

שְׁמַע אֶחָד אֱלֹהֵינוּ

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, יְיָ אֶחָד.

אֶחָד אֱלֹהֵינוּ גָדוֹל אֲדוֹנֵנוּ, קְדוֹשׁ שְׁמוֹ.

גָּדְלוֹ לֵי אֱתִי, וּנְרַמְמָה שְׁמוֹ יַחְדָּו.



שִׁמֵּעַ אֶחָד אֱלֹהֵינוּ

Root: ל - ד - ג

Meaning - large/great

Words in the prayer with the root: גִּדְּלוּ גְדוֹל

We recite these three Hebrew lines in the Shabbat morning service in the beginning of the Torah service. At this point in the service, the Torah has been removed from the Ark and, during a B'Mitzvah service, the Torah has been passed down from grandparent to parent to the B'Mitzvah student.

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

We say these words 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 mitzvot of the Torah, we honor God.

Vocabulary

holy - קְדוּשׁ	Our God - אֱלֹהֵינוּ
make large/magnify - גִּדְּלוּ	His Name - שְׁמוֹ

Past Roots

choose ב-ח-ר	place, put ש-י-מ	bless ב-ר-כ
life, live ח-י-(י)	root for names of God and also the word "God" א-ל-(ה)	

Translation

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

Our God is One, Great is Our God, Holy is God's Name.

Magnify Adonai with me, and let us exalt God's Name together.