

— For Elul: A Translation of Psalm 27 —



לְדוֹד וַיְהִינָה | אוֹרֵי וַיִּשְׁעֵי מִמֶּנּוּ אֵיכָּרָא יְהוָה מְעוֹד־חַיִּי מִמֶּנּוּ אֶבְקַשׁ
בְּקָרֶב עָלַי | מִרְעִים לֶאֱכֹל אֶת־בְּשָׂרֵי צָרִי וְאוֹכְלֵי לֶחֶם קִשְׁלוֹ וְנִפְלְאוּ
אִם־תִּסְתַּחֵף עָלַי | מִתְחַנֶּה לֹא־יִירָא לִבִּי אִם־תִּקְוֶים עָלַי מִלְחָמָה בְּזֹאת אֲנִי בּוֹשֵׁם
אֶחָת | שְׂאֵלְתִי מֵאֵת־יְהוָה אוֹתָהּ אֲבַקֵּשׁ
שִׁבְתִּי בְּבֵית־יְהוָה כֹּל־יְמֵי חַיִּי לְתַנּוֹת בְּנִעֻם־יְהוָה וּלְבַקֵּר בְּהִיכָלוֹ
כִּי יִצְפְּנֵנִי | בְּסֹכֶה בַּיּוֹם רָעָה יִסְתַּרְנִי בְּסֹתֵר אֶהְלֹךְ בְּצֹדֵר יְרוּמֵמֵנִי
וְעָשָׂה יְיָ־יָדַי עַל־אֵיבֵי סְבִיבוֹתַי
וְאִזְבַּחַתָּה בְּאֶהְלֹךְ וּבְחַיִּי תִרְוַעָה אֲשִׁירָה וְאִזְמַנְרָה לַיהוָה
שְׁמַע־יְהוָה קוֹלִי אֶקְרָא וְחַנּוּנִי וְעֲנֵנִי
לֵךְ | אֲמַר לִבִּי בִקְשׁוּ פָנָי אֶת־פְּנֵיךְ יְהוָה אֲבַקֵּשׁ
אֶל־תִּסְתֵּר פְּנֵיךְ | מִמֶּנִּי
אֶל־תִּטְּבֵן־בְּאֶף עֲזַרְתִּי תִּיָּתֵם אֶל־תִּשְׁשֵׁנִי וְאֶל־תִּעֲזֹבֵנִי אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
כִּי־אֲבִי וְאֲמִנִי עֲזָבוּנִי יְהוָה יִאֲסֹפֵנִי
תּוֹרְנִי יְהוָה יִרְפָּךְ וְנִחַנִּי בְּאַרְחַ מִיִּשׁוֹר לְמַעַן שׁוֹרְרֵי
אֶל־תִּתְּנֵנִי בְּגַפְשׁ צָרִי כִּי כִמּוֹ־בִי עֲדִי־שָׁקֵר וַיִּפַח חֶמְסִי
לֹדֵאֵ הָאֲמֵנָתִי לְרֵאוֹת בְּטוֹב־יְהוָה בְּאַרְצֵן תַּיִם
קִנְיָה אֶל־יְהוָה חֶזֶק וַיִּאֲמֵן לְבָבִי לְקִנְיָה אֶל־יְהוָה

psalm 27

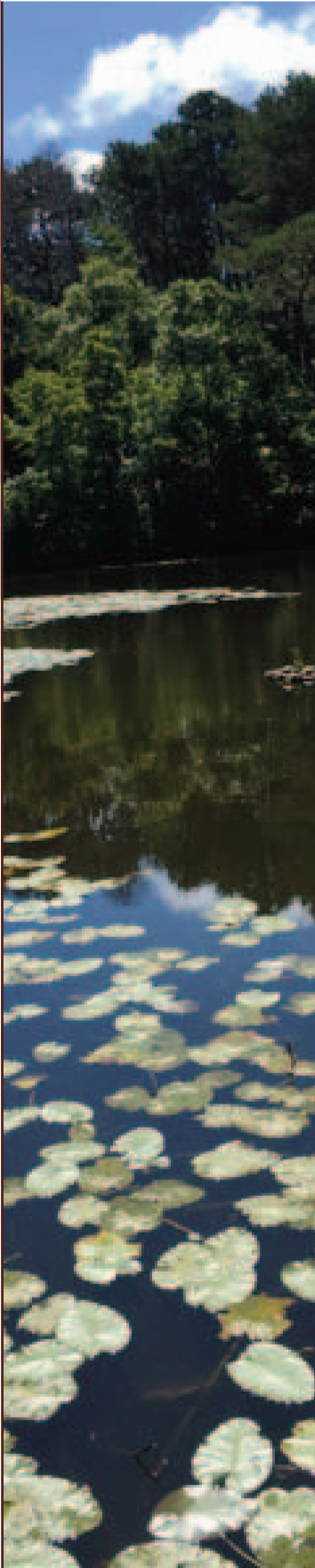


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Psalm 27



To the Beloved,

The Infinite Presence is my light and expanse, who should I fear?
The Infinite Presence is the strength of my life, what shall I dread?

When forces come close
Seeming to devour me,
When narrowness threatens
And opposition attacks,
All that is menacing stumbles and falls.

Even as an army of mistrust besieges me
My heart does not fear.
Even as thoughts and desires rise up against me
I still have trust.

One thing I ask of the Infinite, one thing I seek,
To dwell in the Presence all the days of my life,
To awaken to the beauty of each moment as I pass through this world.

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.

Be gracious with me.
Answer me.
You call to my heart, "Seek my presence."
Your presence I seek.

Please don't hide from me.
Please don't let me turn away in anger.
I long to serve.
You are my help.
Do not let me feel abandoned.
Do not let me turn away.
In You I am safe.
For my mother and father have left me
And it is You who gathers me in.
Teach me Your ways. Guide me on the path of integrity.

There is so much to lead me astray.
Don't let me give in to all that torments me,
The lies, the illusions, the menacing threats.

If only I had the faith to see the goodness of the One in the land of life.
Cultivate hope in the Infinite Presence.
Let your heart be strong and filled with courage
Cultivate hope.

— Translation by Rabbi Yael Levy