mercifully, grant me Your abiding help.

We have come into Your house, O Lord,
To pray with our fellow Jews in Your sanctuary.

But if the heavens are merely Your throne,
If the earth is but Your footstool,

If the heaven of heavens cannot contain You,
How much less this house, built by mere human hands.

Yet, although Your dwelling place is every place,
And although You can be sought and found in any place,

It is to this place that we come most confidently—
To seek renewal in Your purifying presence.

(H. J. Matt)