

TO YOU IT WAS SHOWN*

אַתָּה הִרְאִיתָ לְדַעַת

כִּי יְהוָה הוּא הָאֱלֹהִים

אֵין עוֹד מִלְּבַדּוֹ:

(To) you it was shown to know
that Adonai, He is God;
there is nothing beside Him.

(To) you it was shown—It was shown when God gave the Torah and each of us saw that “He is One” (Rashi). The whole people experienced the One God, revealed in Mattan Torah, the giving and receiving of Torah, which was understood to reveal the workings of all creation and our place within it. *To know that Adonai, He is God*—The people acquired not a belief but “knowledge . . . [by] direct actual evidence of your own senses” (S.R. Hirsch). (Original italicized.) We cannot gainsay that experience—it was within the ken of the whole people—any more than the Holocaust experience of the whole people can be denied by another generation. *There is nothing beside Him*—There is no life independent of the divine will, no force or place that will allow us to be removed from its consistency and continuity, no dignity or justice apart from its verities. All the observations of our vaunted science, like the experience of our forebears, confirm the necessity of a divine intelligence at the center of creation and our submission to its will. We are as children in this creation, and yet, miraculously, we are given within our power all that is needed to remake the world in the image of its Creator.

* Deuteronomy 4:35 (in V'etchanan)