

Psalm 27 (recited during the month of Elul)

Achat sha'alti me'eit Hashem, otah avakesh:

shivti b'veit Hashem, kol y'mei chayai, lachazot b'noam Hashem, u'l'vaker
b'heikhalo.

אַחַת שְׂאֲלָתִי מֵאֵת-יְהוָה אוֹתָהּ אֶבְקֶשׁ:

שְׁבִיטִי בְּבֵית-יְהוָה, כָּל-יְמֵי חַיֵּי

לְחַזוֹת בְּנוֹעַם-יְהוָה, וּלְבַקֵּר בְּהֵיכָלוֹ.

One thing I ask from the Lord, one thing I desire

That I might dwell in Your house all the days of my life

To behold the graciousness of the Lord, and to enter God's sanctuary.

Translation, Psalm 27, Rabbi Yael Levy (Philadelphia)

THE INFINITE shelters me as I encounter difficulty and pain
The Infinite holds me close in deep and hidden places
And lifts me high upon a rock.
Now I can see through to what is true
And I will offer my gifts of thanks
And I will sing and make music to the Eternal
Please, Infinite One, Listen to my voice, hear my call

Translation, Reb Zalman Schachter, Psalm 27

לְדָוִד | יְהוָה | אֹרִי וְיִשְׁעִי
מִמִּי אֵיךְ

¹Yah, you are my Light, my Savior,
Whom need I dread?
Yah, With You as my strong

מְעוֹז־חַיִּי יְהוָה
מִמֵּי אֶפְקֹד:

Protector
Who can make me panic?

בְּקֶרֶב עָלִי | מְרַעִים
לְאַכְל אֶת־בְּשָׂרִי
צָרִי וְאֵיבִי לִי
הֵמָּה כִּשְׁלוּ וְנָפְלוּ:

² When hateful bullies gang up on me,
Wanting to harass me,
To oppress and terrorize me,
They are the ones who stumble and fall.

אִם־תִּחְנֶנּוּ עָלַי | מִחְנָה
לֹא־יִרָא לִבִּי
אִם־תִּקּוּם עָלַי מִלְחָמָה
בְּזֹאת אֲנִי בּוֹטָח:

³ Even if a gang surrounds me
My heart is not weakened.
If a battle is joined around me
My trust in You is firm.

אֶחָד | שְׁאַלְתִּי מֵאֵת־
יְהוָה
אוֹתָהּ אֲבַקֵּשׁ
שְׁבִתִּי בְּבֵית־יְהוָה
כָּל־יְמֵי חַיִּי
לְחַזוֹת בְּנֻעַם־יְהוָה
וּלְבַקֵּר בְּהִיכָלוֹ:

⁴ Only one thing do I ask of You, Yah,
Just this alone do I seek:
I want to be at home with You, Yah,
All the days of my life.
I want to delight in seeing You,
When I come to visit You in Your
Temple.

כִּי יִצְפְּנֵנִי | בְּסֻכָּה בְּיוֹם
רָעָה
יִסְתַּרְנִי בְּסֻתְךָ אֱהָלוֹ
בְּצֹר יְרוּמָמְנִי:

⁵ You hide me in Your Sukkah on a
foul day.
You conceal me unseen in Your tent
And also raise me beyond anyone's
reach.

וְעַתָּה | יְרוּם רֹאשִׁי
עַל אֵיבִי סְבִיבוֹתַי

⁶ And now, as You have held my
head high,

וְאַזְבְּחָהּ בְּאַהֲלוֹ זִבְחֵי
תְּרוּעָה
אֲשִׁירָה וְאֶזְמְרָה לַיהוָה:

Despite the presence of my
powerful foes,
I prepare to celebrate and thrill,
Singing and making music to You,
Yah!

שְׁמַע־יְהוָה קוֹלִי אֶקְרָא
וְחַנּוּנִי וְעֲנֵנִי:

⁷ Listen, Yah, to the sound of my cry
And, being kind, answer me.

לֵךְ אִמְרָ לְבִי בְקִשׁוֹ פָּנֶי
אֶת־פָּנֶיךָ יְהוָה אֲבַקֵּשׁ:

⁸ My heart has said: I turn to seek
You,
Your Presence is what I beg for.

אַל־תִּסְתֵּר פָּנֶיךָ אִמְמִנִי
אַל־תִּטְּבֵנִי בְּאָרֶץ
לְעִבְדֶיךָ עֲזָרְתִּי הִיִּיתָ
אַל־תִּטְּשֵׁנִי וְאַל־תִּעַזְבֵנִי
אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:

⁹ Don't hide Your Face from me.
Don't just put me down,
You, who have been my helper
Don't abandon me, don't forsake
me,
God, my support.

כִּי־אָבִי וְאִמִּי עֲזָבוּנִי
וְיְהוָה יֶאֱסֹפֵנִי:

¹⁰ Though father and mother have
left me
You, Yah, will hold me securely.

הוֹרֵנִי יְהוָה דְּרָכְךָ
וְנַחֲנִי בְּאֶרֶחַ מִישׁוֹר לְמַעַן
שׁוּרְרִי:

¹¹ Please teach me Your way
And guide me on the straight path.

אַל־תִּתְּנֵנִי בְּיַד בְּנֵי־צָרִי
כִּי קָמוּ־בִי עֵדֵי־שָׁקֶר
וַיִּפְחֻ חֲמָס:

¹² Discourage those who defame me.
False witnesses stood up against
me,

Belching out violence.
Don't let me become the victim of
my foes.

¹³ לֹיֵאֵל הָאֱמֻנָתִי לְרִאזוֹת
בְּטוֹב־יְהוָה בְּאֶרֶץ חַיִּים:

[I would not have survived]
¹³ If I had not hoped that I would yet
see

Yah's goodness fully alive on Earth.

אֶל־יְהוָה קוּזָה¹⁴
חֲזָק
לִבְךָ וְיֵאֲמָץ
יְקוּזָה אֶל־יְהוָה:

¹⁴ So friend, you too, hope to Yah.
Be sturdy!
And make strong your heart!
And most of all —keep hoping to
Yah.