

Psalm 27

*The Eternal is my light and my help; whom shall I fear?
The Eternal is the stronghold of my life;
whom should I dread?
In my very guts came evil to gnaw and consume me,
But these my troubles, my enemies, stumbled and fell.
Though an army may encamp against me, my heart will not fear.
Though war rise up against me, even then I will keep faith.
One thing I ask of the Eternal, only one thing I seek--
that I may dwell in the house of the Eternal
all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the Infinite One,
to visit G-d's temple.
For The Eternal hides me in G-d's sukkah on the day of evil,
grants me the protection of G-d's tent.
G-d lifts me upon a rock.
And now my head will be uplifted--above my enemies all around me,
In the tent of the Eternal I offer offerings with a shofar blast
I sing and chant praise to the Eternal.
Hear my voice, O G-d, when I cry aloud!
Have mercy on me, answer me!
It was on Your behalf that my heart said: Seek my face!"
It is Your face, O G-d, that I will seek.
Do not conceal Your face from me,
Do not, in your anger, set Your servant aside.
You have been my help before;
Do not now cast me off--do not desert me!
O G-d, my deliverer.
Though my father and mother abandon me,
The Eternal One will gather me together.
Teach me your path, O G-d,
and lead me on a smooth and well-kept road--
Because there are those who lie in ambush for me.
Do not hand me over to the will of my adversaries,
for lying witnesses have arisen against me--whose every breath does violence.
If I had not kept trusting that I would see the Eternal's goodness,
While I was still in the land of the living!
Wait for the Eternal
Be strong, and let your hearts take courage.
Wait for the Eternal.*

Psalm 27

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Psalm 27, as translated by Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi

Yah! You are my light.

You are my savior.

Whom need I dread?

Yah, with you as my strong protector who can make me panic?

When hateful bullies gang up on me, wanting to harass me, to oppress and terrorize me

They are the ones who stumble and fall.

Even if a gang surrounds me my heart is not weakened.

If a battle is joined around me my trust in You is firm.

Only one thing do I ask of You, Yah:

Just this alone do I seek, I want to be at home with you, Yah,

All the days of my life.

I want to delight in seeing You.

Seeing You when I come to visit You in Your temple.

You hide me in your sukkah on a foul day.

You conceal me unseen in Your tent.

You also raise me beyond anyone's reach

And now, as You have held my head high despite the presence of my powerful foes

I prepare to celebrate and thrill, singing and making music to You, Yah!

Listen, Yah, to the sound of my cry

And, being kind, answer me!

My heart has said, I turn to seek you.

Your presence is what I beg for

Don't hide Your face from me.

Don't just put me down, You who have been my helper.

Don't abandon me, don't forsake me, G-d my support.

Though my father and my mother have left me

You, Yah, will hold me securely.

Please teach me Your way.

Teach me Your way and guide me on the straight path.

Discourage those who defame me

Because false witnesses stood up against me belching out violence.

Don't let me become the victim of my foes.

I wouldn't have survived

If I hadn't hoped that I would see, yet,

Your goodness, G-d, fully alive on earth.

So I tell you, my friends: you too hope to Yah! Be sturdy!

And make strong your heart. And most of all, keep hoping to Yah.