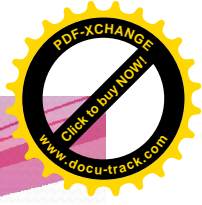
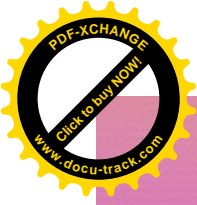


Holy Kavannot for Psalm 27

Inspirational Preparation for the
Days of Awe

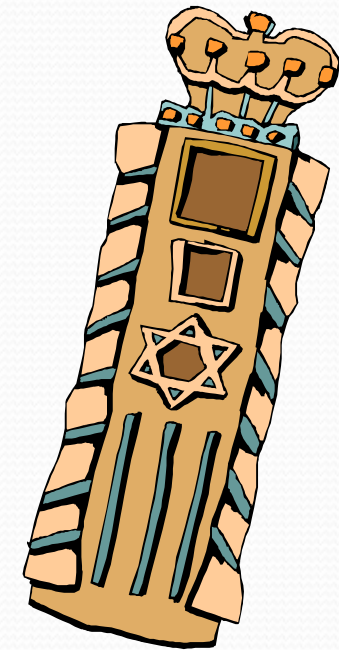
*Rabbi Chava Bahle, Or Tzafon Retreat Center
ortzafon.org*

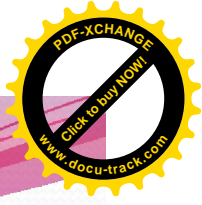
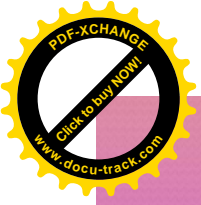
August 27, 2007



Entering the Learning Space (Chayder)

"As I enter this time of learning from my place in the world, I open my heart to hear the words and intentions of those with whom I study, even though they are physically far from me. May our study together be holy and sweet. At this moment *we sit together with all of the students and rabbis who have studied these words and ideas before us.* They are here with us. May we create invisible lines of holy connection to them, to each other and to future generations. We especially invite the presence of *Dovid HaMelekh*, King David, to bless, inspire and be present with us. May the goodness of our study radiate from this time and place to heal the world."

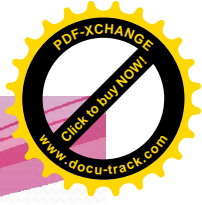




Devoted to the Memory of Our Friend Stuart Hollander



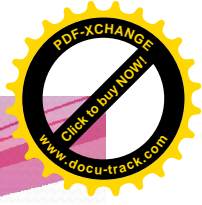
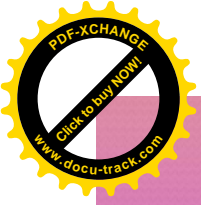
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Prayer Prior to Reciting Psalms

May it be Your Will, HaShem, that you pay merciful attention to psalm we recite and consider it as if King David, may his merit protect us, had recited it himself. In the merit of these verses [may our study affect unifications and] ... may an abundant blessing be drawn to our spirit, breath and soul. May the merit of King David shield us. From your treasury of grace be gracious to us. Through the recitation of this psalm, arouse the Rose of Sharon to sing with a pleasant voice, with joy and ecstasy.

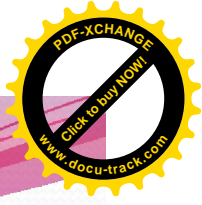
Adapted from *Artscroll Sefer Tehillim* (Book of Psalms)



How do we relate to sacred text?

Hasidic Thoughts

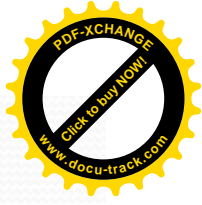
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Basic Text of Psalm 27

1. By David. The Lord is my light and my salvation-whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life-whom shall I dread? 2. When evildoers approached me to devour my flesh, my oppressors and my foes, they stumbled and fell. 3. If an army were to beleaguer me, my heart would not fear; if war were to arise against me, in this I trust.
4. One thing I have asked of the Lord, this I seek: that I may dwell in the House of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the pleasantness of the Lord, and to visit His Sanctuary. 5. For He will hide me in His tabernacle on a day of adversity; He will conceal me in the hidden places of His tent; He will lift me upon a rock. 6. And then my head will be raised above my enemies around me, and I will offer in His tabernacle sacrifices of jubilation; I will sing and chant to the Lord.
7. Lord, hear my voice as I call; be gracious to me and answer me. 8. In Your behalf my heart says, "Seek My countenance"; Your countenance, Lord, I seek. 9. Do not conceal Your countenance from me; do not cast aside Your servant in wrath. You have been my help; do not abandon me nor forsake me, God of my deliverance. 10. Though my father and mother have forsaken me, the Lord has taken me in. 11. Lord, teach me Your way and lead me in the path of righteousness, because of my watchful enemies. 12. Do not give me over to the will of my oppressors, for there have risen against me false witnesses, and they speak evil. 13. [They would have crushed me] had I not believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.
14. Hope in the Lord, be strong and let your heart be valiant, and hope in the Lord.

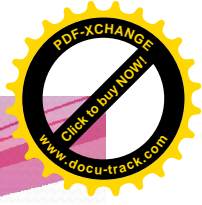
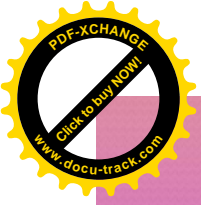
From chabad.org



Reflection

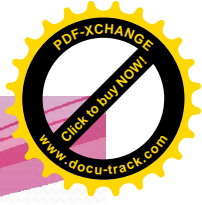
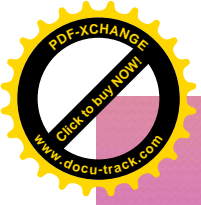
"Don't Hide Your Face from Me" by Debbie Friedman,
based on verse 9





Assiyah – Doing

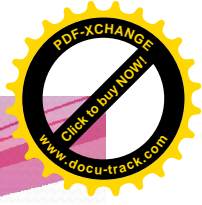
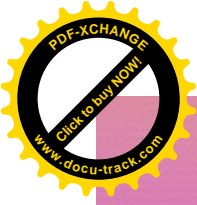
- How might you incorporate these ideas into your practices for Elul and beyond?



Closing Blessing



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Twenty Seven

Let me slide into the morning, Dawn
Bringer,
With a smooth joining.
In the last glimpse of dreams,
Open my heart to a day
Poised to fill with goodness.

Let me move into today, Time Maker,
With a firm footing.
With Your name upon my mouth,
I translate my praises into action,
Repairing my section of the world.

You recall to me my story;
You let me describe its sequel.
At day's beginning You comfort me,
Offering a Hand filled with courage
To sustain my work.

Let me glimpse tomorrow, Eternal Planner,
With eager memories.
Breathing deeply to set my heart

To the rhythm of creation,
I continue Your work.

You bring me to my beginnings,
To the beginnings of Your people,
Connecting my days to all the other days,
Tying my work to the work of your Hand.

*From Flames to Heaven: New Psalms for Healing and
Praise, Debbie Perlman*