

Shema, Echad Eloheinu, & Gadlu

Root – ל-ג-ג

Meaning – large/great

Words in the prayer with the same root גדלו גדול

The three Hebrew lines that make up this section of the Shabbat morning service are found near the beginning of the Torah. At this point in the service the Torah has been removed from the Ark and, during a Bar or Bat Mitzvah the Torah has been passed down from grandparent to parent to the Bar or Bat Mitzvah student.

The person holding the Torah comes to the center of the Bima and recites the שמע out loud and the congregation repeats it out loud. The person holding the Torah then says the second line out loud, which the congregation repeats. Then the person holding the Torah turns toward the Ark and he/she and the congregation recite the third line while bowing toward the Ark.

The three lines are recited to show that the Torah is one of the greatest and most powerful symbols of God's holiness and glory. The lines remind us that the Torah is God's greatest gift to the Jewish people and that in following the Torah we are honoring God.

Vocabulary and Translation

Our God – אֱלֹהֵינוּ

His Name - שְׁמוֹ

Holy – קָדוֹשׁ

Magnify - גְּדֹלוֹ

To, For – לְ

Past Roots and Suffixes

כ – ר – ב – Bless

ר – ח – ב – Choose

י – י – ח – Life, live

ל – א – Root of the names of God

ב – א – Father

מ – א – Mother

ל – To, For

ו – And

ב – In, on, with

מ – י – ש – Put, place

Translation

Hear O Israel, Adonai is Our God, Adonai is One.

Our God is One, Great is Our God, Holy is His Name.

Magnify Adonai with Me, and Let Us Exalt his Name Together.