

# The Shema

Hear O Israel, the LORD our God is One LORD

## Shema: the First Passage

In the recitation of Deuteronomy 6:4-9, special emphasis is given to the first six Hebrew words of this passage (*Shema Yisrael, Adonai eloheinu, Adonai echad*) and a six-word response is said in an undertone (*barukh shem kevod malkhuto le'olam va'ed*). After a pause, Deuteronomy 6:5-9 is then recited, which stresses the commandment to love the Lord your God with all of your heart, soul, and might. (Which only means "to always be Torah observant" unto the Lord)

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה אֶחָד

[ בָּרוּךְ שֵׁם כְּבוֹד מַלְכוּתוֹ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד ] (response in an undertone)

וְאַהַבְתָּ אֶת יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ בְּכָל-לִבְבְּךָ וּבְכָל-נַפְשְׁךָ  
וּבְכָל-מְאֹדֶךָ: וְהָיוּ הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה אֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי מְצַוְּךָ  
הַיּוֹם עַל-לִבְבְּךָ: וְשָׁנַנְתָּם לְבְנֶיךָ וּדְבַרְתָּ בָם בְּשִׁבְתְּךָ  
בְּבֵיתְךָ וּבְלִכְתְּךָ בַדֶּרֶךְ וּבְשֹׁכְבְךָ וּבְקוּמְךָ:  
וְקָשַׁרְתָּם לְאוֹת עַל-יָדֶיךָ וְהָיוּ לְטָשָׁפֶת בֵּין עֵינֶיךָ:  
וְכָתַבְתָּם עַל-מְזוּזוֹת בֵּיתְךָ וּבְשַׁעְרֶיךָ:

**Transliteration:** Shema Yisrael Adonai Eloheinu Adonai echad. [*barukh shem kevod malkhuto le'olam va'ed.*] ve'ahavta et Adonai eloheykha bekol-levavkha u'vekhol nafshekha u'vekhol me'odekha. ve'hayu hadevarim ha'eileh asher anokhi metzavekha hayom al-levavekha. veshinantam levanekha vedibarta bam beshivtekha beveitekha u'velekhtekha vaderekh u'vshakhbekha u'vkumekha. u'kshartam le'ot al-yadekha vehayu letotafot bein einekha. u'khtavtam al-mezuzot beitekha u'visharekha.

**Translation:** HEAR, O ISRAEL: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.