

אַהֲבָה רַבָּה וּשְׁמֵעַ

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי, הַבּוֹחֵר בְּעַמּוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּאַהֲבָה

שְׁמֵעַ יִשְׂרָאֵל, יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ, יי אֶחָד
בְּרוּךְ שֵׁם כְּבוֹד מְלְכוּתוֹ לְעוֹלָם וָעַד



אֱהָבָה רַבָּה and שְׁמַע

Root: ב - ה - ר

Meaning - choose

Word in the prayer with the same root: הַבוֹחֵר

We recite the last line of the prayer called אֱהָבָה רַבָּה just before we say the שְׁמַע.

Traditionally, when we recite the שְׁמַע we cover our eyes, so that we may fully focus our intent and attention on this prayer. The first line of the שְׁמַע is said out loud with a full voice, while the second line of the שְׁמַע is said quietly or silently.

The אֱהָבָה רַבָּה speaks of God's great love for us. It reminds us that God chose the Jewish people from all the people of the Earth to receive the Torah.

The שְׁמַע is the most well-known sentence in Jewish life, as well as the most important. It is a phrase that Jews around the world say every day. It speaks of God as being our God, and that God is one. It emphasizes the oneness of God. It is also known as the "Watchword of our Faith."

Vocabulary

in/with love - בְּאַהֲבָה	one - אֶחָד
hear, listen - שְׁמַע	honor, glory - כְּבוֹד

Past Roots

place, put - ש-י-מ	bless - ב-ר-כ
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Translation

Praised be you Adonai, who chooses your people Israel with love.

Hear O Israel, Adonai, our God, Adonai is one.

Blessed be the Name of the glory of God's kingdom forever and ever.