

# Torat Adonai T'mima

תּוֹרַת יְיָ תְּמִימָה מְשִׁיבַת נֶפֶשׁ  
עֵדוּת יְיָ נְאֻמָּנָה מַחְכִּימַת פְּתִי:  
פְּקוּדֵי יְיָ יִשְׂרָאֵל מְשִׁמְחֵי לֵב  
מִצְוֹת יְיָ בְּרָה מְאִירַת עֵינָיִם:  
יְרֵאת יְיָ טְהוֹרָה עוֹמְדַת לְעַד  
מְשַׁפְּטֵי יְיָ אֱמֶת, צְדָקוֹ יַחְדּוֹ:  
הִנְחָמָדִים מְזַהֵב וּמְפֹז רָב  
וּמְתוֹקִים מְדַבֵּשׁ וְנֹפֶת צוֹפִים:  
גַּם עֲבֹדָךְ נִזְהָר בָּהֶם בְּשִׁמְרָם עֵקֶב רָב:\*

To-rat a-do-nai t'mi-ma, m'shi-vat na-fesh.  
Ei-dut a-do-nai ne'eh-ma-na, makh-ki-mat pe-ti.  
Pi-ku-dei a-do-nai y'sha-rim, m'sam-khei leiv.  
Mitz-vat a-do-nai ba-ra, m'i-rat ei-na-yim.  
Yi-rat a-do-nai t'ho-ra, o-me-det la-ad.  
Mish'p'tei a-do-nai eh-met, tzad-ku yakh-dav.  
Ha-ne-khe-ma-dim mi-za-hav u-mi-paz rav.  
U-m'tu-kim mi-d'vash v'no-phet tzu-phim.  
Gam av-da-kha ni-z'har ba-hem b'shom'ram ei-kev rav.

The Torah of Adonai is perfect, restoring the spirit; the testimony of Adonai is trustworthy, making the simple person wise. The precepts of Adonai are upright, rejoicing the heart. The commandment of Adonai is clear, enlightening the eyes. Awe of Adonai is pure, enduring forever. The judgments of Adonai are true, altogether just. They are more desirable than gold, than even much fine gold, and sweeter than honey and drippings from the honeycombs. Moreover, your servant was warned by them, in keeping them there is great reward.

## D'rash

**The Torah of Adonai is perfect, restoring the spirit**—*The teaching contains myriad paths, from which diligent search through prayer and study reveals the ideal that enables us to release all that is deathly in favor of that which is life-giving.* **The testimony of Adonai is trustworthy, making the simple person wise**—*The lessons from Sinai are timeless, they form the corpus of national codes everywhere, guiding us when we're vulnerable to our selfish appetites.* **The precepts of Adonai are upright, rejoicing the heart**—*The khukim and mishpatim (statutes and ordinances) reveal to us the shortest distance between any two points in life—from loneliness to family, from vulnerability to community, from poverty to productivity—which are the wellsprings of joy.* **The commandment of Adonai is clear, enlightening the eyes**—*We have only to open our minds and hearts to see that the mitzvot are not what we are compelled to do but a revelation of the consequences that will benefit or burden us if we fail to heed their call.* **Awe of Adonai is pure, enduring forever**—*Our service to God, acceptance of the challenge to ally ourselves in life-giving creation, is the result of the radical and awesome understanding of God as Gaon Hakol (Mastermind of All).* **The judgments of Adonai are true, altogether just**—*Whatever the dim antecedents or ultimate consequences of our existence, we are responsible for our own decisions and actions, and they shall survive to speak for us in both worldly courts and heavenly tribunals.* **They are more desirable than gold, than even much fine gold, and sweeter than honey and drippings from the honeycombs**—*We*

*discover to our everlasting regret that obsession with personal physique, possessions, position, and power, and all the prestige that accompany them, leave us empty and enervated when we finally possess them. **Moreover, your servant was warned by them, in keeping them there is great reward**—Every lesson of Torah learned and every mitzvah accomplished is a lesson in both immediate and ultimate fulfillment, the certain satisfaction that we have used our life to its highest and best purpose.*

## Iyun Tefilla

### TO FEAR YOU IS TO HOLD YOU

What I want  
Is to hold You  
Always  
Before me,  
To call You  
To mind  
Always  
In my coming  
And going,  
The way I carry  
My children's faces  
In the photo  
In my wallet.  
But who  
Could remember  
Always  
A face  
That's never  
Seen nor held,  
A face  
Beyond the reach  
Of time?  
Your Face  
I will remember  
With a seed of Torah  
Planted under  
My tongue.

\* Psalm 19:8-12.

Go to <http://www.gatherthepeople.org> for more congregational development and organizing tools.

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