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During the אשרת ימי תשובה, and on הושענא רבה, many congregations open the ארון קודש and say this psalm responsively, verse by verse.

שִׁיר הַפַּוְעֵלוֹת, מִפַּוּעֲמַקִּים קְּרָאתִיךָ יהוה: אֲדֹנָי שִׁמְעָה בְּקוֹלִי, תִּהְיֶינָה תּהֹיםּלּ אָזְנֶיךָ קַשְּׁבוֹת לְּקוֹל תַּחֲנוּנִי: אִם־עֲוֹנוֹת תִּשְׁמְר־יָה, אֲדֹנָי מִי יַעֲמֹד: כִּי־ עִפְּדָ הַפְּלִיחָה, לְּמַעַן תִּנָּרָא: קּנִיתִי יהוה קּוְּתָה נַפְשִׁי, וְּלִדְבָרוֹ הוֹחֱלְתִּי: נַפְשִׁי לַאדֹנָי, מִשִּׁמְּרִים לַבְּקָר, שִׁמְּרִים לַבְּקָר: יַחֵל יִשְּׁרָאֵל אֶל יהוה, בִּי־עִם־יהוה הַחֶסֶר, וְּהַרְבֵּה עִמּוֹ פְּדוֹת: וְהוֹא יִפְּדָּה אֶת־יִשְּׁרָאֵל, מִכּּל עֵוֹנוֹתָיו:

### חצי קדיש

ש״ יִתְגַּדֵּל וְּיִתְקַדֵּשׁ שְּׁמֵה רַבָּא (תְּילּ אָמֵן) בְּעַלְּמָא דִּי בְּרָא כִּרְעוּתֵה וְּיַמְלִיךְ מַלְכוּתֵה בְּעַגָּלָא וּבִוְמֵן קָרִיב בָּעַגָּלָא וּבִוְמַן קָרִיב וְאִמְרוּ אָמֵן. (תְּיל אָמֵן)

קּהְלֹּ זְהֵא שְּׁמֵה רַבָּא מְבָרַךְ לְעָלֵם וּלְעָלְמֵי עָלְמֵיָא.

ש״ יִתְבָּרֶךְ וְּיִשְׁתַּבָּח וְּיִתְפָּאֵר וְּיִתְרוֹמֵם וְּיִתְנַמֵּא וְיִתְהַדָּר וְיִתְעֵלֶּה וְיִתְהַלָּל שְׁמֵה דְּקְדְשָׁא בְּרִיךְ הוּא (מְהֹּ בְּרִיךְ הוּא) לְעֵלָּא מִן כְּל בִּרְכָתָא /בעשת ימיתשובה לְעֵלָּא לְעֵלָּא מִכְּל בִּרְכָתָא/ וְשִׁירָתָא, הָשְׁבְּחָתָא וְנֶחֶמָתָא, דַּאֲמִירָן בְּעַלְּמָא

וָאִמָרוּ אָמֵן. (קהלּ אָמֵן)

#### BLESSINGS OF THE SHEMA

The following blessing and response are said only in the presence of a minyan.

They represent a formal summons to the congregation to engage in an act of collective prayer. The custom of bowing at this point is based on 1 Chronicles 29:20, "David said to the whole assembly, 'Now bless the LORD your God.' All the assembly blessed the LORD God of their fathers and bowed their heads low to the LORD and the King."

The Leader says the following, bowing at "Bless," standing straight at "the LORD."

The congregation, followed by the Leader, responds, bowing at "Bless," standing straight at "the LORD."

Leader: BLESS

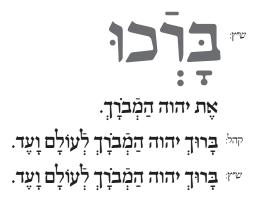
the LORD, the blessed One.

Congregation: Bless the LORD, the blessed One, for ever and all time.

Leader: Bless the LORD, the blessed One, for ever and all time.

#### THE SHEMA AND ITS BLESSINGS

# קריאת שמע וברכותיה



בְּרְכוּ אֶת יהוה Bless the Lord. This phrase can be said only in the presence of a minyan (quorum of ten men) because it constitutes a davar shebikedusha, a responsive prayer which fulfills the imperative to publicly sanctify God. Interestingly, though, no explicit mention of kedusha, holiness, appears here.

A prayer qualifies as a *davar shebikedusha* when the explicit, ineffable name of God is invoked. Thus, when we are invited here to "Bless the LORD, the blessed One," we are called upon specifically to bless God's name "which is blessed," that is, His explicit name. And although we do not explicitly utter that name, we do invoke it here.

We similarly invoke that name when we say Kaddish because the response "קָבֶּא מְבָּבֶרְ, May His great name be blessed," is akin to the statement "...יָבָא מְבָּבְרְ שֵׁם בְּבוֹד מַיְלְכוּתוֹ...," Blessed be the name of His glorious kingdom ...," which is the required response upon hearing the Ineffable Name in the Temple (see Mishna, Yoma 3:7). As a result, the recitation of Kaddish also requires the presence of a minyan.

The custom is to sit from this point until the Amida, since the predominant emotion of this section of the prayers is love rather than awe.

Conversation is forbidden until after the Amida. See table on pages 1297–1299.

בּרוֹן Blessed are You, LORD our God, King of the Universe, who forms light and creates darkness, makes peace and creates all.

Is. 45

הַמְאִיר In compassion He gives light to the earth and its inhabitants, and in His goodness continually renews the work of creation, day after day.

Ps. 104

How numerous are Your works, O LORD.

You made them all in wisdom.

The earth is full of Your creations.

He is the King exalted alone since the beginning of time – praised, glorified and elevated since the world began. Eternal God,

in Your great compassion, have compassion on us, LORD of our strength, Rock of our refuge, Shield of our salvation, You are our stronghold.

"evil," is replaced with *hakol*, "all." Evil as a universal entity does not exist; suffering and misery are due to the accidental and contingent character of our existence, which is confined to a narrow segment of being. In the perspective of totality, evil vanishes.

As an example of this view among our sages, Rabbi Meir was a man who knew suffering in his private life. He lost two children, his wife, and his father-in-law, who died a martyr's death. Yet it is he who remarks (*Bereshit Raba* 9:5) that at twilight of the mysterious Friday, when creation was concluded, God cast a glance and found even death to be good. (*Out of the Whirlwind*)

אָלְיִם בְּחְבְמָה עְשְיִתְ You made them all in wisdom. This wisdom is best expressed in the regularity and unalterability of the natural process. The mathematical equation is the logos of God embedded in nature. In cosmic monotony, we find God's intelligence.

The custom is to sit from this point until the קצמידה, since the predominant emotion of this section of the prayers is love rather than awe.

Conversation is forbidden until after the עמידה. See table on pages 1297–1299.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יהוה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם יוֹצֵר אוֹר וּבוֹרֵא חְשֶׁךְ עִשֵּׁה שֲלוֹם וּבוֹרֵא אֵת הַכּּלֹ.

הַמֵּאִיר לָאֶרֶץ וְּלַדָּרִים עָלֶיהָ בְּרַחֲמִים וּבְטוּבוֹ מְחַדֵּשׁ בְּּכְל יוֹם תָּמִיד מֵעֲשֵׂה בְּרֵאשִׁית.

מָהָ־רַבּוּ מַעֲשֶּׁיךָ יהוה, כָּלָּם בְּחְכְמָה עָשֵּׁיתָ

מָלְאָה הָאֶרֶץ קִנְיֶנֶךָ: הַמֵּלֶךָ הַמִּרוֹמֵם לְבֵדוֹ מֵאֵז

הַמְּשֶׁבְּח וְהַמְּפּאָר וְהַמִּתְנַשֵּׁא מִימוֹת עוֹלְם. אלהי עוֹלם

בְּרַחֲמֶיךָ הָרַבִּים רַחֵם עָלֵינוּ אֲדוֹן עָזֵנוּ, צוּר מִשְׁגַּבֵנוּ מַגַן יִשִׁעֵנוּ, מִשְׁגָּב בַּעַרֵנוּ.

and keeping the mitzvot, and the theme of remembering the exodus from Egypt in the third paragraph of Shema is reflected in the blessing which follows the Shema, speaking of the redemption of Israel.

Unless one recites the blessings of the Shema, one has not completely fulfilled the mitzva of reciting the Shema itself. Rav Ḥayyim Soloveitchik was therefore of the view that it is preferable to recite the Shema with its blessings at the proper time when there is no *minyan*, than to omit the blessings and then later recite the Shema and its blessings together with a *minyan*.

יוֹצֵר אוֹר וּבוֹרֵא הְשֶׁךְ עָשֶׁה שְׁלוֹם וּבוֹרֵא אֶת הַכּל Who forms light and creates darkness, makes peace and creates all. The verse in Isaiah (45:7) upon which this blessing's text is based reads: "[I am the one] who forms light and creates darkness, who makes peace and creates ra, evil." In our blessing, the word ra,

ישעיה מה

תהלים קד

The blessed God, great in knowledge, prepared and made the rays of the sun. He who is good formed glory for His name, surrounding His power with radiant stars. The leaders of His hosts, the holy ones, exalt the Almighty, constantly proclaiming God's glory and holiness. Be blessed, LORD our God, for the magnificence of Your handiwork and for the radiant lights You have made. May they glorify You, Selah!

מער און אינין. May You be blessed, our Rock, King and Redeemer, Creator of holy beings.

May Your name be praised for ever, our King, Creator of the ministering angels, all of whom stand in the universe's heights, proclaiming together, in awe, aloud, the words of the living God, the eternal King. They are all beloved, all pure, all mighty, and all perform in awe and reverence the will of their Maker.

 All open their mouths in holiness and purity, with song and psalm,

and bless, praise, glorify, revere, sanctify and declare the sovereignty of − ◀

Throne of Glory. God does not discriminate between fact and ideal, between the existential and axiological situations. Creation is an all-encompassing act. One must not see the physical universe as separated from the realm of the just, the good, and the beautiful. (*Worship of the Heart*)