

ברכות התורה

Blessings on the Torah

The following blessings are customarily recited before studying Torah.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the Universe,
who has made us holy through His commandments,
and has commanded us to engage in study of the words of Torah.

ברוך אתה ה' אלהינו מלך העולם
אשר קדשנו במצוותיו
וצונו לעסוק בדברי תורה.

Please, Lord our God, make the words of Your Torah sweet
in our mouths and in the mouths of Your people,
the house of Israel,

והערב נא ה' אלהינו את דברי תורתך
בפינו ובפי עמך בית ישראל

so that we, our descendants (and their descendants)
and the descendants of Your people, the house of Israel,
may all know Your name and study Your Torah.

ונהיה אנחנו וצאצאינו (וצאצאי צאצאינו)
וצאצאי עמך בית ישראל
בכלנו יודעי שמך ולומדי תורתך לשמה.

Blessed are You, Lord, who teaches Torah to His people Israel.

ברוך אתה ה' המלמד תורה לעמו ישראל.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the Universe,
who has chosen us from all the peoples
and given us His Torah.

ברוך אתה ה' אלהינו מלך העולם
אשר בחר בנו מכל העמים
ונתן לנו את תורתו.

Blessed are You, Lord, Giver of the Torah.

ברוך אתה ה' נותן התורה:

"Made us holy through His commandments... who has chosen us from all the people..."

What makes the Jewish people so unique? What makes us different from the rest of the world? What defines who we are? Three thousand years ago G-d came to the entire Jewish nation and revealed Himself on Mt. Sinai. It was there that G-d chose the Jewish people as his nation and promised never to abandon them. It was there that G-d gave them the greatest gift in the world.

What was this glorious gift? It was the Torah. The Torah became our direct connection to G-d for eternity. Through the Torah, G-d laid out the instructions on how to live a life filled with meaning. G-d brought himself down into this world and into our lives through this divine gift. It's through this gift that we are meant to reach spiritual perfection, become holy, and be a light on to the world.

"Please make it sweet..."

Torah should be sweet. Of course, this does not mean that everything in Torah is going to make sense or be easy. That is why we have to ask for it to be sweet. The words of Torah often seem difficult and confusing, so we pray that they should be sweet: Our minds should develop to be in sync with spirituality.