

## The Shema

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה אֶחָד:

בְּרוּךְ שֵׁם כְּבוֹד מַלְכוּתוֹ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד:

וְאֶהְבֶּתָּ אֶת יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ בְּכָל־לֵבְךָ וּבְכָל־נַפְשְׁךָ  
וּבְכָל־מְאֹדְךָ: וְהָיוּ הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה אֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי מְצַוְךָ  
הַיּוֹם עַל־לֵבְךָ: וְשָׁנַנְתָּם לְבְנֶיךָ וְדַבַּרְתָּ בָם בְּשִׁבְתְּךָ  
בְּבֵיתְךָ וּבְלַקְחְךָ בְּדֶרֶךְ וּבְשֹׁכְבְךָ וּבְקוּמְךָ: וְקִשַּׁרְתָּם  
לְאוֹת עַל־יָדְךָ וְהָיוּ לְטַטְפַת בֵּין עֵינֶיךָ: וְכַתְּבָתָם עַל־  
מְזוּזוֹת בֵּיתְךָ וּבְשַׁעְרֶיךָ:

**Shema Yisrael, Adonai Eloheynu, Adonai Ehad.**

[Baruh sheym k'vod mal-ħuto l'olam va-ed.]

V'ahavta eyt Adonai Eloheħa  
B'ħol l'avavħa, u-v'ħol naf-sh'ħa, u-v'ħol m'odeħa.  
V'ha-yu ha-d'varim ha-eyleh  
Asher anoħi m'tza-v'ħa ha-yom al l'va-veħa.  
V'shi-nan-tam l'va-neħa v'dibarta bam  
B'shiv-t'ħa b'vey-teħa u-v'leh-t'ħa va-dereħ,  
U-v'shoħ-b'ħa u-v'ku-meħa.  
U-k'shar-tam l'ot al ya-deħa,  
V'ha-yu l'totafot beyn eyneħa.  
U-ħ'tav-tam al m'zuzot bey-teħa u-vish-areħa.

## **The Shema**

**Hear, O Israel: the Lord is our God, the Lord is One.**

Praised be God's glorious sovereignty for ever and ever.

### **V'AHAVTA: You shall love the Lord**

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your might. You shall take to heart these words which I command you this day. You shall teach them diligently to your children, speaking of them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down at night and when you rise up in the morning. You shall bind them as a sign upon your arm, and they shall be a reminder above your eyes. You shall inscribe them on the doorposts of your homes and on your gates.

*Deuteronomy 6:4-9*

### **THE SHEMA: A call to witness**

In the Torah scroll, the word "Sh'ma" is written with an enlarged final ayin (׃); and the word "Ehad" with an enlarged final daled (ד). These two letters form the Hebrew word ׀׃ (Eyd) which means "witness."

Whenever we recite the Sh'ma, we are responding to the Divine call: Atem Eydai, "You are My witnesses" (Isaiah 43:10); and we are reminded of our vocation to be God's "witnesses"—in both our personal and collective lives. (Ben Saul)

### **V'AHAVTA: You shall love the Lord**

*Whether a person really loves God can be determined by the love which that person bears toward others.* (Levi Yitzhak of Berditchev)

### **V'AHAVTA: Love leading to action**

*In Judaism, love of God is never a mere feeling; it belongs to the sphere of ethical action.* (Leo Baeck)