

השכמת הבוקר

I Woke Up!

מודה אני / ראשית חכמה / תורה צוה

מודה אני—Thank You, Hashem, for giving my neshamah back to me (*which was a merciful thing to do since I have not yet lived up to my full potential, and therefore may not really deserve that*); רבה אמונתך—Your

belief in me is very great! (*You believe I am important; my struggles are important; and You believe I can climb up to the next rung—which is why You woke me up. Thank You!*)

OK—but I can't climb to the next rung if I don't understand what to do!

ראשית חכמה—The root of gaining wisdom is *יראת השם*. (*If we show Hashem that we are willing to follow the Torah even when we do NOT understand it—then He will reward us by giving us understanding!*) A good understanding of Torah is given to those who put it into practice (*rather than learn it just to get a good grade, impress others—or get into yeshiva or seminary!*). The praise of such a person is eternal (*it goes beyond the report card—it will help them navigate life!*). We DO want to see Hashem in our lives, therefore we proclaim: May our perception of Hashem's Presence and rulership (*שם כבוד מלכותו*) be increased (*לעולם ועד*) forever (*ברוך*).

ראשית חכמה יראת יהוה,
שכל טוב לכל עשיהם,
תהלתו עמדת לעד:
ברוך שם כבוד מלכותו לעולם ועד:

תורה צוה—The very same Torah that Moshe commanded us (*at Har Sinai*) is the eternal inheritance of the entire Bnei Yisrael (*including me!*). Help me understand and to never abandon all that has been handed down to us throughout the generations. May the Torah be the bedrock of my faith and may Hashem assist me in my growth, because I know that those who remain firm and close to Hashem are the ones who are really alive today. Hashem! I look to You for help in dealing with all my struggles!

תורה צוה לנו משה, מורשה
קהלת יעקב: שמע בני מוסר
אביך, ואל תטש תורת אבך:
תורה תהא אמונת, ואל
שדי בעזרת: ואתם הדבקים
ביהוה אלהיכם, חיים כלכם
היום: לישועתך קויתי יהוה: